



# FOOD TO FLOWERS

## School Organics Recycling Program

### How it Works

Leftover food and soiled paper from school lunchrooms and kitchens is diverted from the waste stream and sent to Silver Springs Organics, a state-of-the-art commercial composting facility located in Thurston County. At Silver Springs, the food and paper scraps are composted into a nutrient-rich, natural soil amendment.



For more information about Silver Springs Organics, visit [www.SilverSpringsOrganics.com](http://www.SilverSpringsOrganics.com) or call 446-SOIL (7645).

## Make Waste-Free Lunches

The best way to reduce waste from lunches is to simply lessen the amount of waste created in the first place. Here are some general tips to create a waste-free lunch:

- Pack lunches in reusable boxes.
- Put juice, applesauce, yogurt and other food in reusable containers instead of buying single-serve containers.
- Avoid buying packaged lunch kits and overly packaged products.
- Pack reusable utensils and cloth napkins.
- Encourage your child to eat his or her entire lunch and to bring home any uneaten, useable food (such as apples).

For more ideas, visit [www.wastefreelunches.org](http://www.wastefreelunches.org).



This program is sponsored by Thurston County Solid Waste and the Washington State Department of Ecology, with funding from a Department of Ecology grant.

For more waste reduction ideas, visit [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org)



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Thurston County Solid Waste

## Food Scraps Get a Second Life

Food to Flowers is a lunchroom composting program that recycles leftover food scraps and food-soiled paper. Participating Thurston County schools have reduced approximately 75% of kitchen and lunchroom waste!



## We Are Here to Help!

Thurston County Solid Waste is helping schools set up the Food to Flowers program. We set up sort lines and provide assemblies, initial training, student activities, signs and other related material.

To arrange for a Food to Flowers presentation or assembly for your school or classroom, please contact Thurston County Solid Waste at 867-2491.

## Big Benefits for Schools

By composting organic waste, schools can:

- Reduce the amount of garbage produced.
- Lower trash hauling costs.
- Give students hands-on experience as environmental stewards.
- Raise community awareness about composting and waste reduction.
- Create a more earth-friendly school.

For more information about the Food to Flowers program, contact Peter Guttchen of Thurston County Solid Waste at 790-3013 or e-mail [guttchp@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:guttchp@co.thurston.wa.us).

## Hey! High School Students!

Are you looking for a culminating project to fulfill your graduation requirements? Food to Flowers may be just the opportunity you've been looking for!

## Composting at Home

It's very easy to compost food and yard waste at home. In fact, composting food, yard waste and paper towels could reduce your garbage by 25% or more! Learn more about composting by using the following resources:

- **Curbside service**  
Curbside organics recycling may be available in your area. To find out if you are eligible for this service, contact your local trash hauler. You may also call the Food Plus Organics Recycling Hotline at 754-2953 for more information.
- **General composting information**  
Visit [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) or call the Master Gardener/Master Composter Clinic Rotline at 867-2163.
- **Compost bin sales**  
Visit the Master Gardener Foundation website at [www.compostbinsthurstoncounty.com](http://www.compostbinsthurstoncounty.com) or call 481-4204.

Volunteers are needed to make presentations, monitor lunchroom bins, help students track food waste weights, train student monitors, and more. Contact your school for more information or to volunteer.

