



Composting in New Hanover County Schools

This program introduces school children to the wonders of living soil and healthy waste stream management through composting and recycling initiatives in the school lunchroom. It also helps to conserve space in the NHC Landfill, which has a lifespan of 28 years.

Garbage to Gardens conducts educational programs with students that highlight the importance of soil microbes, composting, plant biology, gardening, and so much more. The program ties all of this together to provide kids a complete vision for how to use systems thinking to grow healthy people, plants & planet. Programming is designed to meet NC Essential Standards for many subjects across grade levels.

All educational programming, food waste collection bins, and signage provided by Garbage to Gardens are FREE. Contact us to start this sustainability program at your school!

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GARBAGE TO Gardens



How it works:

Step 1: All students and staff will get an orientation on successful recycling and composting.

Step 2: Garbage to Gardens staff will spend time in the school cafeteria and assist staff in establishing waste diversion stations with visual signage for compost, recycling, liquids, and landfill trash.

Step 3: Compost hauling services will be contacted to start weekly pickups.

Step 4: Waste diversion efforts in the cafeteria will continue to be run by students and school staff throughout the school year with check-ins and waste diversion tracking from G2G staff.

Step 5: Individual classes from one grade level may opt to participate in a 1 hour curriculum-based lesson on sustainability and soil health annually taught by G2G staff.

Optional ways to enhance your experience:

- Get parent volunteers involved in your waste diversion efforts!
- Use resources and lesson plans provided by G2G to offer extension activities in your classroom.
- Start a garden on your school grounds (G2G staff can help!)
- Plan a field trip to a sustainable business in New Hanover County
- Swap cafeteria or classroom materials for more sustainable alternatives
- Use the program as a way to provide more opportunities for student leadership.
 - Have students help facilitate the sorting of cafeteria waste
 - Have students help record data on the amount of waste diverted from the landfill