



SCHOOL RESOURCE: ORGANICS

Organic waste can be plant or animal sources that are readily biodegradable. Diverting organics (normally food and garden waste) from school landfill bins will not only reduce GHG emissions, but nutrient rich compost can be created for school gardens.

Much of the food waste generated at schools is food that is *avoidable waste*, food that could have been eaten but was instead tossed. For ideas on tackling avoidable food waste within schools, the following report was conducted after extensive research within WA Schools:

http://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/media/files/wws/WWS_Food_waste_research.pdf

| Where is it used? | Is this Resource being used sustainably YES / NO / UNSURE | Recommendations | Changes to be made | Date to commence |
|-------------------------|--|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Outside Eating Areas | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a school policy so that food is not to be thrown into the school bins. All uneaten food and scraps are to go home. Or, develop an education program so that children can identify what should be tossed for composting and what should be taken home to re-eat. A monitoring system would need to be in place. Develop an <i>Avoiding Food Waste Strategy</i> for families and keep them informed. See the WA Food Waste Research for ideas Collect all organics from lunch boxes by providing organic bins alongside comingled recycle bins and landfill bin. Assign bin monitors so that students understand the appropriate bins to use. Establish a composting regime at the school. Put action posters onto organic and compost bins Put "No Food" signs onto landfill and recycle bins Have lunch before recess to reduce <i>avoidable</i> food waste. Organise longer lunch breaks to reduce <i>avoidable</i> food waste | | |
| Eating in the Classroom | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the school is composting, use small containers or an organics caddy to collect food scraps | | |
| Kitchen | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay attention to the type and amount of food coming into the kitchen Ensure food is stored at the correct temperatures Donate leftover food instead of throwing it out Have a space for collection of food scraps to be either put into the school's compost or taken away by a school parent. Sometimes, parents will take scraps to feed to their farm animals. | | |

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| Outside: Gardens | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a waste management policy for the school grounds person so they know what to do with green garden waste• Send green waste to appropriate council green waste sites.• Establish a <i>brown waste</i> bin near the schools composting area to ensure there is enough brown waste (ie. Dead leaves, small sticks) to mix with the green food waste.• Discover how to compost. There are many sites that offer information.• Set up a chook pen, chickens love scraps. | | |
| Other | | | | |