

In 2003 the Minnetonka Public Schools started recycling organics in all nine schools. In the past five years, we have recycled more than 470 tons of organic material.

Quick Facts about the School Organics Projects

Benefits

- Keeps valuable resources out of landfills and incinerators
- Creates compost used to replenish soils, reduce soil erosion, and prevent storm-water runoff from contaminating wetlands, lakes, and streams
- Addresses the largest remaining portion of our trash for which significant recycling levels are yet to be achieved
- Composting and recycling programs in the schools are a great way to educate students about the importance of protecting the environment

Facts

- About one quarter of the trash produced in Hennepin County is food scraps and non-recyclable papers
- Most trash in schools is produced in their kitchens and cafeterias
- 80% or more of the trash produced in school kitchens and cafeterias is compostable
- Most waste generated in schools is either compostable or recyclable
- Ten tons of organics per week is being collected from the participating schools and delivered to NRG for composting
- Finished compost typically is used in professional landscaping and road construction projects

Acceptable Materials for Composting

- All Food Scraps – including meat & bones
- Soiled & Non-Recyclable Papers
 - Napkins, paper towels, tissues
 - Paper plates, cups, food containers, pizza boxes
 - Paper milk & juice cartons
 - Paper bags, waxed paper, parchment paper (i.e. fast food wraps)
 - Coffee grounds, filters, & tea bags