

SCHOOL COMPOST GUIDE AT A GLANCE:

Teachers & Paraprofessionals

What is the School Compost Guide?

The School Compost Guide is intended to serve as a detailed implementation plan to support Brookline Public Schools in launching and/or expanding composting programs in partnership with the Department of Public Works (DPW).

What is Composting & Why is it Important?

- Composting is the process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, into fertilizer to enrich the soil.
- In MA, over 1 million tons of organic material are sent to landfill or burned at the incinerator each year.
- Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions and combats climate change.



ACTION ITEMS

Want to Launch a Compost Program at Your School?

- **Read the School Compost Guide** and check out the pre-composting checklist on pages 4-6 (available at www.brooklinema.gov/schoolcomposting).
- **Speak to your peers and colleagues about a compost program** and seek out others in your school's community who are supportive of the idea.
- **Notify the DPW Zero Waste Program** at zerowaste@brooklinema.gov to inform staff of your interest in launching a composting program.

Want to Support an Existing Compost Program at Your School?

- Compost is an interdisciplinary topic and is applicable to numerous school subjects. **Incorporate composting into your lesson plans** wherever possible.
- The Guide includes **lists of books, videos and songs about compost, climate action and sustainable food systems for each age group** (download the list at www.brooklinema.gov/schoolcomposting). Integrate these educational resources into your advisory or morning meetings through interactive read alouds, or play songs during lunches and/or snack times for younger grades.
- Funding for **field trips to a Black Earth Compost facility** may be available. Email zerowaste@brooklinema.gov to enquire!
- Whenever possible, monitor waste stations while on lunch duty and support students as they sort their waste. Encourage teachers to **integrate composting activities and resources into the classroom.**
- **Consider joining your School's "Compost Steering Committee"**, or the group of staff and students that are overseeing and coordinating the development of a compost program! Contact zerowaste@brooklinema.gov to learn more.