

# Organics recycling at school



## All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Cheese and yogurt
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells



## Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels



## Certified compostable products

- Compostable cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers

Look for the term "compostable" or the BPI logo on certified products.



## Other compostable items

- Wooden items such as chopsticks, corndog sticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tissues
- Plants and flowers



### Not accepted:

- Milk cartons
- Condiment packets
- Plastic coated paper items like coffee and soda cups
- Frozen food boxes
- To-go containers and fast food wrappers not certified compostable
- Diapers and sanitary products
- Cleaning wipes
- Gum
- Grease or oil
- Glass, metal, plastic, Styrofoam

# Avoid contamination

If you are confused about what to put in the organics bin, stick to the basics!

## All food waste is accepted



Food waste makes up the bulk of waste that can be composted, so you still make a positive difference if you only put food in the organics bin.

## Put it in the trash if you are unsure



Items that cause contamination increase processing costs and may result in lower-quality compost. If you aren't sure what to do with an item, put it in the trash bin. Organics recycling that is too contaminated can end up being managed as trash.

# Prevent food waste

## Set up a sharing table



A sharing table in the cafeteria allows students to set out unwanted food and beverages for other students to take. To set one up, work with nutrition staff and follow the state's guidelines at [education.mn.gov](http://education.mn.gov), search food safety.

## Food donation

Both food from the kitchen and the cafeteria have the potential to be donated. Contact Hennepin County's School Recycling Specialist at 612-596-1498 to discuss food donation options.

# Why compost?

Organics recycling puts our trash to better use to create a compost – a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Here's how the organics recycling cycle works:

- 1 The food scraps we collect are delivered to a composting facility.
- 2 About six months to a year later, the composting process is complete.
- 3 Compost is used in gardens to help grow the food we eat.



Hennepin County  
Environment and Energy

[hennepin.us/schoolrecycling](http://hennepin.us/schoolrecycling)  
612-596-1498

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