

Growing Up Composting

Donna Mackiewicz and students / Beyond the Classroom Teacher / St. Mary's Episcopal School, Edmond, OK

Hear how the Beyond the Classroom program has been a Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Environmental Excellence Award finalist for five years and were awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Presidential Environmental Youth Award. First grader Rhodes Molenda and classmates will talk about the success and failures of composting at school. Students will do a live demonstration and provide tips on composting. Attendees will make a compostable food web chain. Participants will receive lesson plans and activities.

Getting Past Common Obstacles in School Gardening

Dr. Shelley Mitchell / Assistant Extension Specialist / Oklahoma State University / Stillwater, OK

The most common barriers to developing and maintaining school gardens are the lack of funding, time, space, and experience. Come learn how you can get past those obstacles and get the school garden you have always wanted. This session will also include a brief introduction to the Junior Master Gardener Program.

A Gardening We Will Go: With Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom

Cheri Long / Ag in the Classroom Coordinator / Ok Dept. Agriculture, Food & Forestry / Oklahoma City, OK

In this workshop participants will experience hands-on learning experiences utilizing gardening lessons from Ag in the Classroom. Participants will learn how to incorporate these lessons and activities into their already existing curriculum and help promote agriculture literacy using Science, Math, Reading, Social Studies, English Language Arts, Music and Physical Education. Participants will receive lessons and resources that can be taken back to their classrooms and immediately be put into action.

Gardening with Children Year-Round

Charlotte Wood-Wilson / Director Montessori Teacher / Oklahoma City University / Oklahoma City, OK

Join us for an onsite demonstration at Wesley United Methodist Church, One Day Montessori Preschool. This session will examine activities that can be done year round both inside and outside.

The activities are kept simple and follow the children's interest. We will do several make and take activities and participants will receive sample activities and a variety of resources.

Pre-K Sweet Potato Gardeners

Amy Young and Paul Mays | Found and Executive Director | SixTwelve | Oklahoma City, OK

This session will introduce participants to SixTwelve, a community education center that focuses on creativity and sustainable living. We will highlight our Pre-K Sweet Potato Gardener Program and you will get to experience part of the lesson and hear about this seed to table program that incorporates Art, Literature, Science, Math, and Nutrition.

Building a School Garden that will Last

Robert Gibbs | Education Coordinator | Rogers County Conservation District | Claremore, OK

It's easy to get excited in the planning stages of building a school garden – but situations change over time, teachers and parents come and go, and what was once a flourishing garden can end up a neglected mass of weeds. This presentation will help you think about all the factors that will affect your garden when making decisions such as location, sun exposure, water resources, and plant selection. Hear how to incorporate S.T.E.M. skills such as research, design, measurement, mapping, data collection, record keeping and more.

Aquaponics for All

Adam Lifsys | Biology and AP Environmental Science Teacher | Norman High School | Norman, OK

In this session, participants will learn how Norman High School, with the help of Earth Rebirth and a Kickstarter campaign, have built a one-of-a-kind aquaponics system which combines growing fish (aquaponics) and plants in the nutrient-rich water (hydroponics). A variety of food grows in the aquaponics system including: basil, sage, dill, okra, peppers, a variety of lettuces and much more. The food we grow is used in our school cafeteria, donated to students in our food pantry program, and sold at the Norman Farmers Market. Multiple classes help monitor the system through weekly water quality tests and after school and weekend garden sessions. Come hear our story and find out how you can do aquaponics at your school too.

Growing Healthy Kids and Communities

Andrew Sartain | Founder and President | Earth Rebirth | Norman, OK

In this session we'll share strategies for building a school gardening program that can impact the whole school as well as students' families and community. School gardens can be utilized to encourage policy and environmental changes in schools, contributing toward healthier options in the cafeteria, at school functions, and at home. We will discuss the perception of sustainability and you will learn how Earth Rebirth is helping schools around the OKC-Metro build healthy gardens and school communities.

Plant your STEM Here!

Lynn Malley | Assistant State Extension Specialist, Solid Waste Management | Oklahoma State University | Stillwater, OK

How do you recycle food? Make a plan for your leftovers, giveaway what you can't use, make black gold from the rest! NO, no that black gold....compost! Why make compost with your students? It's fun to play in the dirt. It helps students of all ages learn the connection between soil and food. It provides nutrients for a school garden which can provide food to eat, flowers for pollinators or whatever you want. Join us for an interactive session that you can easily adapt for your students.

Benefits of Schoolyard Trees

Jerí Irby | Education and Project Learning Tree State Coordinator | Oklahoma Forestry Services| Oklahoma City, OK

Attendees will learn how students can determine what benefits current and potential schoolyard trees have with a combination of online tools and hands-on mapping programs. Correlated 3rd-8th grade lessons and tree planting program options will be provided.

Classroom Composting with Worms

Mason Weaver | Urban Harvest Director | Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma | Oklahoma City, OK

Bring the compost indoors with a classroom worm bin. Attendees will learn to build a low-cost bin for red wiggler composting worms, as well as tips for worm care and feeding. With a classroom worm colony, your students can watch decomposers turn food scraps into soil before their eyes. Urban Harvest is the gardening program of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. A 3+ acre diversified vegetable operation with greenhouses, beehives, and goats, Urban Harvest offers year-round, no-cost field trips for classrooms, clubs and other student groups.