

## Hugo Elementary Recycling Facts

### How much food and drink do we recycle each day at Hugo Elementary?

On November 4, we started recycling our food and drink waste and milk cartons at school. The food waste is picked up by a farmer and used as hog feed.

After lunch, we weighed how much waste we recycled and trashed:

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Food/drink waste recycled | 93.6 lbs. |
| Milk cartons recycled     | 8.8 lbs.  |
| Trash                     | 23.0 lbs. |
| Total                     | 125.4     |

### Results and observations:

81.7% of all our cafeteria waste was recycled instead of going in the trash.

The amount of food waste is lower than expected which is good as it shows students are eating most of what they take and giving the pigs only their leftovers. Keep up the good work.

Many students are bringing lunches in reusable containers which helps reduce our trash.



We are fortunate to have Transition Plus students oversee the sorting station and help our students properly sort their trays.

We will be sharing our weights with the school district as they will use the numbers to adjust our garbage service to save us money.

### What happens to our food and drink waste?

Barthold Farms from St. Francis, MN, comes three times per week to pick up our full food waste barrels. The driver empties the barrels into a large tank on the truck, washes out the barrels, and returns them to the school, ready for the next day.

At the farm, the driver hooks a steam line up to the tank on the truck and boils the food waste for 30 minutes to kill bacteria. After the food is cooled down, it is fed to the pigs. Barthold not only receives food waste from schools, but also restaurants, hospitals, hotels, and other cafeterias.

### How much does a pig eat each day?

Pigs consume about ten pounds of feed per day per hundred pounds of body weight. This means the amount of food recycled each day at school would be enough to feed eighteen 50 lb. pigs, nine 100 lb. pigs, or three 300 lb. pigs.

### **How long does it take a pig to reach full-grown size?**

On average, it takes about 5 months for a pig to reach full-grown size which is about 265 pounds.

### **What happens to the milk cartons?**

Waste Management collects the milk cartons with other recyclables and sorts them at their recycling facility in Minneapolis. The cartons are baled and sent to Fox River Fiber in De Pere, WI. Fox River makes a high quality pulp that is sold to other mills to make fine writing and printing paper and also tissue products.

### **Other recycling facts:**

One four foot stack of paper recycled saves one tree from being cut and made into paper.

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV or computer monitor for three hours.

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to keep a 100-watt bulb burning for almost four hours.

There is no limit to the number of times an aluminum can can be recycled.

A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days.

It takes fourteen 20 oz. plastic water and pop bottles to make 1 square foot of carpeting or one extra large t-shirt and 85 bottles to make the filling of one sleeping bag.