



School Composting Pilot Program

Start composting at your school this year! DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office) is offering FREE materials and assistance to help elementary schools in South Carolina reduce their waste by composting.

How does the pilot work?

The pilot program will take place during the 2014-2015 school year and is divided into the following phases.

➤ Phase 1

The Office will introduce your 3rd grade students to composting through a hands-on classroom presentation featuring "A Rotten Idea" from the Action for a cleaner tomorrow curriculum supplement.

➤ Phase 2

Your school will choose a composting system to implement. You will be provided with either a classroom vermicomposting kit or a backyard compost tumbler. Whichever system is chosen, you will receive free materials and instructions to help get you started. The Office also will provide on-going support throughout the spring as you implement your new system.

Why should schools participate?

Composting is

- Free classroom lesson correlated to the state science standards
- Free materials
- Free compost for your school garden or grounds
- Less waste in your garbage bin

What are the requirements for participation?

Participating schools agree to:

- involve all third-grade classes in the composting pilot;
- complete both phases during the school year;
- fill out the tracking worksheets for each phase;
- agree to maintain their chosen composting system for at least one additional school year; and
- serve as a resource for schools participating in next year's program.

Help Your School Save Money by Composting

Composting reduces the amount of material schools throw away. Schools may save money by reducing the frequency of garbage collection and/or the number of dumpsters needed. In addition, using compost reduces the need to water landscaping and buy expensive fertilizer.



School Composting Pilot Program

How to become a pilot school

Schools that would like to participate in the composting pilot should e-mail the following information to Angie Perry at angieperry@greenleafedu.com by **September 29th**:

- school name and address;
- whether or not your school currently composts or has tried any type of composting in the past;
- contact information for all third-grade teachers and at least one administrator that will be involved in the project; and
- three dates in October your classes are available for the first presentation.

If more schools express interest than can be accommodated for the 2014-2015 school year, additional schools will be placed on a waiting list for next year.

State Science Standards Correlations for 3rd Grade

2005

3-3.7 Exemplify Earth materials that are used as fuel, as a resource for building materials, and as a medium for growing plants.

3-2.5 Summarize the organization of simple food chains (including the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers).

2014

3.S.1A.4 Analyze and interpret data from observations, measurements, or investigations to understand patterns and meanings.

3.E.4A.3 Obtain and communicate information to exemplify how humans obtain, use and protect renewable and nonrenewable Earth resources.

3.E.4B.3 Obtain and communicate information to explain how natural events and human activities impact the environment.

3.E.4B.4 Define problems caused by a natural event or human activity and design devices or solutions to reduce the impact on the environment.

3.L.5A.2 Develop and use a food chain model to classify organisms as producers, consumers, and decomposers and to describe how organisms obtain energy.