



SYC Environment Committee end-of-the-year report

The environment is an extremely important issue that is perhaps the most difficult issue to face and attempt to fix. The environment committee feels it is of the utmost importance to teach kids of the dangers of continued damage towards the environment and of ways to help protect our world. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders and if we want the future leaders of the world to care about the environment, they must be educated now. For this reason we feel it is critical to introduce a system of composting in Seattle Schools where students can actively be involved in helping the environment. Even just throwing compost in a compost bin is a visible and active way for students to become more connected to the natural world and learn about the challenges and solutions that face us today involving the environment.

Over the course of this year we have arranged a composting system at Ingraham High School that will come into effect at the beginning of the next school year. This will involve compost bins at regular intervals throughout Ingraham near garbage bins to avoid garbage going into compost bins. It will also include a pickup of the compost and will involve students overseeing the bins to help other students get their waste into the right place. While this program may not appear to be significant, changing the habits of our school age kids even one school at a time can make a huge impact in the future. During this year the environment committee has worked closely with Dick Lily, Veronica Fincher, and Rina Fa'amoe for help and support to begin the composting program.

The biggest struggles for the environment committee have been getting in touch with the right people; finding a teacher willing to support and help run the program; and finding a group of dedicated students to watch the bins during lunch, explain to people how to use them, and help get more students involved.

We overcame these issues mostly through trial and error (trying something and seeing what worked and what didn't). After a long search of being referred to teacher after teacher we eventually found a great teacher to help support the program. The group of students was mainly other environment enthusiasts and friends willing to help a buddy out.

It's important to keeping our goals realistic; we will try to extend this composting program to other schools in the city that lack a functioning compost program. The program should have regular bins available in strategic places throughout the school and rather than a compost bin in a hallway there should be an attempt to group all three types of bins together, so garbage doesn't end up in a compost bin or vice versa.