



Charleston County News Release

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County Initiates Food Waste Diversion Program at Lambs Elementary School

New sorting bins will be installed today as part of Charleston County Government's Greening Schools Program

[Charleston County's Environmental Management Department](#) continues growing its successful partnership with the [Charleston County School District \(CCSD\)](#). This year, the [Greening Schools Program](#) is expanding to include food waste recycling.

[Lambs Elementary School](#) in North Charleston has been selected as the first CCSD school to pilot a Food Waste Diversion Program. The Robert Bosch Company, via [Trident United Way's Day of Caring](#) event on Friday, Sept. 7, has volunteered to assist in constructing a 3-way waste sort collection station in the school's cafeteria. The new, tiered waste sorting station will provide three separate containers so students can place items in bins marked for food waste, recyclable items and trash.

"Programs like this help students appreciate where their waste ends up, and it's a simple way that our school can be more sustainable," said [Lambs Elementary School Principal, Jarmalar Logan](#).

Food waste collected from the cafeteria will be hauled by a local food waste hauler, Food Waste Disposal, to [Charleston County's Bees Ferry Composting Facility](#) to be processed into compost.

"By allowing students to use a '3-bin system' to separate their food scraps and recyclables from garbage, such as chip bags and Styrofoam trays, schools can significantly reduce their waste," said [Charleston County Councilmember Anna B. Johnson](#), who oversees Council's Solid Waste Committee. "Many people may not realize that if we can collect and compost our school's food waste, it keeps the waste from filling up our landfill. It's a great way to help Charleston County achieve its 40% recycling goal."

This pilot program at Lambs Elementary could lead the way for more food waste collection opportunities throughout the CCSD.

"Waste diversion and recycling initiatives provide economic benefits to CCSD, including reductions to their Charleston County user fee and disposal costs," said Carolyn Carusos, Charleston County Environmental Management's Recycling Program Manager.

The Charleston County Environmental Management Department's current Greening Schools Program includes planning and education resources so all CCSD schools can recycle. In addition to providing recycling collection at all CCSD schools, the program that rolled out during the '11-'12 school year provides:

- [Waste assessments](#) at CCSD schools.
- [Tours](#) of Charleston County's Recycling Center and the Bees Ferry Landfill and Composting Facility.
- Educational presentations year-round in classes.
- Quarterly ["Greening Schools" newsletter](#) for teachers.
- Toolkit with resources to promote and collect recycling in classrooms, cafeterias and administration offices.
- Many other events, contests, pilot programs and initiatives related diverting waste through reduction, composting and recycling.

For more information:

- On the [Greening Schools Program](#), contact Bronwyn Santos, Charleston County Environmental Management's Greening Schools Program Community Representative, by phone at (843) 720-7111 or by email at bsantos@charlestoncounty.org.
- Principals, teachers and other school staff are encouraged to visit the "Greening Schools Program" webpage at recycle.charlestoncounty.org for more information about the program or to request free tours and recycling supplies for their class or school.

- The new 2012-2013 *Greening Schools Program Catalog* of free tours, presentations, educational materials and recycling supplies is now available online at <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/SolidWaste/school/resources.htm>.

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- written by Jennie Flinn -