

Recycling is a component of Sustainable Materials Management, as collecting materials to be reprocessed and made into new products can save energy, water and conserves natural resources, as well as reduces the amount of waste going to landfills. Recycling also allows individuals to demonstrate responsibility by reducing waste and taking pride in showing respect for our Earth!

Step One - talk with the School District's operations director to see if recycling is included in the solid waste contract. If so, identify the acceptable materials to be recycled and educate school administrators, staff, teachers and students.

Common materials to recycle at a school – be sure materials are empty, clean and loose – not in plastic bags:

- Office paper, magazines, junk mail, cardboard (flattened)
- Aluminum and steel cans
- Milk and juice cartons
- Plastic bottles
- Glass bottles

If recycling is not included or is limited, ask to negotiate recycling provisions for a manageable fee.

Establish a “green team” of people that should be involved in planning the education/promotion initiatives, such as an administrator, a faculty sponsor, student representatives from clubs, the food service director and custodial staff. To ensure a successful program, all hands must be “on deck” and all levels must to be “on board”! Conducting a waste audit allows the team to identify which materials could be taken out of the waste stream, because you can't manage what you don't measure!

Purchase recycling bins and containers for classrooms, offices, work rooms and high-traffic areas, such as the cafeteria, gym, hallways, concession and vending machine areas, outdoor sports fields, etc. Place a recycling bin next to a garbage can – allows the option to “think before you throw” anything away – at the point of pitch. Recycling receptacles should look different than garbage cans and be marked as to what materials are accepted (see promotion section).



Promote Program

- Make a video of what can be recycled and where bins are located. Show during student assemblies, parent/teacher meetings; school's T.V. network and to new students;
- Morning announcements - recite an environmental-related quote, fact or brag about waste reduction successes to enlighten and inspire, at least one morning per week;
- Contribute an article or establish a column in the school newsletter outlining program details – include photos;
- Make posters of do's and don'ts to put in lunch rooms, lounges, hallways and classrooms;
- Be sure that acceptable materials are listed on all recycling bins and containers;
- Establish “Ambassadors” where upper grade students assist younger students during lunch periods;
- Keep track of recycling tonnage using visuals in common areas of the building;
- Contact a reporter from the local paper to inform them of the school's new dedication to reducing waste through recycling and helping the environment; and
- Invite town officials to come and tour the school's recycling program.
- Borrow SWANCC's Sustainable Products Kit to see over 50 items made with recycled or sustainable materials - <https://www.swancc.org/education/books-media-and-teaching-tools-for-loan>.



Assorted Recycling Bins and Containers

Barco Products	www.barcoproducts.com	800-338-2697
Busch Systems	www.buschsystems.com	800-565-9931
Clean River Recycling Solutions	www.cleanriver.com	888-329-0165
Consolidated Plastics Co.	www.consolidatedplastics.com	800-362-1000
D & B Fabricators	www.dbfabricators.com	800-332-2459
Fibrex	www.fibrexgroup.com	800-346-4458
Forms + Surfaces	www.forms-surfaces.com	800-451-0410
Stainless Steel Sorting Table Murphy Construction Services	jmurphy@mcs.co.net	763-783-2100
Recycle Away (Pop Bottle Receptacle)	www.RecycleAway.com	800-664-5340
Recycle Clear	www.recycleclear.com	414-431-0651
Rehrig Pacific Company	www.rehrigpacific.com	800-934-3312
Resourceful Bag & Tag	www.bagandtag.com	800-872-8241
T.M. Fitzgerald & Assoc.	www.tmfitzgerald.com	888-795-6600
Toter	www.toter.com	800-772-0071
Windsor Barrel Works	www.windsorbarrel.com	800-527-7848