



Composting for Schools Programme

October 2023



To All South Dublin County Council Area Schools-

The award winning Composting for Schools programme is being continued in 2023-24 for South Dublin County Council area primary and secondary schools **free of charge**. This initiative is run by Composting Ireland and is being funded by South Dublin County Council and the Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan Office.

Aim of the Programme

The aim of the programme is to help schools prevent waste, improve recycling and set up, start or improve on-site composting systems to reduce waste, save money and combat climate change. The programme also helps schools improve their gardening efforts and increase biodiversity around their schools. All of these activities assist schools with attaining their Green School Flags and reaching their Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the programme gives teachers access to a variety of

fun, participatory and interactive activities for school children to learn about composting and gardening. These activities support children's understanding of the underlying principles of ecology, biology and biodiversity that underpin all life on our planet.

Here's How It Works

All South Dublin County Council area schools are invited to take part in this interesting and action-oriented programme. This is a funded opportunity for each school to introduce climate action related to food, garden and landscape waste. **Places are limited this year to 7 schools.** Here are the basic steps involved:

1. Teachers and other school staff are invited to participate in a free online training programme (5 x 1.25 hour workshops) to learn about waste prevention and how to improve recycling in your school. Most importantly, participants will learn everything they need to know about composting: why it is so important, how it works, how to set up and operate a variety of systems and how to use the compost in your school garden and landscape. The training will also introduce teachers to a variety of learning activities they can use in the classroom to simulate learning by students at all age levels. The online Zoom training will start at the end of September.
Participants are required to attend all 5 online sessions to avail of the €800 per school funding opportunity provided by the programme. The training dates are scheduled for:

Wednesdays: November 8, 15, 22, 29 and December 6 from 4:30 to 5:45pm

2. After the training, a specialist from Composting Ireland will conduct a school visit at no charge to each participating school to help:
 - Identify ways of preventing and reducing black bin waste
 - Improve your school's recycling programme
 - Establish systems for separating food waste for brown bin collection
 - Choose and establish on-site composting systems for garden & landscape materials
 - Set up composting systems for food waste from staff and student lunches
 - Finalise an action plan for each school
3. Each participating school will receive a €250 voucher to spend on in-school collection caddies, instructional signs, a variety of composting systems, including composting bins, leaf mould cages and wormeries, and composting tools, including secateurs, pitch forks, compost aerators, watering cans, thermometers and more.
4. A second site visit will be made to help schools set up their on-site composting system, train relevant staff and assist teachers with classroom learning activities.

Here's How to Register

To sign up for this special programme, teachers, caretakers and school administrators can visit the Composting Ireland website to view a short two minute introductory video, read about how the programme works, and fill out a short registration survey about their school. Places are limited to 12 schools and are given out on a first-come, first-served basis. So please do not hesitate to jump on this unique opportunity by visiting:

www.compostingireland.ie/schools/

To access the survey, please click on the link near the bottom of the page that says "Autumn 2023 (Mayo, Offaly, Wexford, Waterford, South Dublin, and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Councils" to register for the programme. **Registration deadline is Friday September 22, 2023.** For any questions, please contact craig@bentonecosolutions.com

This is what some participants have said about the programme:

"This programme was inspirational and so practical and is helping us achieve our green flag and reduce our waste bills whilst helping promote biodiversity within the school environment."

"Amazing opportunity to be involved in this programme, receiving fantastic guidance and the tools needed to implement our plan."

"As a result of the programme we are composting, we have a thriving wormery and we have almost 500 children who have a better awareness of composting, biodiversity and are better at looking after their environment."

This programme is supported and funded by:

