Food Waste Sorting & Composting

The Next Big Thing in Waste Reduction

Brittin Witzenburg
Olympia School District
April 27, 2007
Composting Projects

**OFF Site**
- Pilot Project
- Partnership with City of Olympia
- 2 elementary schools
- Material is hauled off site
- Currently underway

**ON Site**
- Grant Funded
- Partnership with Thurston County
- 3 elementary schools
- Material is composted on site
- Currently planning, with program to begin next school year
Off Site Composting

- Pilot to help City Solid Waste in developing expanded municipal food waste hauling.
  - Material is sorted in cafeteria & kitchen.
  - Staff place material in separate containers.
  - Weekly pick up by City haulers.
  - Material transported to Silver Springs Organics.
**On Site Composting**

- WA Dept. of Ecology Grant via Thurston County Solid Waste.
  
  - School sites chosen based on interest and commitment potential.
  
  - Material will be sorted in cafeteria & kitchen.
  
  - Sites will use and maintain the Earth Tub, with additional assistance from the Master Composter & WSU Extension Programs.
Cafeteria Waste Sorting

- Disposal line
  - Simplicity is key – but challenging.
  - Clear & visual signage.
Cafeteria Waste Sorting

- **Education**
  - Announcement through assembly.
  - Staff announcements via email.
  - Monitoring the first week.
Cafeteria Waste Sorting

- **Staff Buy In**
  - Key staff: Principal, Custodian, Kitchen Crew
  - Others: Teachers & Assistants
  - Explain importance.
  - Relay confidence & support for success.
  - Include their ideas & needs.
Waste Sorting

- Kitchen
  - Prep waste & inedibles
  - Given an extra can – Slim Jim for space

- Other
  - Staff rooms
  - Self-contained classrooms
**Where it goes...**

**OFF Site**
Trucked to Silver Springs Organics

Meat, Dairy, Milk Cartons, Wood = OK!
Where it goes...

ON Site
Will be placed in an
Earth Tub

Any prep or post
consumer food
waste, but no
Milk Cartons

Eugene, Oregon Schools
WHERE IT GOES...