

ORGANICS COLLECTION

Organics Collection Monitors

What are organics? Why is the school collecting organics in the cafeteria?

In school, a lot of what we throw away can be recycled or composted. Your school is going green with a new sorting station in the cafeteria that will collect food scraps and food service paper like napkins.

Organic material, or material that was once living, can be re-used to make compost, instead of being thrown out with the other trash. Organics includes food scraps, and also soiled paper products like napkins and cups, since paper products are made from trees or recycled paper.

This new Organics Collection Program will help reduce waste going to landfills, which saves money, creates local green jobs, and helps protect the environment.

Compost is a type of dark chocolate colored soil that is created after organic material breaks down, or decomposes. Compost helps create healthy soil and provides plants with the nutrients they need to grow.

In some parts of NYC, the organic material may also be used to make new clean energy. As organic material decomposes, the natural gases that are released can be captured to create renewable energy.

What does a Cafeteria Monitor do?

- As leaders of this program, Cafeteria Monitors help teach other students how to sort and place their organic and recyclable material into the correct bins in the cafeteria.
- Answer questions to help students figure out what items get recycled and composted.
- Remind students to take food out of plastic baggies, wrap and foil before composting.
- Encourage their fellow students to sort in a positive way, as this new practice becomes a habit.
- Set an example as leaders in the effort to “go green” in the cafeteria and elsewhere in the school.

Scrap it or Recycle it: What Goes in Which Bin

Here is a simple guide to help students sort properly in the cafeteria



POUR

Liquids into bucket



RECYCLE

Cartons, cans, bottles, foil, and hard plastics



TRASH

Plastic bags, pouches, foam “(trays, cups, containers), and wrappers



COLLECT ORGANICS

Food scraps, compostable plates, paper boats, cups, plates



Call 311 or visit nyc.gov for more information

Introducing organics recycling.

Your organic waste will be made into compost or renewable energy.



The Role of the Organics Monitor

There's a lot that student Organics Monitors can do. Their biggest job is to help manage sorting in the cafeteria, especially at the beginning, when classmates have questions as to what goes where. The Organics Monitors serve as a guide to steer students toward the right bin, reducing the risk of contaminating organics and recycling bins with landfill trash.

Tips for Organics Monitors:

- Use positive reinforcement
 - Don't sort items for classmates; use a polite voice to help guide them towards the correct bin
 - You are a role model and sustainability leader—remember to have fun teaching new skills and lead by example
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- Three students per lunch period will stand close to the bins at the end of lunch, and make sure that students are sorting correctly.
 - Consider pairing an older student with a younger student to encourage mentoring.
 - The goal of monitoring is to facilitate fellow students in sorting correctly; NOT do it for them.
 - When possible, if a student needs help sorting, please indicate which items need to be sorted using a verbal cue. For example:
 - “The sandwich crust goes into the organics bin”
 - “The milk carton goes in the blue bin”
 - “The soft plastic wrapper goes in the trash”

Specific Jobs

Pour Monitor

- Teach people to pour their liquids in the pour bucket instead of leaving it inside bottles and cartons.
- Remind others to pour out liquids by holding it close to the bucket so it doesn't splash on other people.
- Remind classmates to recycle their cartons and bottles in the blue bin, not throw them away.
- Make sure no one puts anything but liquids in the bucket, but no soup.

Recycling Blue Bin Monitor

- Remind students that all hard plastics go into the blue bin- like forks and spoons- If you can ball up a piece of plastic in your fist, it is not a hard plastic
- Empty cartons also go in the recycling bin.
- Help keep out candy wrappers, foam, foil, plastic wrap and all food
- Don't forget aluminum foil and cans are recyclable too!

Organics Collection Monitor

- Explain that all food waste goes in the Food Scraps bin, including meat and bones
- All napkins, paper plates, cups, Trayless Tuesday boats, and compostable plates go in the Food Scraps bin
- Help keep out all sandwich baggies, tin foil, plastic forks and spoons
- Just by sorting, your school is making a huge difference, and helping NYC become greener and cleaner. And just by volunteering for a couple of minutes a day, you are greatly contributing to the success of this program.

THANK YOU for making a difference!



For more information contact:

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