

# StGS Stop Food Waste

## Team Members:

- Efe Albayrak
- Mailien Schnattinger
- Soraya-Estelle Janssen
- Yakub-Arda Bayrak
- Divij Garg
- Naz Bayazitoglu
- Palakshi Singh



## Our Project Aim

Our aim is to reduce our food waste output by upcycling inedible waste food into nutritious plant compost using special composters. This project initially started as a small idea but soon turned into something school-wide, which helped us involve much of our school community in our project. With this project, we can re-use a lot of the waste deposited at school and change it into compost, and with it, we can aid the growth and health of the plant life around us.

## Sustainable Development Goals That We Have Addressed

We have addressed two of the main goals in the Sustainable Development Goals list. These were 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' and 'Responsible Consumption and Production.' We have addressed these because, as a school, we are a large community, and we not only wish to make this community more sustainable, but we also want to heighten our sense of community by involving everyone we can into our project. This will not only bring us all closer together as a school, but it will also aid the environment, as we will have more eco-conscious people in our community as a result of their involvement in our project. We were also very shocked when we saw that there was an overflow of barely eaten food on the floors and bins, and so we acted to upcycle this waste into useful compost as well as inform our school about responsible consumption.



## What we learnt

We learnt to persevere in the face of immense time pressure and difficulty, as our initial project direction had gone little to nowhere. At first, we wanted to see how much food supermarkets waste, and make a project based on that. We even got to speak with the head of Aldi, who told us

about all about food distribution in the UK. However, despite our optimism, we quickly realized that this was not going anywhere, so we decided to steer our idea towards a new, more local direction. This was a huge part of our project, but our decision to move towards composting using local food waste paid off in the end.

We also learned to work well and smoothly as a team. Despite a rough start and some uncooperative members, the eight of us were eventually able to work fluidly, with each of us delivering on our goals and helping each other out in the over 60 collective hours we spent on this project. We were able to include everyone in our team, as well as some external allies such as the 15-strong Primary Gardening Club in our project, and we grew closer together as both teammates and friends in the end as well.

### **Highlights**

To be able to alleviate the pollution that clouds our skies, chokes our nature and looms ever more threateningly over our future generations with each passing day was something we were all whole-heartedly content in doing. Experiencing fresh breezes right after school was pleasantly different from the screens and whiteboards we were usually exposed throughout the day, and the physical activity of setting up our composting site, which involved digging mud and pulling out roots, was surprisingly fun as well.



Personally, the project not only helped us interact with nature, but also helped some of us to overcome our fears. One of our team members initially had quite a fear of worms and insects, but our activities have helped her realise that they are just minute, innocuous creatures. It also inspired them to write a poem about nature and in essence, the garden that we were potentially going to build, and this was very novel to her because most of her previous poems were based on sentiments rather than tangible subjects.



### **Green Day**

'Green Day' was a fundraising event we organised in order to fund our own project and others like it. The premise was simple: pay 1 Euro to wear something green and non-uniform, but we also included an environmental presentation as well as some fun activities alongside it. This event involved the entire school, pupils and teachers alike and people were very cooperative and interested in helping the environment in what little ways they could, and with their efforts, by the end of the day, we successfully earned over 300 Euros.

### **The Outcomes and Impacts of Our Project**

The main outcome we have achieved as intended is, as mentioned earlier, to upcycle our waste food into compost. With only one bin running, we have already managed to eliminate one week's worth of waste from our school office, and with the rotational system we have in place, that waste elimination is consistent, meaning that our entire administrative wing is food-waste-neutral. With further expansion of the project, this waste-neutrality could also apply to the cafeteria, the staffrooms, and eventually maybe the whole school.

Because of our fundraising events, our presentations, and our team efforts, we have also made an impact on the minds in our school. Many people are acting noticeably more environmentally-consciously, and several groups in Primary and Secondary, such as the Primary Gardening Club and the Secondary Green Team, have also begun their own environmental projects, as well as aiding our own efforts. With this, not only has our sense of community been strengthened, but we have collectively taken further strides to become a more sustainable community.