



NORTHWOOD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ZERO WASTE PROGRAM LAUNCH

Northwood launched a zero waste program in our lunchroom and kitchen on February 3, 2020, and what a difference we are making!

Northwood now uses a share table, sorts out liquids and recycling, and commercially composts all food scraps and food-soiled paper. We are keeping valuable resources out of landfills and getting closer to zero waste.

All students learned the How and Why of reducing waste during a morning assembly on launch day. Zero waste student volunteers monitor the sorting station to make sure everything goes where it belongs.

Thank you to all students, staff, and parents for your efforts and support!



OUR IMPACT

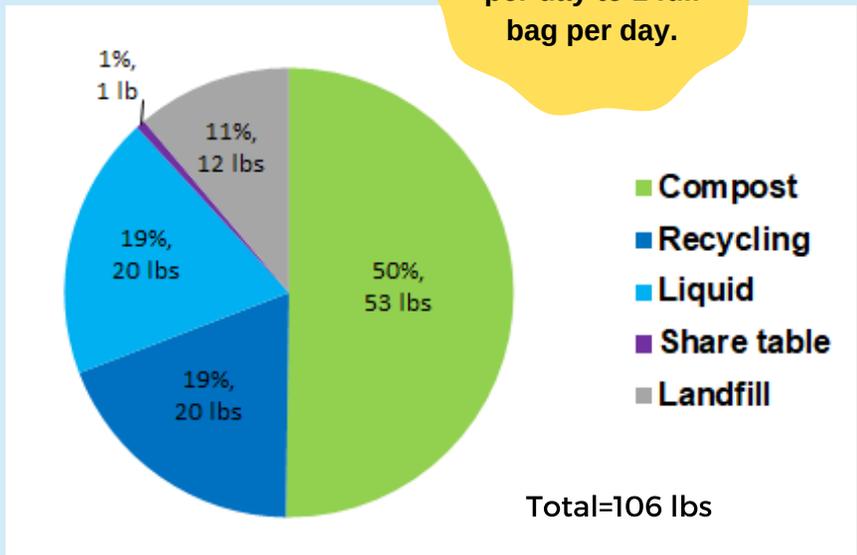
In One Day

- 53 lbs composted
- 20 lbs recycled
- 20 lbs liquid diverted
- 1 lb food recovered
- 94 lbs diverted from landfill

Potential for One School Year

- 9,540 lbs composted
- 3,600 lbs recycled
- 3,600 lbs liquid diverted
- 180 lbs food recovered
- 16,920 lbs diverted from landfill

Northwood went from roughly 15 full bags of trash per day to 1 full bag per day.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT GOES WHERE IN OUR SORTING STATION?



PACK A ZERO WASTE LUNCH FROM HOME

Save money and make less garbage. Instead of buying single-use disposable products, pack a zero waste lunch with washable food and drink containers, utensils, and cloth napkins.

REDUCE FOOD WASTE

40% of food in the U.S. gets wasted while 1 in 7 families is food insecure. To prevent good food from being trashed, Northwood has a share table where students can put school lunch items (whole fruit and factory-sealed foods) they took but did not eat. Other students are then free to take items from the share table. Students with home lunches are encouraged to take their uneaten food back home and talk with their families about packing a nutritious lunch that won't get wasted.

COMPOSTING

When food scraps decompose in a landfill, the greenhouse gas methane is produced. When food scraps are composted, they can be used to build healthy soil. The food scraps and food-soiled paper collected at Northwood get turned into compost at the Organix compost facility in Chicago.

Northwood families can also compost at home.

[Highwood](#) and [Highland Park](#) both offer curbside commercial compost service.

You can also compost in your own backyard. Learn more [here](#).

