

The Gold and Blue

The Lyncourt Ecology Club Newsletter



*Presented by
The Lyncourt Ecology Club*

Ecology club mission statement

**“Be safe in, be respectful of and
be responsible with
the environment.”**

What does the Ecology Club do?

- **Explore the environment**
- **Educate others about preserving the environment**
- **Encourage others to recycle**

What are our plans for next school year and the future?

***Perhaps an Elementary Ecology Club**

***Educating elementary students about the environment**

Composting

How do you compost?

- 1.) Find a nice container (Something big like an old trash bin, or a tall laundry basket)
- 2.) Place it somewhere easily accessible that is outside (Next to the garage, the backyard, etc...)
- 3.) Know what you should and shouldn't compost (Learn more [here](#))
- 4.) Layer your material (A base of twigs and dirt, then your green and browns)
- 5.) Turn the compost every couple of weeks and soon you'll have your own black gold!

Why Composting Matters



OVER 90 BILLION LBS. OF FOOD ENDS UP WASTED EQUATING TO 123 TIMES THE WEIGHT OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING



SOURCES
USDA - <https://www.crooemplate.gov/lets-talk-train>
USDA - <https://www.usda.gov/oc/foodwaste/fwdp.html>
INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE - <https://ilsr.org/compost-impacts-2/>

Compostable items

The Greens

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Food scraps
- Lawn clippings
- Tea bags
- Fresh leaves

The browns

- Dry leaves
- Dry Grass
- Newspaper
- Dead Plant Clippings
- Wooden Branches
- Hay and Straw
- Sawdust
- Pine Needles

The club members

Hailey J - President

Holy S - VP

Wyatt M - Secretary

Aedan T - Treasurer

Advisors: Mrs Erikson & Mrs Tennant

Representatives:

Delia P

Eddie O

Natalie P

Dylan M

Stephen C

Jenifar Ding M

Aawan P

Deliy T

Aapshana B

Want to learn more about our new trash and recycling system? Click [HERE](#)

Composting

Make your own leaf litter:

Leaf litter is dead plant material that have fallen to the ground. This detritus or dead organic material and its constituent nutrients are added to the top layer of soil.

Leaf litter is easier to make than compost because it does not require you to mix it every few weeks and it can be done at pretty much any time of the year!

- 1.) Gather up some dead leaves. It doesn't matter what kind of leaves you use, just make sure that there is no dog poop or anything on them.
- 2.) Grab a large trash bag and poke small holes everywhere on the bottom
- 3.) Fill your bag with leaves.
- 4.) Take a hose or a watering can and put a little bit of water in the bag.
- 5.) Tie off the bag and wait about 6 months.
- 6.) Use your rich, crumbly mixture by mixing it into your soil or sprinkling it on top.

What's this PaintCare thing?

PaintCare is a 501 nonprofit organization that partners with paint manufacturers to recycle paint and give it new purpose. PaintCare sites accept house paint as well as primers, stains, sealers, and clear coatings such as shellac and varnish. Accepted products, also referred to as "PaintCare products" and "architectural coatings," are the same ones that carry the PaintCare fee when purchased. There is no charge to drop off or get a large volume pick-up. Costs are already covered by the PaintCare fee placed on sales of new paint products. All drop-off sites do not accept aerosols (spray paint), leaking, unlabeled, or empty containers. For more information visit www.paintcare.org. The closest Lyncourt drop-off location is:
176 Hathaway St
Syracuse, NY 13208
(315)362-1600

Worms for composting:

There are certain types of worms you can use for composting, but luckily for us, they are some of the most common. Eisenia Foetida and Lumbricus Rubellis are the fancy, scientific names for them, but you might know them as red wigglers or tiger worms.

Here are some ways you can find them:

1. Find local worm suppliers to support local businesses
2. Online marketplaces like Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, or Kijiji can be good resources
3. Some big stores supply worms like Home Depot and Walmart, but not always
4. Some landscaping companies also carry worms
5. If you are up to a messy challenge, you can harvest worms yourself

Where to look for worms in nature:

The best time to look for worms is in the spring or fall because if the soil becomes too hot, cold, or dry, they can be harder to find. Red wigglers, which are the best for composting, are found close to the surface of the ground or in decaying plants. You should put the worms into your container fairly quickly after you collect them. A super easy, not super gross way to collect worms is to put a wet cardboard box out in your yard. Rain also makes it very easy to collect worms.

Check this out

