

# Educating Staff about Waste Reduction

Educating all staff is a key factor in a successful waste reduction program.



## What schools are doing

### **Expo Elementary School - St. Paul**

Uses posters throughout the school that explain the process and why they do it. They begin the year with modeling for each lunch period. At times they have done an assembly for the kindergarten students in which they model how to separate items and why it's done.

### **Garlough Environmental Magnet School - West St. Paul**

Garlough has an assembly at the beginning of the year to educate and remind students how to handle trash. They have labels on every trash, compost, and recycling bin in the building. The naturalist teaches lessons in composting and students have a worm bin in their classrooms to handle class food waste. The Student Rot Rangers oversee correct separation of lunchroom waste and encourage kids to eat that last bite of carrot. The Livegreen Student Group creates posters and fliers for distribution in the school. Booths at the Environmental Fair highlight ways to responsibly handle food waste and composting outside of school. Guest speakers have been hosted to promote all aspects of responsible waste handling, both in and out of school. The "Leave No Trace" group presents to students and staff about reducing waste and leaving outdoor spaces more pristine than they are found.

### **Prior Lake/Savage Area Schools**

Prior Lake/Savage Area Schools educate students and staff until they can do the organics separation in their sleep! They have posters in the cafeteria and around the school. In the

classroom they show presentations on the SMART boards, play interactive activities with the students to reinforce acceptable behaviors, and blend the education into the daily morning meetings. At all school meetings, Junior Naturalists perform skits, sing songs, or have contests to reinforce acceptable behaviors for the organics disposal process.

## Resources

### **Bayview Elementary School - Waconia**

Bayview Elementary School has produced PowerPoint presentations that can be used to train both students and staff.

### **Parkview Elementary School - Roseville**

Parkview Elementary has produced PowerPoint presentations to help in-service staff training. (See WRAP Information Library)

### ***Reuse + Recycling = Waste Reduction*** *(EPA Guidebook)*

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/education/pdfs/school.pdf>

### ***Tools to Reduce Waste in Schools*** *(EPA Guidebook)*

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/education/pdfs/toolkit/tools.pdf>

### ***The Recycle More toolkit for Your School***

<http://www.recyclemoreminnesota.org/how/school.html>

### ***Waste Prevention Programs (SEEK Website)***

[http://www.seek.state.mn.us/sb\\_topic.cfm?topic=Waste%20Prevention](http://www.seek.state.mn.us/sb_topic.cfm?topic=Waste%20Prevention)