

In 2003, the Minnetonka Public Schools started recycling organics in all nine schools. 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 waste-to energy facilities
- Creates compost used to replenish soils, reduce soil erosion, and prevent stormwater 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 (fast food wraps)
 - Coffee grounds, filters, & tea bags