



Charleston County News Release

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County's Food Waste Diversion Program Pilot Expands to 10 Schools Total

Four schools involved in the pilot program diverted 8.8 tons of waste from the landfill by the end of Dec. 2012

[Charleston County's Environmental Management Department](#) continues to grow its food waste composting program through its partnership with [Charleston County School District \(CCSD\)](#). The [Greening Schools Program](#) has expanded to include food waste recycling at 10 elementary schools across the County.

In September 2012 [Lambs Elementary School](#) in North Charleston became the first CCSD school to pilot a Food Waste Diversion Program (see original news release: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/news/3491.htm>). A 3-way waste sort collection station was installed in the school's cafeteria. The station has three separate containers for students to place items marked for food waste, recyclable items and trash.

Based on the success at Lambs Elementary, three additional elementary schools were added to the pilot program in late November 2012: Stono Park Elementary, Mary Ford Elementary and Springfield Elementary. According to [Charleston County's Environmental Management Department](#) staff, the four schools involved in the pilot program had diverted 8.8 tons of waste from the [Bees Ferry Landfill](#) as of Dec. 20, 2012.

"Food Waste Diversion Programs in our schools provides students with a better understanding of our waste stream and the measures they can take to reduce the amount of waste that goes to our landfill," said [Charleston County Councilmember Anna B. Johnson](#), who oversees Council's Solid Waste Committee.

[Charleston County's Environmental Management Department's](#) Greening Schools Program Representative, Bronwyn Santos, and CCSD's Sustainable Schools Coordinator, Maggie Harrelson, have joined forces to identify more schools to add to the Food Waste Diversion Program Pilot. Selection for the pilot was based on: enrollment, recycling participation, "Tap and Stack" performance (students tap their uneaten food from Styrofoam lunch trays into a garbage can and then stack the trays one on top of the other to reduce the volume of garbage that is generated -- stacked trays take up less space in the trash), and overall commitment to sustainability.

The following six additional schools were selected to participate in the Food Waste Diversion Program Pilot:

- Harborview Elementary on James Island
- Sullivan's Island Elementary on Sullivan's Island
- Angel Oak Elementary on Johns Island
- Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary in West Ashley
- James Island Elementary on James Island
- Belle Hall Elementary in Mount Pleasant

Collection at these schools began earlier this month and is continuing through January. Food waste collected from the cafeterias will be hauled by a local food waste hauler, Food Waste Disposal, to [Charleston County's Bees Ferry Composting Facility](#) to be processed into a high quality finished compost product available for purchase and use in the community.

"Angel Oak Elementary School's theme this year is *'The World Around Us.'* Food waste composting is yet another means for our students and staff to demonstrate their individual impact on our world," said Rodney Moore, Principal at Angel Oak Elementary School. "Students are happy to now have a complete recycling program in place in our cafeteria. This learning project is endorsed by our school's student council and recycling team."

The [Greening Schools Program](#) includes planning and educational resources for all Charleston County Schools.

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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