



Stories from the Vermont Master Composter Program

Composting at School: The Program at Thetford Elementary School

Interested in a school composting program? The Thetford Elementary School has a system worth taking a look at. Vermont's recycling and composting law prompted the inception of the project eight years ago. Cat Buxton, a soil and ecosystem specialist of "Grow More, Waste Less," together with the school nurse, Joette Hayashigawa, crafted the project now operated by students. The direct benefits: Students buying into the concepts of sustainability and recycling, and teachers landing practical acf24.1 (m)13 mixing of materials to occur. This results in anaerobic decomposition and the release of methane gas. In the United States, landfills are the third largest producers of methane gas. And methane gas is 84 times as potent as carbon dioxide in global heating capability.



Students at Thetford Elementary have been learning Natalie describes composting, "It helps the environment. EPA estimates that one-third of all excess food and food of global greenhouse gas emissions result from food

Thetford Elementary School uses an insulated compost. During my visit, program director Cat Buxton laid down bedding straw providing the first step in the compost. Natalie describes the importance of adding diverse soil mix. At Thetford Elementary, Nigel and Milicent — on-campus goats whose shed is adjacent to the playground — contribute used stall bedding and manure. Food scraps are deposited in 5-gallon buckets throughout the school. Used brown paper towels and other compostable wastes are collected

by students pulling a wagon. Their first stop is outside the office of Pce o12 T

