

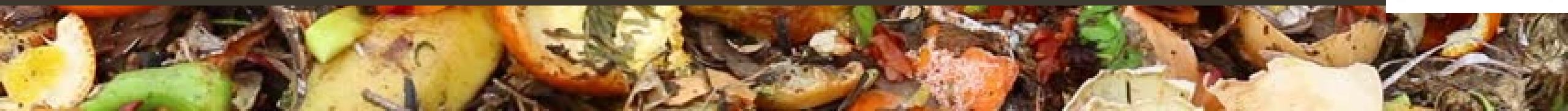


Henderson County School Compost Program

Amy Schmitte
Environmental Programs Coordinator



HENDERSON COUNTY RECYCLES



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Program overview
- Timeline
- Stakeholders
- Funding
- Takeaways & lessons learned
- Future plans



Background



- Henderson County Solid Waste
 - Compost pilots since 2014
 - Apple Festival-2014
 - Pumpkin collection-2016
 - Convenience center drop off-2017
 - Detention Center-2018
 - School pilot-2019
 - School expansion-2021

Program Overview



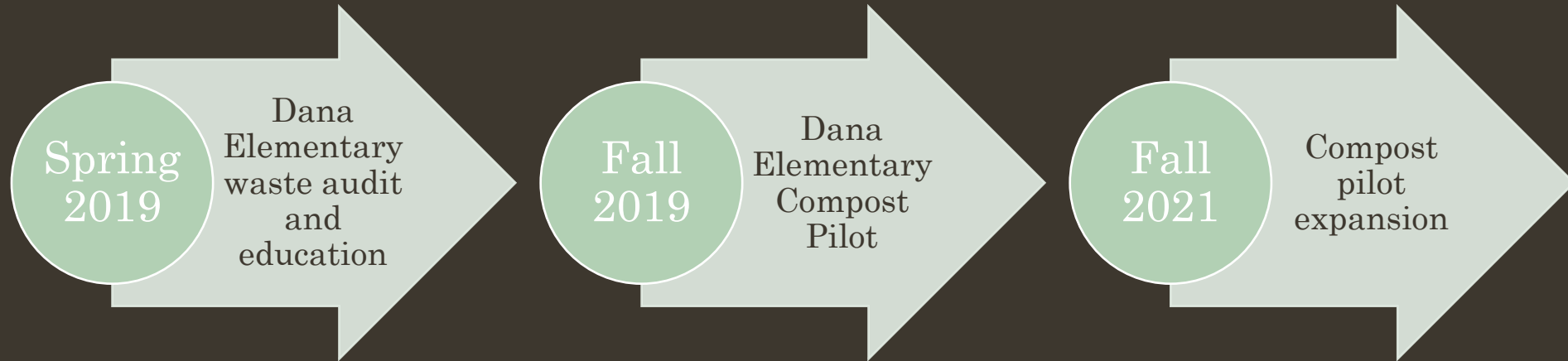
- School Compost Program
 - Currently operates in 6 schools
 - Sponsored by HCSW
 - Schools choose participation level
 - Lunch sort
 - INC Captain method-Atlas Organics
 - Work with a hauler for food waste pick up and processing
 - Pick up 2x/week
 - Communication is KEY
 - Check ins

Lunchroom



- Most schools/classes use INC Method
 - Atlas organics
 - Each table has a bucket for trash
 - Some also have a smaller bucket for metal forks
 - Designated student walks around and collects anything that is not compost
 - Students are then left with a tray containing only food waste and compostable items
 - Reduces contamination due to rushing/sort anxiety

Timeline

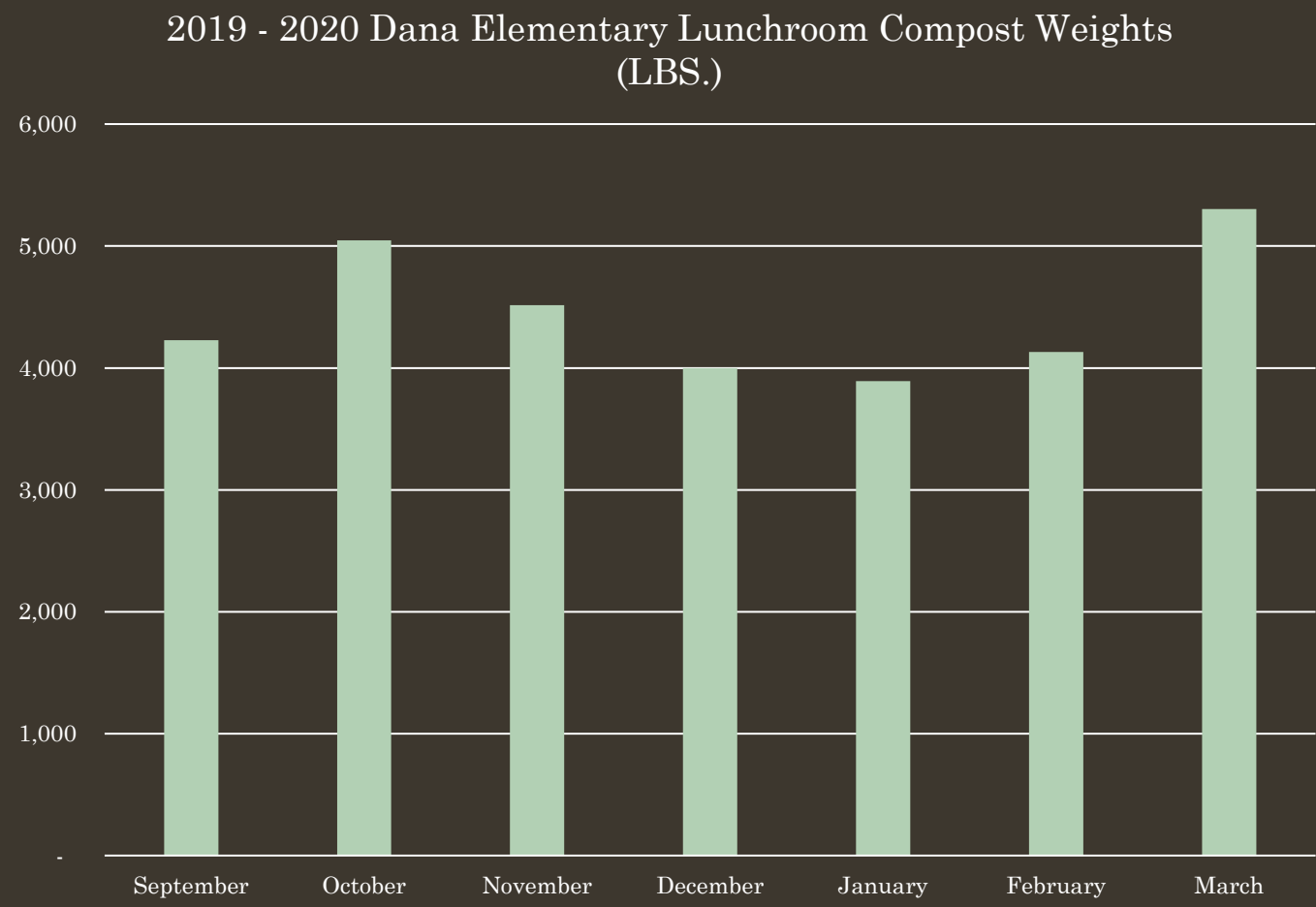


Pilot School



- Funded by Henderson County Solid Waste
- School selected strategically for pilot
 - Child Nutrition
 - Agricultural Engineering class
- Spring 2019
 - Trash bag count
 - Waste Audit
 - Education during ICAW
- Fall 2019
 - Started compost pilot
 - Only ½ year due to Covid

Data collection



Pilot expansion

- Fall 2021
- USDA grant
 - Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project
- Staggered start dates
- Each school unique



**Upward
Elementary**



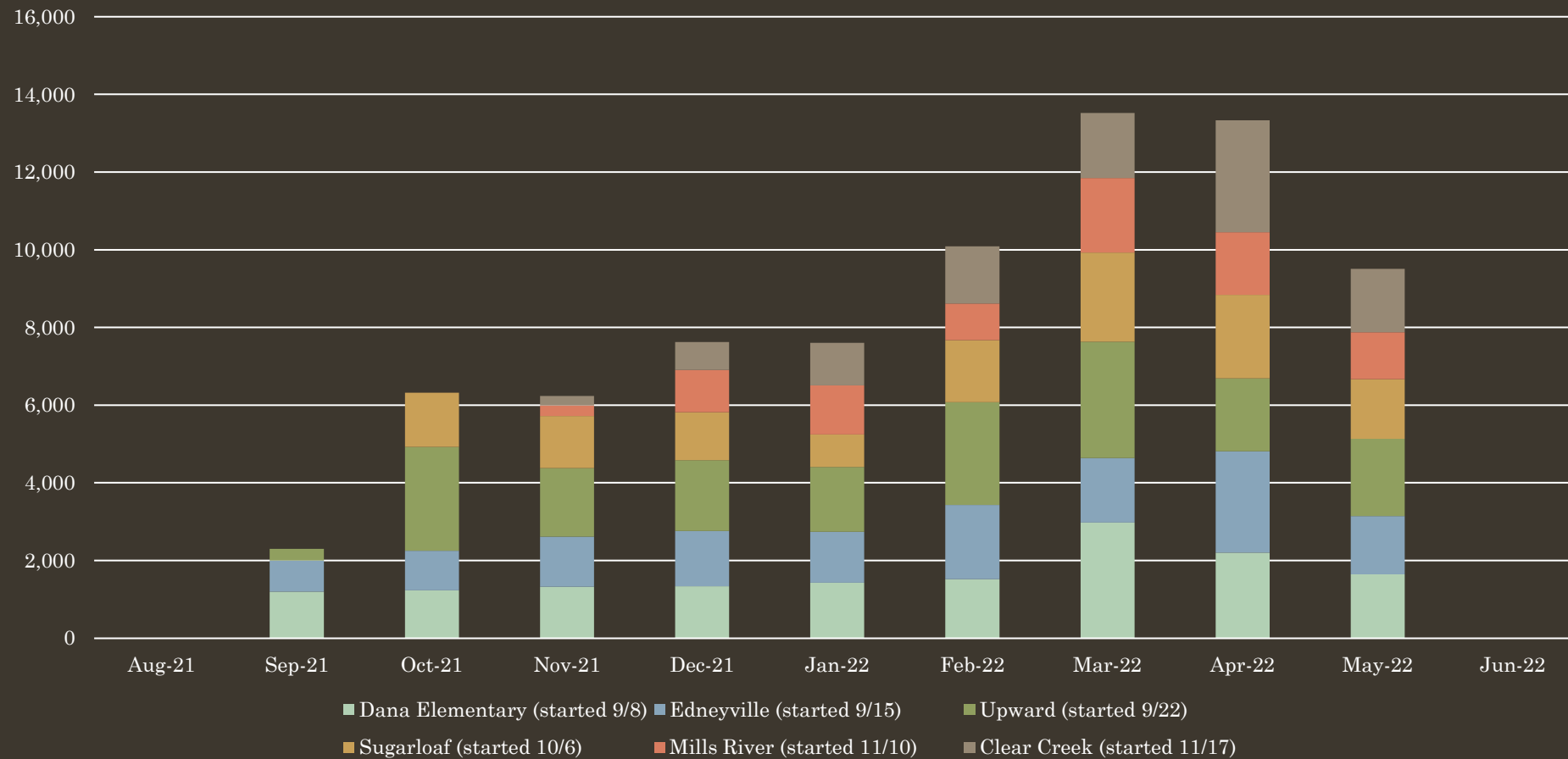
**Sugarloaf
Elementary**



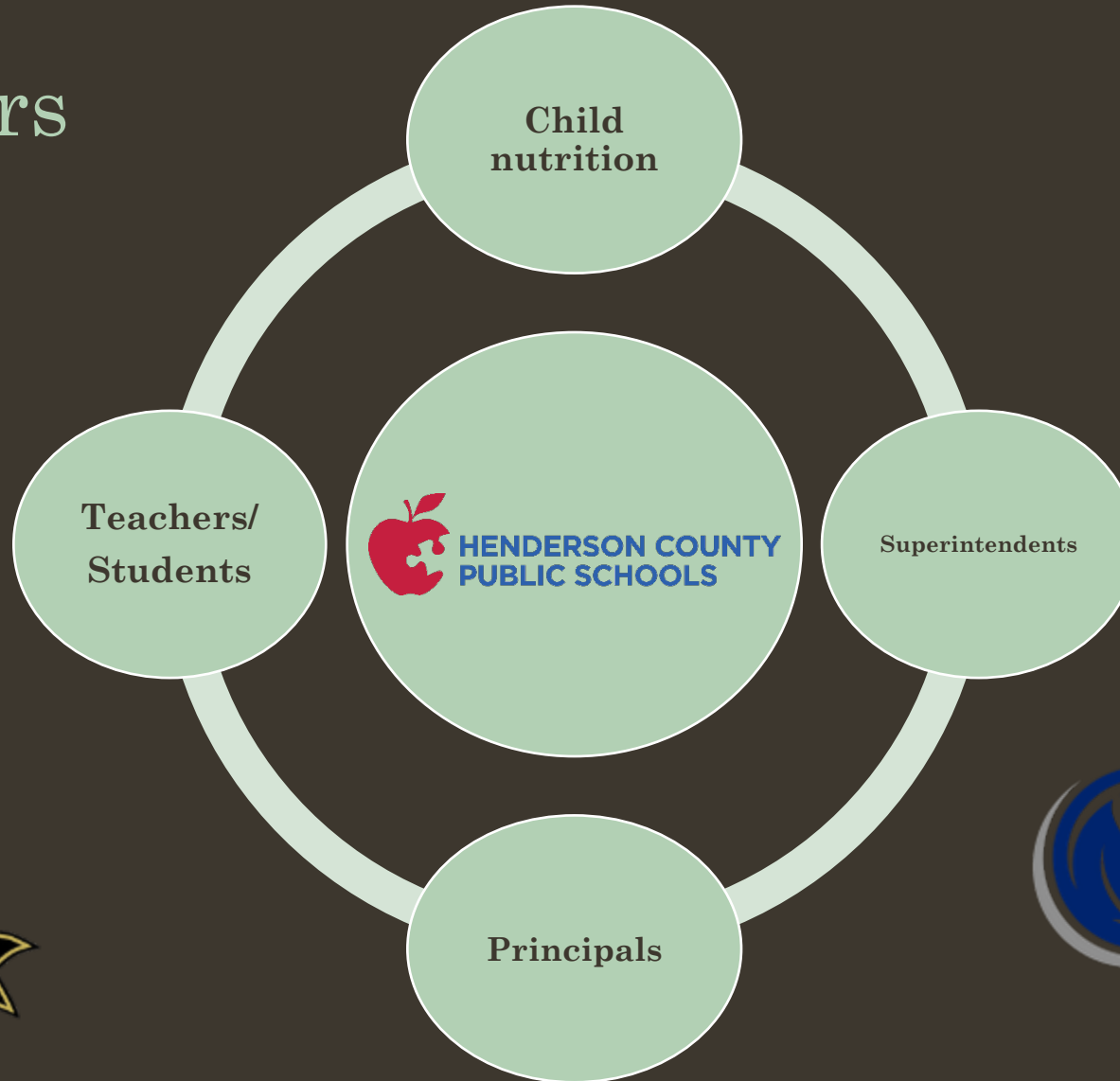
**Edneyville
Elementary**

Data collection

2021 - 2022 HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD WASTE COLLECTION DATA (IN LBS.)

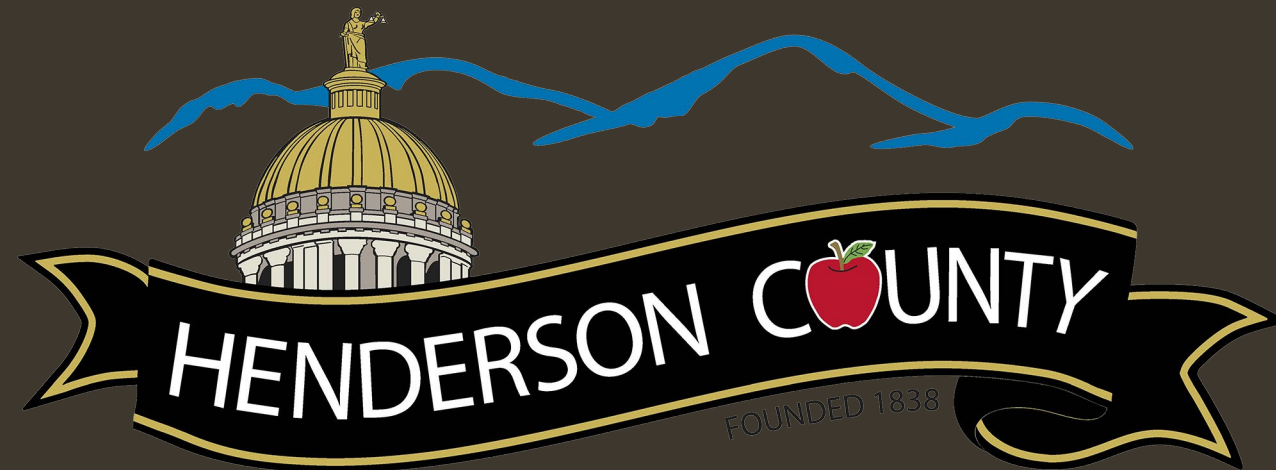


Stakeholders



Funding

- Dana Pilot 2019/2020-HCSW
- Expansion 2021/2022- USDA grant
 - Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project
 - Data from pilot was important
 - 5 additional schools
- Compost program 2022/23- HCSW



Takeaways & lessons learned

- Each school is unique
 - Lunchroom design
 - Utensils, trays, packaging
 - Different habits
 - Loading dock



Takeaways & lessons learned

- Hauling food waste
 - Consistency & communication is key
 - Missed pick ups
 - Weather delays
 - School holidays
 - Typically W&F (after lunch) pick up
 - Loading dock size/layout
- Carts
 - Clean carts
 - Have in agreement
 - Store full bins away from doors
 - Cart size consideration



Takeaways & lessons learned

- School ownership & buy-in
 - Child Nutrition
 - Principals
 - Teachers
 - Students
- School participation level
- Communication & availability
- Safety & flexibility



Takeaways & lessons learned

- Form connections
- Education
 - Signage
 - Reduce contamination
- Data collection



Compost

Food, Napkins, & Paper Trays

Trash

Plastic, Styrofoam, Straws, & Wrappers

Recycle, if available

Bottles, Cans, Cartons

HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ATLAS ORGANICS

Future plans

- Begin to process school food waste at HC Facility
- Expand into additional schools





Thank you!

Amy Schmitte
Environmental Programs Coordinator
aschmitte@hendersoncountync.gov



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