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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Henderson County Solid Waste and Henderson County Public Schools Composting Program for Food Scraps and Compostable Foodservice Packaging Enhanced

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When Henderson County Solid Waste launched a composting program with six elementary schools in the Henderson County Public Schools in 2019, approximately 2,800 students began sorting their lunch scraps into designated trash and food waste bins. The goal was to reduce the food scraps destined for the landfill, using the food scraps instead to create compost, a valuable soil amendment. The county's school composting program also includes compostable paper trays, containers, and napkins. Including the compostable items, the program helped to divert 85.91 tons of waste from the landfill. Because of the volume of non-compostable items that were mistakenly included in the food waste bins, the Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI), Henderson County Solid Waste, and the Henderson County Public Schools partnered to mitigate issues and help the program run more efficiently.

To bring the composting project full circle, FPI provided a communications grant to Henderson County Public Schools and Henderson County Solid Waste to provide training materials for everyone from cafeteria staff to custodians, teachers, and students. The materials, including but not limited to, a staff training guide, over-bin signage, and inspirational "Super Sorter" stickers for the kids help to keep the project fun and engaging.

The partnership between Henderson County Solid Waste, Henderson County Public Schools, and FPI is providing a strong support system for achieving major goals in reducing the food scraps going to landfills while educating our future generations on the importance of recycling and reusing our food scraps and packaging. This is a partnership dedicated to providing students and staff with the knowledge to successfully turn food scraps and food service packaging items into usable compost.

To learn more about Henderson County's sustainability initiatives, please visit HCREcycles.org.

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