

# Tips for Composting in School Gardens

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# What is our objective?

- **Purpose / Goal for the school/teacher?**
- **Who is leading? PTA vs. School Admin vs. Teacher**
- **Priority?**
  - **Diverting food scraps with off-site composting vs on-site or education?**
    - **What grade are the students?**
    - **Activity plans?**

# PCCI @ Unquowa

- 30-week program with the 8th grade; 45 min. class.
- We have 3 devices; a 3-bay thermophilic system, a mesophilic tumbler, and 2 vermicompost bins.

## What does a class look like: Activities + Q&A

- Weekly maintenance log; Temperatures, Bulk Density, Porosity, weights (C&N) observations, and actions for the week. (5-10 minutes)
- Weekly mixing with the cafeteria's food scraps, With our 3-2-1 carbon source mix. (5-10 minutes)
- Review worm bin and feed them (5 minutes)
- The remainder of the time is for the new activity which never takes more than 15 minutes.
  - If the activity we have planned is expected to take more time, then my partner and I will do mixing alone after class.





Name:  
Date:  
Name of Compost Batch:

Date										
Temp.										
Porosity										
Bulk Density										

Knowing the ranges for each data sample we will collect, what do you think the average will be for each category?

Temperature	Weight	Bulk Density	Porosity
120F-160F	N/A	800-1200	40%-60%

Hypothesis (If and then Statement, and remember to use the data and the ranges we are collecting above in your answer):

Recipe (What nitrogen sources and carbon sources can you still see):

Observation:

Actions:

# PCCI @ Unquowa cont.

## Execution

- **Good and constant communication with the organization.**
  - **Problem solve issues and education takeaways.**
  - **Up and down the organization - don't ignore operations - kitchen, facilities.**
- **Remember the best way to get into schools is to demonstrate that it is only a benefit for them to do this. We don't want to cause headaches but remove them**
- **Managing and Engaging ALL the students**
- **Reward and Anchoring**
  - **Review sheets each 10 weeks- "exam"**
  - **Certificates as Compost Apprentices**

# Executing your plan

## Site Plan / Composting Method

- Before you create a site plan, or talk about what system; you need to find out how much food scraps are generated on a weekly basis.
- How much space do they have?
- Do they have space for a 3-bin system and enough food scraps for a 3-bin system?
- How/What will you bring/get your carbon sources?
- How will you bring the food scraps to composting site?
- Materials List for Class
  - Tools?
  - Covers?
  - Toters?
  - How will you mix?

# Resources

- NYC Master Composting Manual: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/docs/nyc-master-composter-manual-mcm.pdf>
- Mansfield School District Composting Curriculum and Activity Plans: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/compost/compost\\_pdf/schmanualpdf.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/compost/compost_pdf/schmanualpdf.pdf)
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