

The Upper Valley
Super Compost Project
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Institutionalize living compost systems into your schools' outdoor classroom to increase real world problem solving opportunities, enhance the health of your schoolyard and save money!

The Upper Valley Super Compost Project will support living compost systems as K - 12 outdoor classrooms in schoolyards across 5 supervisory unions in the Upper Valley of Vermont over a 4-year period. This replicable model will lay the foundation for other regional schools to collaborate in systemic change-making. Participant schools will reduce food waste, connect with local farms to divert food scraps to farm animals, and manage the rest in student-run, hot composting systems. The project includes developing a community of practice to support the ongoing resilience of the program. Early estimates from survey results of the 24 participating schools indicate that at least 200,000 lbs of food scraps will be diverted from the trucking and landfill waste streams into quality compost to enhance the soil health of schoolyards and community projects throughout the region.

On-site compost systems have the potential to shift current organics hauling fees paid by most schools into an investment in school staff, students, community engagement and regeneration. In addition to saving money, compost systems serve as a classroom extension enhancing STEM curriculum and providing a mechanism for a student-run business.

SCHOOLS GET:

- A complete compost system of your choice, installed (menu of options to come!)
- a roofed area to house the compost system, year-round
- 2 years of expert training from technical service providers (roughly 50 hours per school) and ongoing support from [Regeneration Corps](#)
- All of the tools needed to sustain a program, including curricula

QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOLS:

- Be a school within the 6 SU's invited to this pilot project:
 - Orange East; White River Valley; Rivendell; Windsor x 2; Hartford (declined)
- Must be student run. Must use the compost system as an extension of place and project based education.
- Must include Food Service and Facilities Maintenance team in the design process.
- Must commit to reinvest a good percentage of current organics hauling fees into the school composting program, to include an ongoing stipend for leadership.

TIMELINE

August 2022 - June 2023

YEAR 1: identify participating schools, define individual school needs, develop a menu of options for schools to choose from. Recruit builder. Determine site design, recruit builder and develop initial plans. Secure project staff. Develop advisory team. Secure fiscal sponsor. Develop basic marketing assets and fundraising plan for years 2-4. Fundraising for year 2 and 3.

July 2023 - June 2024

YEAR 2 Launch Advisory Team. Build Technical Support Provider (TSP) team of experts to guide participating schools and implement the skills and human systems of a functioning, student-run hot composting system. Finalize site design and logistics, and any permitting and contracts for all participating schools. Begin site building and implementation. Finalize school contracts and in-kind contributions. Schools begin to source feedstocks, reduce food waste and refine source separation and collection systems. Integrate Regeneration Corps into school program needs and assess diversion opportunities. Curriculum integration complete. Site leads and educators identified.

July 2024 -June 2025

YEAR 3 Complete site building and site implementation. Year 2 TSP and school 2-year partnership. Create a community of practice, drawing in student-initiated connectivity and collaboration among local communities and schools. Begin data collection on waste diversion. Begin project assessment.

July 2025 -June 2026

YEAR 4 Complete project assessment and project transition.