

Trinity High School

2026 Project Report



The Project:

Trinity High School's Girls in Green club launched a composting initiative to address food waste in their cafeteria and reduce landfill impact. By introducing compost bins, creating a structured sorting system, and educating their peers, students transformed how waste is managed during lunch and connected environmental action to their school's mission and values.

Project Focus: Waste Management

Students involved: 300

Staff Involved: 3

Location: River Forest, IL

Students impacted: 300



Our project was made to introduce a compost program into our school's waste management system and educate our peers on how to correctly dispose of different materials to decrease the amount of waste disposal in our school community while increasing awareness.



The Process:

Through the IGSP Sustainability Self-Assessment and Building Walkthrough, Students noticed that their school had limited cafeteria waste infrastructure and that unfinished food was thrown in trash cans to be landfilled. To address these issues, the Girls in Green club partnered with faculty and cafeteria staff to create clearly designated lunch-waste sorting systems for landfill, recycling, and compost. Students selected and sourced compost bins, coordinated with staff to integrate composting into daily lunch operations, and organized peers and faculty to help manage sorting during lunch periods. The team encouraged participation through school-wide announcements, educational flyers, and by facilitating schoolwide presentations.

The Outcomes:

Since implementing their cafeteria compost program, the Girls in Green have worked diligently to instill proper composting habits in their school community. They calculate that over 60% of cafeteria food waste is now being diverted to compost bins. This success was made possible through persistently educating their school community on proper sorting practices, identifying accountability systems, and connecting the work back to Trinity's mission to act individually, communally, and systemically on behalf of Earth, the Community of Life, and all future generations. The Girls in Green plan to expand efforts by promoting reusable utensils and containers, and continuing education efforts to further improve their lunchroom waste diversion metrics.

