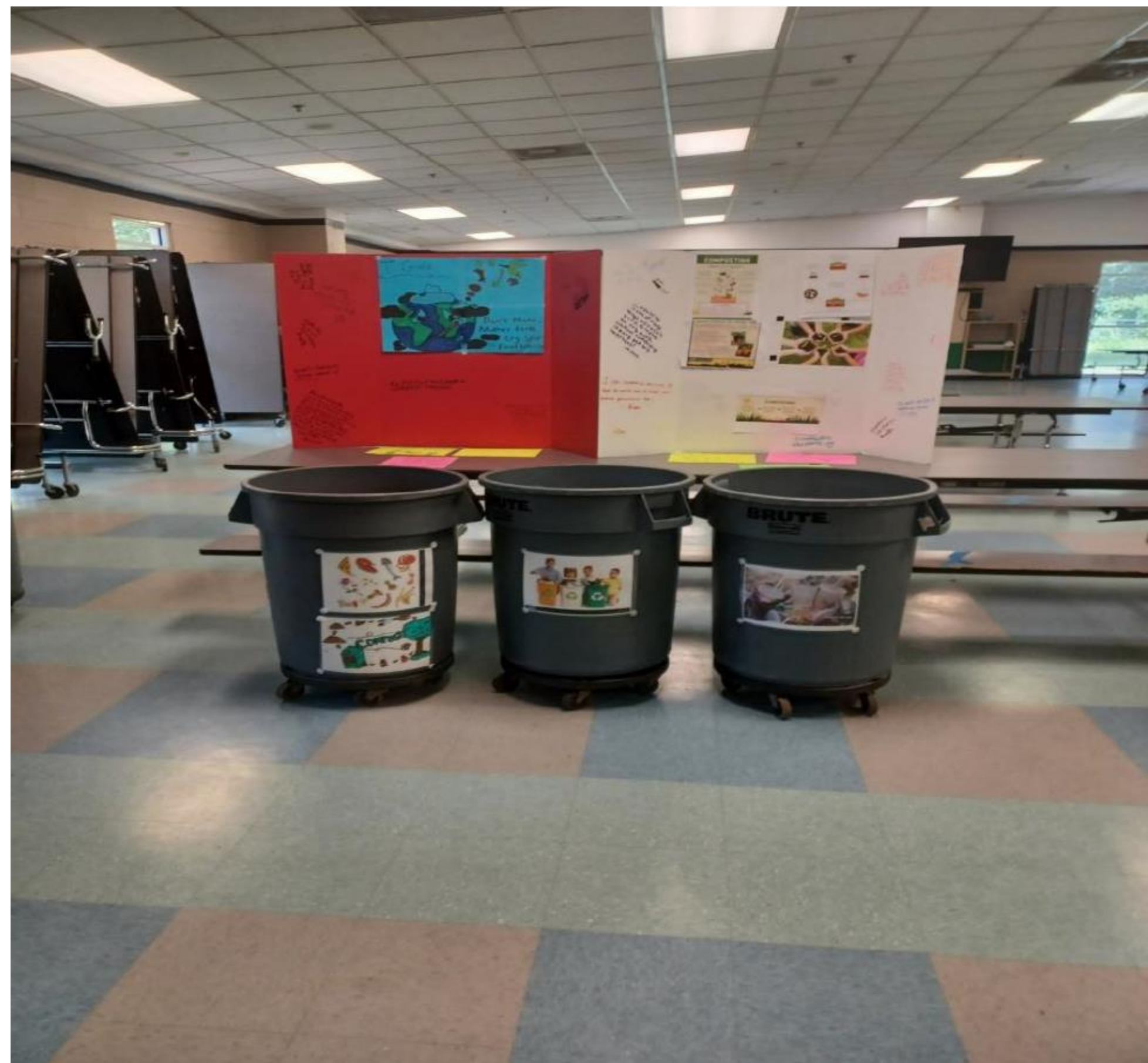


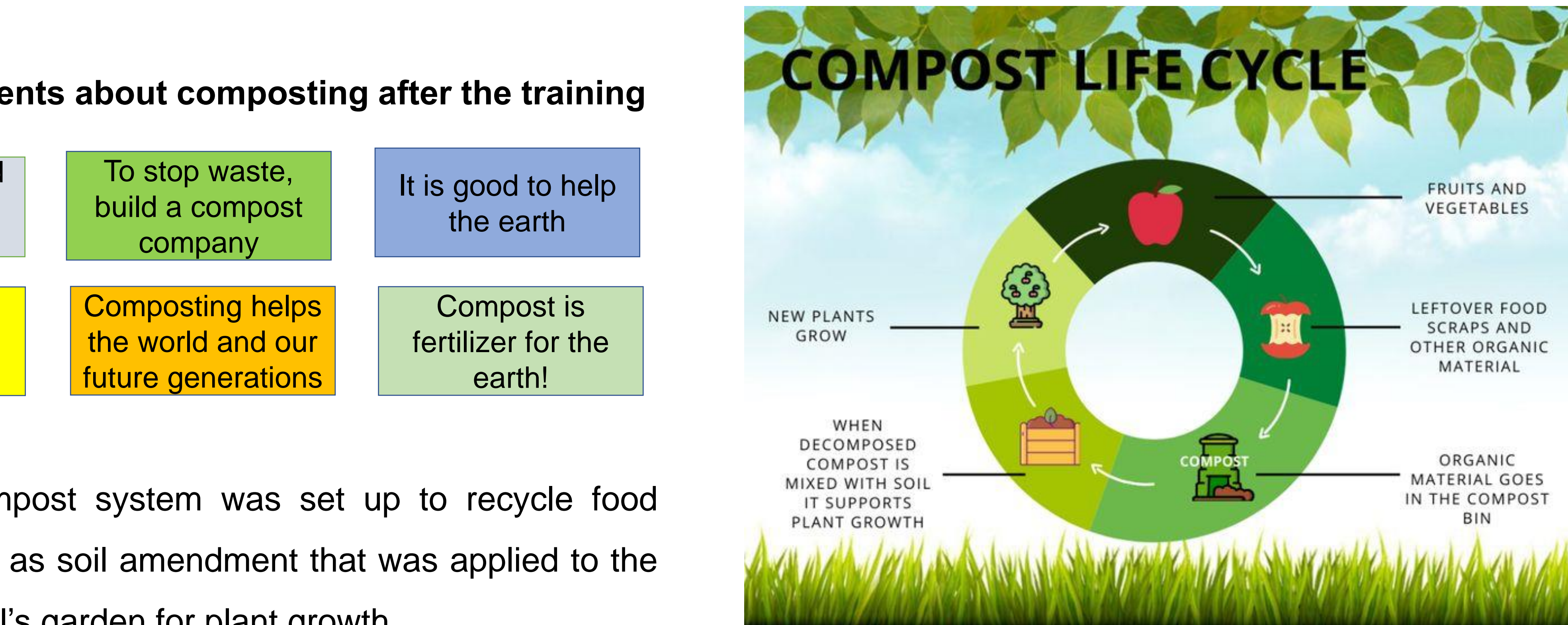
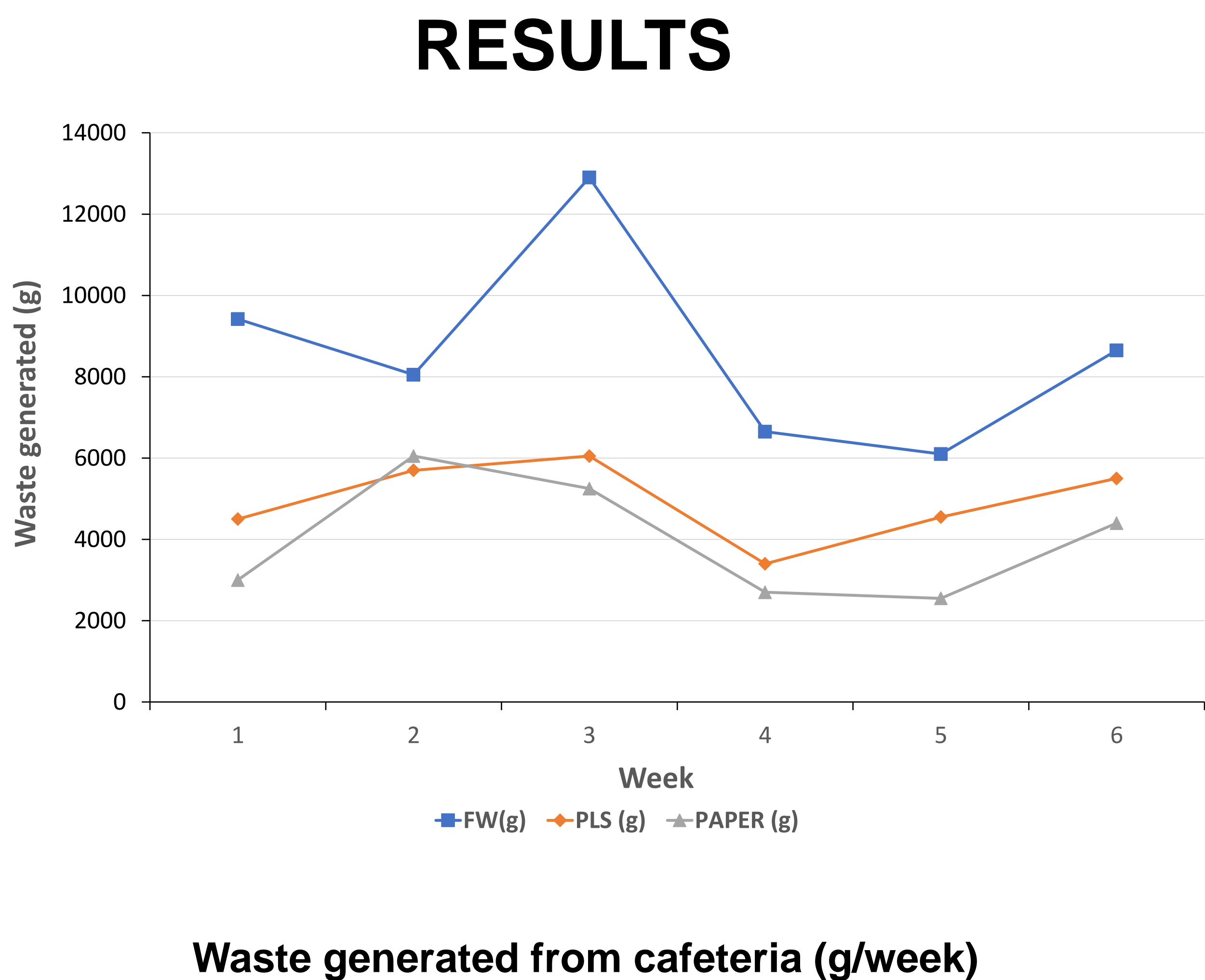
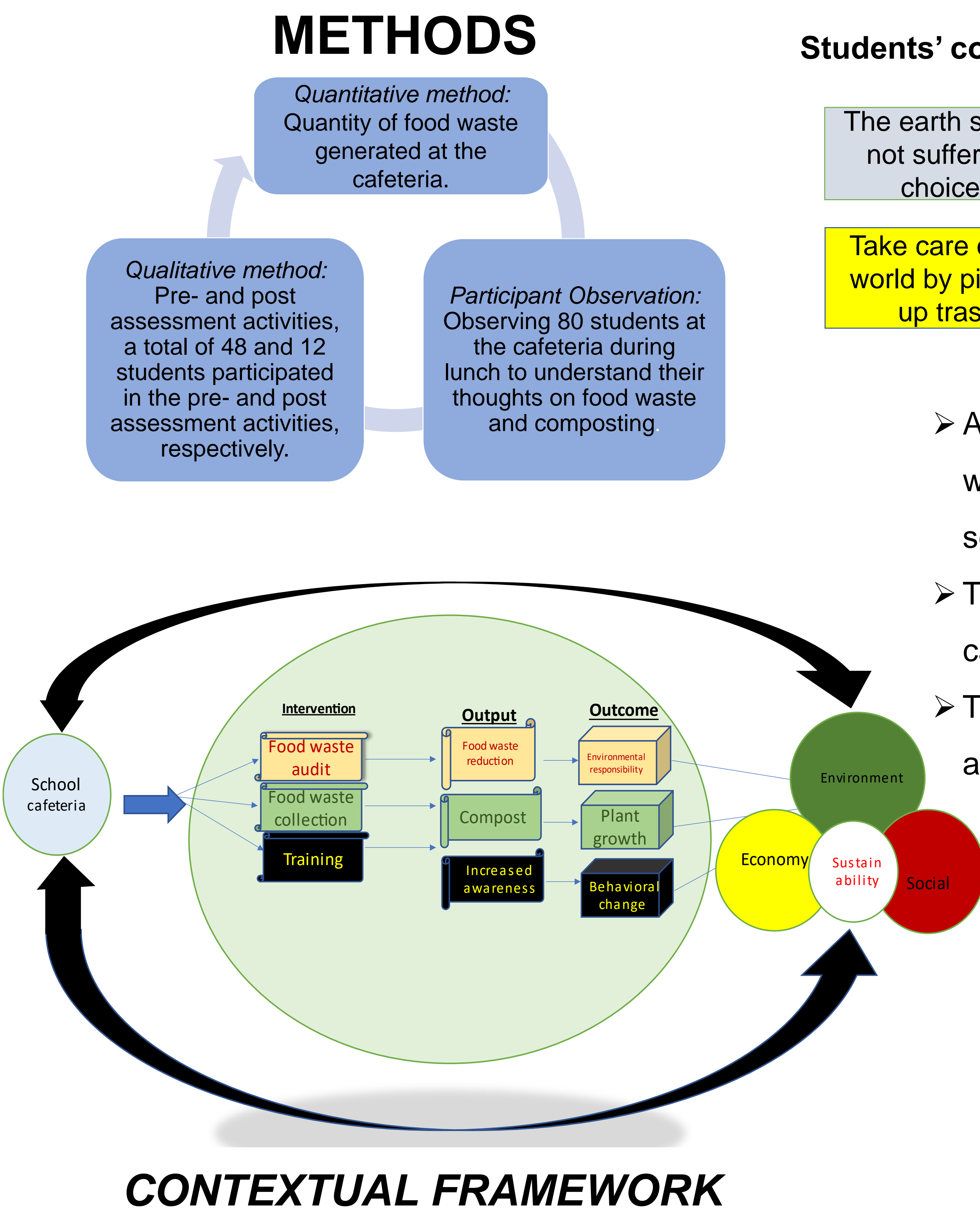
## BACKGROUND

The study focused on training elementary school students at St.Patrick Interparish School, Gainesville, Florida, on food waste reduction and recycling through composting. The study aimed to apply experiential learning and hands-on activity to teach environmental responsibility and resource conservation. The food waste, plastics, and paper were collected and weighed daily over a six-week summer camp.

- ## OBJECTIVES
- To undertake a food waste audit to assess the quantity of food waste generated from the cafeteria during the summer camp.
  - To create awareness and enhance food waste reduction and composting knowledge through educational training.
  - To install a compost system to recycle and divert food waste generated from the cafeteria from landfills.



Waste collection/sorting



- ## CONCLUSIONS
- A compost system was set up to recycle food waste as soil amendment that was applied to the school's garden for plant growth.
  - The total food waste collected from the school's cafeteria and diverted from landfills was 52 kg.
  - The students' perception of food waste reduction and composting increased after the training.



Students turn the composter



Students apply compost to garden soil.

- ## RECOMMENDATIONS
- Students should be involved in meal planning to avoid food wastage.
  - Kitchen staff should be trained on preventing pre-consumption waste.
  - This study could be replicated in other schools to help mitigate food waste and encourage generational learning in food waste reduction.

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