



YES! Project Guide

COMPOSTING

Category: Waste Reduction

Approximate Cost: \$100

Desired Results

Project Goal: Students will understand the importance and process of composting and how they can establish a composting program at their school.

UNDERSTANDINGS

Students will understand...

- Food waste is an issue and there are ways we can reduce food waste.
- Decomposition and the nitrogen cycle.
- The various methods for collecting compost.
- Different designs and how to construct compost bins.
- Importance of educating others about food waste and how to correctly compost.
- Long term implementation of a compost program.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is the current food waste of our school/community?
- How can we reduce the food waste in our community?
- Who in our community can we work with to complete this project?
- What design is best suited for our purpose?
- How can we maintain this program in the short and long term?
- How can we collect data throughout the process?

Knowledge and Skills Acquisition

Students will know...

- How to communicate in a professional manner
- How to collect and analyze data throughout the entire process
- How to educate others on composting and its importance
- How to work with the community and District to accomplish the project

Students will be skilled at...

- Designing and building composting bins
- Collecting and analyzing data
- Gathering and presenting information

Data

Impact Evidence

Qualitative (observations and descriptive data):

- Community survey on importance of composting and food waste awareness
- Student survey/assessment on success of program (pre & post survey)
- Design plan of compost bins
- Pictures documenting process and completion

Quantitative (numerical data):

- Food waste amount before and after implementation of program
- Number of people involved
- Budget and itemized cost of supplies
- Dimensions and numbers of bins implemented

Timeline - Approx. 3 months

Month 1: Research process and background information, collection of initial data, surveys and community relationships, establish connections to obtain permissions for project.

Month 2: Design options, how to obtain materials and supplies, finalize budget, obtain permissions needed, and educate community/school on food waste and how to compost.

Month 3: Build and implement compost bins, establish collection program, record data, make short and long term plan for maintenance of program.

Process

1. Obtain student and community buy-in for project.
2. Complete research and background information needed to understand and complete project successfully.
3. Connect with community/District for permission and support.
4. Collect data (initial surveys, current food waste).
5. Design and create plan for implementation of compost bins.
6. Create plan of how to educate others on food waste and how to compost (ex. posters/presentations/media).
7. Get final approvals and funding for bins.
8. Build and implement bins.
9. Establish short and long term plan on maintenance and education of composting program.
10. Gather post project data: food waste numbers, surveys etc.

Resources and Other Tips

Composting Guides: http://eartheasy.com/grow_compost.html, http://www.compost-info-guide.com/beginner_guide.htm

Compost Bin Designs: <http://compostingcouncil.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/BuildingYourOwnCompostingBin.pdf>

Go on tour of compost sites of various sizes.