



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

Lunchroom Composting in Cambridge Schools



Example lunchroom composting set up:

1. Trash barrel
2. Liquids bucket
3. Recycling 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 32 tons of food out of the trash from March 2009—June 2014.