

Rethink · Reduce · Reuse
Recycle · Compost



How to Improve Your School's Waste Reduction and Recycling Program

Grade level – K-6

Focus – Improving recycling

Teaching time – Varies

Skills – Problem-solving

Materials – Recycling bins, colorful reused paper

Tips to reduce before recycling

- Create scrap boxes for class paper.
- Use both sides of the paper. If you can't make double-sided copies, reuse the back side for notes and scratch paper.
- Use white boards for quick review exercises.
- Encourage students to use reusable lunch containers.
- Choose reusable or recycled party supplies.
- Reuse your decorations.
- Use a half-sheet of paper for reminders, memos, and notes.

Tips to improve the existing recycling program

- Make sure the classroom recycling bin is in a spot that is easy to see and easy to get to.
- Label the bins with colorful, reused paper that says in big bold letters what goes into the bin.
- Spot check the classrooms, office, and library to make sure that students and staff are using the recycling bins correctly. Check the trash can for recyclables too.
- Make signs out of reused scraps with fun instructions on what does and does not belong in the recycling bin (e.g., no food wrappers in the recycling bin).
- Ask the custodian what students can do to help improve the school recycling program.
- Ask students to use both sides of the paper before recycling.
- Reward the class with the best recycling record.

Tips when adding more recyclables to your program

Adding new recyclables to your system may reduce the school's garbage bill. To make sure recycling something new is successful, be sure to

- create posters and signs, out of reused scraps of course, introducing the new recyclable item to other students and asking for their help in recycling it.
- make sure all recycling bins are labeled for the new item.
- check with the custodian to see what you can do to help in collecting the new item and ensuring its proper preparation for the recycling bin.



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Waste
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www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste

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