

TYPES OF COMPOSTING SYSTEMS

By composting your school's fresh fruit and vegetable scraps from recess, lunchtime, and the cafeteria, and by composting garden waste, your school can divert trash from landfills as well as reduce emissions from waste hauling trucks. You are also creating nutrient rich soil called humus that will reduce water use and pesticide use in your campus green spaces while producing healthy plants and gardens.

There are different systems that Grades of Green recommends for composting depending on the size and scope of your school's campus. Below are a few popular options to consider.



4 BIN WOOD UNIT

- Cost: \$400 - \$700
- Materials composted: fresh fruit/veggie waste, brown organic waste
- Time commitment: 10 minutes per session
- Capacity: dependent on size of unit
- Notes: easy to customize to a specific area



SOIL SAVER

- Cost: \$80 - \$100
- Materials composted: fresh fruit/veggie waste, brown organic waste
- Time commitment: 5-10 minutes of maintenance per session
- Capacity: 11.5 cubic feet
- Notes: easy for students to help maintain; difficult to harvest finished compost. California Cities often subsidize this composter; call your Public Works Department to find out if your city provides this service.



MANTIS TUMBLER

- Cost: \$500
- Materials composted: fresh fruit/veggie waste, brown organic waste
- Time commitment: 5-10 minutes per session
- Capacity: Two 10 bushel capacity chambers
- Notes: Can get heavy and may be difficult for students to close and turn. Fits well into a sorting station.



WORM BIN

- Cost: \$80 - \$120
- Materials composted: Fresh fruit and vegetable scraps, newspaper, lint, egg cartons and shells
- Time commitment: 5 minutes per session
- Capacity: Dependent on number of trays added to the stack; each tray holds 12.5 pounds of compost
- Notes: Processes five to eight pounds of compostable waste per week; ideal for single classrooms or small family homes.



OFF-SITE COMPOSTING

- Cost: dependent on services offered by the school's waste hauler
- Materials composted: any and all food waste and paper products
- Time commitment: 20 minutes per week to clean carts after serviced and to roll them to the curb and back
- Capacity: dependent on agreement with the school's waste hauler, typically 96 gallon cart is used
- Notes: this system can only be used with the assistance of the waste hauler; most composting processing facilities are at least 90 miles away