

Springhurst Recycle & Compost

After a one-week food waste audit in 2015 to measure the waste generated at [Springhurst](#), K-5 students took the initiative to continue to sort their waste into a multi bin system for [recycling](#).

Before the waste audit week, ALL materials including [recyclables](#) were discarded into the trash/landfill. Students were missing the opportunity to learn about the many ways their waste can benefit the Springhurst community, and the Earth.

As of 2015 small amounts of unopened food donations are collected.

As of 2016, compost is made on-site seasonally for use in the Outdoor Classroom/Garden creating a closed loop food cycle with zero waste goals. COMPOST KIDS is officially launched as a waste reduction program for all K5 students, with lessons piloted in several grades.

As of 2019, Compostable paper products and all food waste are collected and transported to a commercial compost facility.

As of 2021, a robust weekly food recovery system is in place for students to donate unopened food from their lunch periods. PTSA members transport the recovered food to the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry every Wednesday.



What a multi-bin waste station looks like

1. Food Donations
2. Liquids
3. Trash/landfill
4. Commingled Recycle-plastic, glass & metal
5. Recycle paper
6. Compost - food waste
7. Compost - trays/paper products/food waste

To learn more about what goes where and what school signage looks like, please visit the DFSD Recycle Center

<https://www.dfsd.org/Domain/567>

By separating waste, liquid is diverted from landfills, recycling rates increase, all food waste is collected to produce **compost*** for the Outdoor Classroom/Garden, and trash is significantly reduced by donating food.

* **Compost**- decomposed organic material used as a plant fertilizer

Students are learning that their “waste does not have to be waste”, food scraps are a valuable resource, and that they can make a difference in reducing the negative impact on the Earth.

Students are practicing good environmental stewardship by recycling right, skipping straws, using reusable water bottles and only taking what they need.

