

Yarmouth Schools join a growing number of Southern Maine school districts that are making a commitment to reducing waste by composting and recycling

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PORTLAND — October 7, 2015 — As recently reported in The New York Times, trash cans are overflowing in school cafeterias all over the country, a challenge being tackled by a growing number of Southern Maine schools. In an effort to maximize trash reduction, Yarmouth School District joins South Portland, Scarborough, Old Orchard Beach and Falmouth School Districts, in minimizing waste by up to 90% by recycling and composting food scraps in school cafeterias with implementation and educational support from Garbage to Garden.

An initial composting pilot in the Yarmouth elementary schools in 2014 - 2015 was spearheaded by Yarmouth mothers, Kerry Weinrich and Jodi Federle and funded through the Yarmouth Education Foundation. A lifelong composter, Jodi Federle was inspired by St. Joseph's College zero-waste cafeteria and says, "Schools should set an example. Composting is a hands on learning tool."

To further minimize food waste, Yarmouth Schools provide a station to deposit unwanted food like uneaten apples and other unopened snacks that are available to other students. Up until this point 100% of waste in Yarmouth Schools ended up in incinerators and landfills.

During that composting pilot, Yarmouth elementary schools diverted 2,544 gallons of organic material from the waste stream. In return, the Yarmouth School Garden receives nutrient rich compost from Garbage to Garden to help grow more food that will find its way back into Yarmouth Schools cafeterias.

Blair Currier, Yarmouth School's Nutrition Director, was instrumental in helping to expand composting and recycling programs into the Yarmouth middle and high schools.

About Garbage to Garden:

Founded in 2012 by Tyler Frank, Garbage to Garden, located in Portland, ME, is the most successful self funded, market-based curbside composting company in the United States, servicing over 5,000 households, schools, restaurants, businesses and events in eight Southern Maine communities. Thanks to the efforts of the Portland area community, Garbage to Garden diverts up to 50 tons of food from landfills every week.

For \$14 dollars a month (free for volunteers) Garbage to Garden provides households with an easy to open bucket for food scraps (including meat, dairy and bones) that is picked up on garbage day each week, and left in its place is a clean bucket and finished compost (upon request).

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