



Food Scrap Collection in Schools

Snohomish County, Washington: A Successful Model

Success Story: Marysville Middle School

- **90% reduction** of cafeteria-related waste sent to the landfill
- **50% reduction** of building-wide waste sent to the landfill
- **24 tons** of greenhouse gases reduced (the equivalent of taking six cars off of the road)
- **25 tons** of waste composted
- **80 tons** of waste diverted from landfills
- **\$5,000 savings** to the District's utility bill



What “Made” Marysville’s Success?

- Close partnership among Snohomish County, Cedar Grove Composting, Cascadia Consulting Group, and school districts
- Monetary incentives (free stuff!)
- Free assistance and training
- School champion
- Our persistence



“Thanks to custodian's idea, Marysville school tosses less trash”

“Saving money, saving the earth”

Our Approach: 1. Recruit Schools

- Announce program at maintenance manager meeting
- Call it a “pilot”
- Contact all school districts
- Publish Marysville Middle School case study



2. Calculate Diversion and Cost Savings

Potential Savings (Annual Costs):

Current Costs:	\$	15,790
Projected Costs:	— \$	15,270
Resulting Savings:	= \$	<u>520</u>

Current Waste and Recycling Services

Garbage		80 tons disposed per year			
<u>1</u>	6 yd dumpster	for	<u>waste</u> collected	<u>2</u> days/week	Annual garbage costs \$12,940.00
<u>1</u>	6 yd dumpster	for	<u>waste</u> collected	<u>2</u> days/week	
Recycling		60 tons recycled per year			
<u>1</u>	6 yd dumpster	for	<u>mixed recycling</u> collected	<u>2</u> day/week	Annual recycling costs \$ 2,850.00
					<u>ANNUAL COSTS \$15,790.00</u>

New Disposal Services: ²

Garbage		55 tons disposed per year			
<u>1</u>	6 yd dumpster	for	<u>waste</u> collected	<u>2</u> days/week	Annual garbage costs \$10,930.00
<u>1</u>	4 yd dumpster	for	<u>waste</u> collected	<u>2</u> days/week	
Compost Recycling		25 tons composted per year			
<u>1</u>	4 yd dumpster	for	<u>compostables³</u> collected	<u>1</u> day/week	Annual compost costs \$ 1,490.00
Recycling		60 tons recycled per year			
<u>1</u>	6 yd dumpster	for	<u>mixed recycling</u> collected	<u>2</u> day/week	Annual recycling costs \$ 2,850.00
					<u>ANNUAL COSTS \$15,270.00</u>

3. Include Key People in Plan and Implementation

- DISTRICT custodial manager & food service director
- SCHOOL principal, kitchen head, custodian



- On-site planning meeting:
 - Present diversion & cost savings
 - Determine bin options and placement
 - Plan training & education
 - Make a cafeteria monitoring plan
 - Set “launch” date

4. Provide Incentives

(Free stuff!)



(One month free!)



5. Train and Educate



6. Follow-up



Results So Far

Marysville School District

SCHOOL	SAVINGS		TONS DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL	
	PROJECTED	ACTUAL	PROJECTED	ACTUAL
Marysville Middle School	\$4,150	\$5,408	30	30
Secondary Campus	\$1,260	\$2,931	30	30
Quil Ceda Elementary	\$645	N/A	30	N/A
Allen Creek Elementary	\$520	N/A	30	N/A



Conclusions and Lessons Learned

- Need active partnership/support from composting company
- Need school and district support.
- Assistance and education should be tailored.
- Incorporating recycling at same time is a good idea.
- Stacking disposable trays significantly reduces waste.
- **Food scrap collection SAVES money.**





QUESTIONS?