



Cambridge Lunchroom Composting

in 5 easy steps

1	2	3	4	5
5-6 weeks from launch day	3-4 weeks from launch day	1-2 weeks from launch day	Launch day	Ongoing
<p>COMPOSTING COMMITTEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meryl and Kristen work with Principal, Custodian & Lead Teacher to form a Composting Committee.</i> • <i>Meryl and Kristen meet with Composting Committee to explain rollout of program.</i> • <i>Composting Committee visits a composting school during lunch.</i> 	<p>PLAN PROGRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meryl prepares publicity materials and supplies within school and home to families.</i> • <i>Meryl arranges for weekly collection and coordinates with Senior Custodian.</i> • <i>Composting Committee meets to discuss training of lunchroom monitors and to plan kickoff.</i> 	<p>FINAL STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meryl presents at school meeting with all staff and distributes first round of publicity materials.</i> • <i>Meryl begins lunchroom monitor trainings.</i> • <i>Meryl and Composting Committee meet once with kitchen staff, lunch aides, custodians.</i> • <i>Meryl and Composting Committee finalize slide shows for assemblies.</i> 	<p>KICKOFF!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meryl and Composting Committee run two morning assemblies (likely: K-4, 5-8) on a Tuesday or Wednesday.</i> • <i>Start composting at lunch!</i> • <i>Students monitor for first month. DPW/parent volunteers also monitor for first two weeks.</i> 	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monitoring for first month, then as needed.</i> • <i>Composting is reinforced in lessons.</i> • <i>New staff and students are trained.</i> • <i>Adults provide quality control and feedback.</i> • <i>Expansion of composting to other areas is explored, including teacher's lounge, meals in the classroom.</i>

Lunchroom Composting in Cambridge Schools



Example lunchroom composting set up:

1. Trash barrel
2. Liquids bucket
3. Containers bin
4. Compost barrel
5. Styrofoam recycling stand



Read the
**Step by Step Lunchroom
Composting Guide**

at www.cambridgema.gov/recycle
(About Recycling> Schools> Recycling Collection)



Bob Medeiros, Senior Custodian at the King Open, shares:

- With composting, the trash is lighter and less messy, and that keeps my dumpster cleaner than before.
- Liquids are poured down the drain in the closet through a strainer. It works out just fine.
- Kids don't always get it right, but it's not a big deal to take out what doesn't belong.
- Collection is easy. After lunch I tie off the bags of compost and put them in special totes. The truck comes by reliably once a week to pick it up.
- I'm really proud of the students. We have kept over 24,000 pounds of food out of the trash from March 2009—Feb 2011.