

King County Green Schools Program



Recycling & Organics Contamination Form

Complete this form to assess your current practices and to help set contamination reduction goals. Submit the completed form to your Green Schools Program representative to complete criteria for the Recycling Collection Benchmark and/or the Organics Collection Benchmark.

Ideally, schools should aim to have their contamination rate below 10%, this may take time. The contamination rate measures what percentage of waste in the bin does not belong in that bin. To determine your contamination rate, follow the steps below:

Step 1: Look at the surface of the bin. Count how many items you see.

Step 2: Of the items you see, determine how many items should not be in that bin.

Step 3: Divide the number of misplaced items by the total number of items seen on the surface and multiply by this number by 100. This is your contamination rate.

Organics Contamination

Observe as many organics bins as makes sense for your school.

Organics/Compost Bins in the Cafeteria & Kitchen	Number of items visible on the surface of the bin	Number of misplaced items visible on the surface of the bin
Bin #1		
Bin #2		
Bin #3		
Bin #4		
Bin #5		
Bin #6		
Totals for Cafeteria & Kitchen		

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x 100 =

Total number of misplaced items visible on the surface of the bins

Total number of items visible on the surface of the bins

Organics collection contamination rate (%)

Step 4: Set a contamination goal for the next 3 months _____.

What actions will you take to help reach this goal?

Fill out the table below to show your organics collection contamination rate over three months:

	Month 1:	Month 2:	Month 3:
Organics collection contamination rate (%)			

Recycling Contamination

Observe as many recycling bins as makes sense for your school.

Recycling Bins in Classrooms & Offices	Number of items visible on the surface of the bin	Number of misplaced items visible on the surface of the bin
Bin #1		
Bin #2		
Bin #3		
Bin #4		
Bin #5		
Bin #6		
Bin #7		
Bin #8		
Bin #9		
Bin #10		
Bin #11		
Bin #12		
Bin #13		
Bin #14		
Bin #15		
Bin #16		
Bin #17		
Bin #18		
Bin #19		
Bin #20		
Bin #21		
Bin #22		
Bin #23		
Totals for Classrooms & Offices		

Recycling Bins in Hallways & Common Areas	Number of items visible on the surface of the bin	Number of misplaced items visible on the surface of the bin
Bin #1		
Bin #2		
Bin #3		
Bin #4		
Bin #5		
Bin #6		
Total for Hallways & Common Areas		

Recycling Bins in Cafeteria & Kitchen	Number of items visible on the surface of the bin	Number of misplaced items visible on the surface of the bin
Bin #1		
Bin #2		
Bin #3		
Bin #4		
Bin #5		
Bin #6		
Total for Cafeteria & Kitchen		

$$\boxed{} \div \boxed{} \times 100 = \boxed{}$$

Total number of misplaced items visible on the surface of the bins (from all bins)
 Total number of items visible on the surface of the bins (from all bins)
 Recycling collection contamination rate (%)

Step 4: Set a contamination goal for the next 3 months _____.

What actions will you take to help reach this goal?

Fill out the table below to show your recycling collection contamination rate over the course of three months:

	Month 1:	Month 2:	Month 3:
Recycling collection contamination rate (%)			

Use this table if you have more recycling bins than fit in the tables above:

Recycling Bins	Number of items visible on the surface of the bin	Number of misplaced items visible on the surface of the bin
Total for Classrooms & Offices		