

From VIP meeting to Farm Feeding

About a month before your school starts recycling, the SPPS Food Waste Recycling Coordinator visits your school and meets with the Principal (and/or Assistant Principal), Building Engineer, Cafeteria Supervisor and the breakfast and lunchroom supervisors.

We discuss when a good time would be to have an all-staff assembly, an all-school assembly, how to gather a sustainable group of student and/or parent helpers, and the items the table helpers will need to separate the food waste from the garbage stream (gloves, aprons, grabbers, gray-garbage bags, bucket with soapy water to wipe down table and grabbers).

We view the DVD “How to turn Elephants into Pigs” which shows, in a unique way, how the whole process works. This DVD is also shown at the all-staff and all-school assembly’s in a variety of different ways (to accommodate the lay-out of each school).

When “Week 1” arrives for your school to start food/beverage waste recycling, adult helpers are at the tables to show the students how to separate. They can also help assist those volunteers who want to help out at the tables. For example; if you drop a milk carton into the bucket for the pigs (blue), it would be grabbed out and placed in the trash can (gray/white).

Once the blue food/beverage waste barrel is filled, the Engineer will cover it; roll it into a storage area for a short while, before the driver from the pig farm comes, to dump it into his truck. The driver then attaches a hose to the truck, to heat up the food. The food is cooked in the truck. Once the food is cooked, it is dumped onto a concrete slab where it cools down, before the pigs gobble it up.

The Nutrition Service staff can also participate by throwing the left over food they don’t already give to Twelve Baskets into the blue barrels for the pigs. The Engineers help out by filling out a garbage dumpster survey. The survey helps us all determine if we can reduce the size of the dumpster the school uses, or its frequency of pick-ups. This is when the district starts saving money.