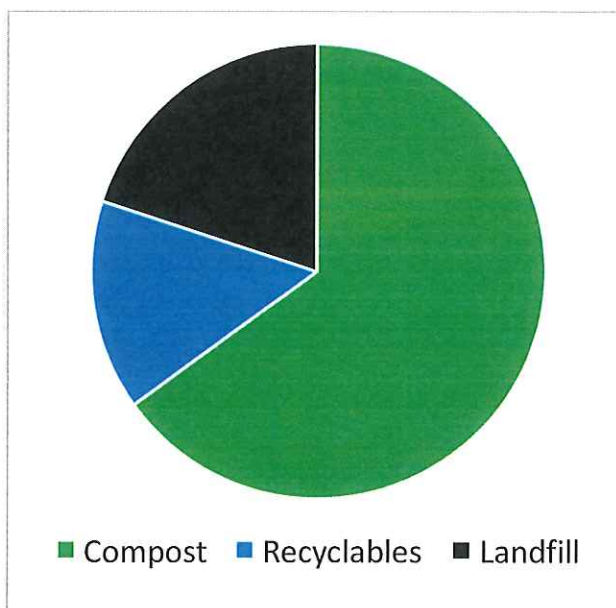


Since April 2017, Strathmore schools have been participating in a *Composting in Schools* initiative. Provision of a compost bin and weekly collection have been handled by Huxted Waste & Recycle, with each school handling the internal program specifics. Every school in Strathmore has emphasized its support for the program, with a teacher or staff member always willing to get the program set up. Since composting pertains to the “Waste and Our World” component of the grade 4 Science curriculum, the grade 4 teachers at the schools have been particularly involved in the initiative. In all cases, the students have shown great passion and commitment to this program and are eager to make their world a better place.

In a presentation at Sacred Heart Academy, over 100 students discussed the benefits of composting. Students learned that a typical home’s garbage contains 65% compostable materials (35% food and 30% yard organics), 15% recyclables, and just 20% that cannot be composted or recycled. A family of four in Strathmore that composts and recycles can probably manage with just one garbage bin per week! They also learned that we can compost not only food, but also tea bags, coffee grounds, food-soiled cardboard and paper, napkins and tissues, wooden chopsticks, weeds, leaves, grass clippings, and sod. Composting reduces waste in our landfills, produces valuable products, improves soil, reduces fertilizer use, and reduces methane emissions caused by decomposition in landfills when oxygen is not available.



The *Composting in Schools* initiative was proposed to Town Council on April 5, 2017, and received Council’s unanimous support. The program was implemented by Brentwood Elementary, followed shortly thereafter by Sacred Heart Academy and Wheatland Elementary. Westmount Elementary is in its final planning stages and the Sustainability Committee is optimistic that the program will be implemented at both Crowther Memorial Junior High School and Strathmore High School in the very near future.

The Composting in Schools brochure is available here: [NTD: insert link to brochure]