

ABC's of Recycling

A Guide for Schools

Every day American businesses and schools generate enough paper to circle the earth 20 times!



Schools help to minimize the impact waste paper has on the environment by recycling in classrooms and offices. Recycling paper is a good start, but many schools need to recycle more, and they want to know how. This guide is designed to help schools maximize their recycling efforts. It goes beyond explaining the requirements of State and local ordinances and shows how schools can develop a model recycling program with far greater benefits than simply reducing waste. Your school and your community will gain a broader understanding of the connections that exist between recycling and the conservation of energy and other natural resources.

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Pierce County Solid Waste Department
707 North Maple Street
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Phone: 715-273-3092
Email: recycle@co.pierce.wi.us
Web: www.co.pierce.wi.us



Essentials of School Recycling

The Basics:

The primary purpose of recycling is generally understood and accepted as a worthy cause. Yet, most people don't realize the full impact that recycling can have. Recycling is not only beneficial to the environment, but it can benefit your student body, teachers, administration, and support staff as well. The "essentials of school recycling", outlines what is needed to adequately meet recycling requirements for schools in Pierce County. Beyond that, it explains how to realize the maximum benefits of recycling by suggesting appropriate bins, labels and lists for recycling.

In addition, by following steps B through E, you will learn how your entire school can be motivated to help maximize recycling. It is a chance for your school to take ownership and pride in their own recycling program. Promotional ideas, fundraising opportunities and educational resources are just a few of the subjects covered through these steps. The entire guide is available electronically on our county website www.co.pierce.wi.us/solid_waste/sw_main.htm. Click on **School Recycling Guide**.



Defining Recyclables:

In 1989, the State of Wisconsin passed legislation that banned recyclable materials from landfills. Today, the list of recyclables includes materials such as paper, cardboard, and containers made of tin, aluminum, glass and most plastics. Wisconsin's ban on recyclables in landfills makes it unlawful for any person or organization to dispose of any recyclable materials. Therefore, adequate and conveniently located recycling bins must be provided to ensure efficient collection of recyclables from all school operations.

What Can Schools Recycle?

Mixed Containers



Aluminum Cans & Bottles



#1 & #2 Plastic Bottles



Tin, Steel & Aerosol Cans



Glass Bottles & Jars

Please Remember!

- Empty Contents
- Remove Lids
- No Other Plastics
- No Other Glass

Mixed Paper



Office/Computer/Art Paper



Notebooks & Folders



Magazines, Catalogs &
Phone Books



Newspapers & Mail



Corrugated Cardboard















Packaging Cardboard

Please Remember!

- Remove Binders
(Staples are OK)
- No Plastic Covers
- No Pizza Boxes
- No Wax Coated
Boxes
- Flatten Boxes &
Remove Packaging

Placement of Recycling Bins:

Convenience is the key to any successful recycling program. Providing adequate recycling bins next to all trash containers will ensure that there is always a convenient choice between trash and recycling. The following table indicates the recycling recommendations for each area of the school. A catalog of bins well suited for school recycling purposes can be found at the back of this guide. This is provided to reduce the amount of research schools might otherwise do on their own. Other options may be equally effective as you will see in the suggestions throughout this guide. Please note that all activities within and on school grounds have been considered for the purpose of this guide.

LOCATION	MIXED PAPER	MIXED CONTAINERS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Classrooms			Place recycling bins next to trash bins. Use separate recycling bins for each.
Halls/Entries			Place both bins near lockers. Monitor other locations to determine need for paper bins.
Offices			Provide both bins in common areas and place small mixed paper bins by each desk.
Break Rooms			Place mixed container bin next to trash bin. A small mixed paper bin may be needed.
Lunchrooms			Provide distinctive recycling bins for mixed containers. Place next to trash bins.
Common Areas			Place recycling bins next to trash bins.
Sport/Outdoor Facilities			Permanently place distinctive recycling bins next to all outdoor trash bins.

Prepare to Recycle:



The collection of all recyclable materials requires sufficient infrastructure to handle the volume of materials generated. Recycling bins must provide students, employees and the public with the convenient option to properly separate recyclables from the trash. In turn, the service for storing and hauling recyclables must also be sufficient to handle the anticipated volume. Administrators should advise custodians and teachers to monitor recycling and prepare to make adjustments as needs change.

Budgeting:

A recycling program should be considered an investment in the welfare of your school and the environment. Your school will not only provide students with an education in recycling, it will encourage a lifetime of good recycling habits. The monetary pay off will be seen with the savings in waste disposal fees. As your waste disposal needs shift to a larger volume of recyclables,



there will be less need for trash disposal, which is more costly. Furthermore, when your school sees how one simple initiative can produce so many positive changes, the benefits of other environmental initiatives may be seen as the next step toward a greener, healthier school.

Make Recycling Clear:

Posting a list of accepted items on or near a recycling bin can serve several purposes. It informs people of what can be recycled and it serves as a reminder to recycle in general. It can also list what can't be recycled and serves to reduce the amount of contamination. A well-designed sign that lists recyclables can generate interest and encourage people to recycle correctly. Images are effective in making it easy for someone to reference an item they might question. Making it clear encourages them to find the right answer.



Labeling Recycling Bins

Labels for recycling bins typically include the easy to identify chasing arrow symbol along with a brief description of the contents. Clear labeling helps assure that the bins are used for their intended purpose, but labeling can also encourage people to recycle. Promoting recycling shows the types of paper and containers that can be recycled, and many are surprised by what they didn't know.

Personalizing labels and signs for individual school recycling programs have proven to be most effective in motivating students to recycle. This topic is discussed further in Step B under creating a recycling program.

The labels below were produced in order to provide your school with ready to use labels for the interim between bin installations and the development of your own initiative. These labels can be found in a larger format at www.co.pierce.wi.us/solid_waste/sw_main.htm. Click on **School Recycling Guide**. The **Recycling Bin Labels** link will bring you to a printable version.



Hazardous and Special Waste Disposal

It's important for schools to know what type of waste materials are hazardous and can't be disposed in the trash. These materials must be carefully handled and disposed of in a controlled manner. The Pierce County Material Recovery Facility (MRF) accepts most of the hazardous and special waste items that can be found in schools. See the Pierce County Recycling Guide or website for further details, dates of hazardous waste collection events and handling fees.

Hazardous Waste Items Accepted During Clean Sweep Events:

Hazardous Chemicals: Chemicals in cleaners, heavy duty degreasers, paint and glue solvents, pavement sealers, fertilizers, insecticides and many other items can be extremely toxic. Read labels for warnings and cautions. If labels are unclear or the contents unknown, don't take any chances, bring all known and unknown hazardous chemicals to a hazardous waste collection. Share usable products with others who are able to use them.

Mercury: Mercury is extremely toxic to humans and must be safely contained until it can be properly recycled at a hazardous waste collection. A single mercury thermometer contains 1 gram of mercury, which is enough to contaminate a 20 acre lake where it accumulates in fish and animals. Mercury can be found in a liquid form in electronic switches, thermometers, button batteries or stored in science class rooms.

Oil Paint and Liquid Latex Paint: Oil based paints need to be handled as hazardous waste and can be disposed of properly at a Dunn County hazardous waste collection. Latex paint is not hazardous but can not be placed in the trash in a liquid form. If the amount remaining is small, dry the latex paint in the can by simply removing the lid and allowing enough time for it to dry completely. Add floor dry material or cat litter to help dry paint when the can is less than half full. Leave the cover off the can to assure waste handlers that it is dry. **When you have more than ½ can of usable paint, try to find other uses for it instead of throwing it out. You may find a theatre group, art class, charity or individual that can find a use for it as well as other reusable items.**

Special Waste Items Accepted Year Around For A Fee:

Appliances: Appliances such as freezers, refrigerators, dehumidifiers and air conditioners contain Freon which must be handled by a licensed processor. A small fee is assessed to cover the cost of handling and Freon recovery. These and other non-Freon appliances may be taken to the Pierce County MRF year around.

Electronics: Televisions, Computers, monitors, printers and other electronics need to be recycled. Residents and businesses may recycle their electronics for a small processing fee at the Pierce County MRF. Companies that process old electronics will sometimes arrange pick-ups for schools and businesses.

Fluorescent Light Bulbs: All fluorescent bulbs contain mercury. When bulbs are broken the mercury vapor is released and can concentrate on surrounding surfaces or it may find its way into lakes and streams. While the quantity of mercury has been reduced in newer “Eco” bulbs or “Green” bulbs, businesses and schools still need to treat them as hazardous waste items. Save used bulbs in a safe location in the packing box the new bulbs came in to insure safe transportation. They are accepted year around at the Pierce County MRF.

Tires: It’s important to recycle tires properly and not store them outdoors where water can collect inside and provide a habitat for mosquitoes. Tires can be recycled or reused for other purposes. Some schools use chipped rubber from tires in their outdoor play areas and large equipment tires make great sandboxes. Reuse what you can and recycle the rest for a small fee at the Pierce County MRF.

Propane Tanks: Schools may generate quantities of the small canister bottles or the larger 20 to 30 gallon variety. They should not be disposed of in the regular trash. They can be recycled at the Pierce County MRF.

Special Waste Items Accepted Year Around At NO COST:

Waste Oil and Filters: Waste oil and used oil filters are accepted at the Pierce County MRF. Drain oil from filters for a minimum of 12 hours. Some service stations also accept waste oil as a service to their customers.

Anti-Freezer: Used anti-freeze is accepted at the Pierce County MRF at no cost. It must be free of contaminants such as gas, oil and solvents.

Batteries: There are many different types of batteries that can be found in schools:

Rechargeable batteries (lithium “button”, sealed lead acid, nickel cadmium, etc.) from tools or other devices need to be recycled to retrieve the toxic metals and keep them out of landfills.

Standard alkaline batteries can be disposed of in the regular trash. **Automobile batteries** will be accepted for recycling at any business that sells them. These and other rechargeable batteries may be taken to the Pierce County MRF.

Scrap Metal: Steel, cast iron, copper, aluminum and tin are the typical metals sought by recyclers. These recyclers will pay well for premium grades so it may be worth it for schools to take another look at those old desks and lockers when it’s time to replace them. Recycling metals conserve valuable resources including landfill space. The Pierce County MRF accepts all metals at no cost.

See the Pierce County Solid Waste website for Clean Sweep events and a complete list of accepted materials and handling fees. The list of Special Waste materials indicates items that can be brought to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) year around.

Go to www.co.pierce.wi.us/solid_waste/sw_main.htm and select from the list provided.



Motivation to Recycle

Creating a Recycling Program:

Having the right recycling bins in all the necessary locations will improve a school's recycling rate, but recycling can offer many more opportunities beyond the reduction of trash. This section will help you develop a recycling program that lets students create their own promotions to encourage recycling in their school.

Student Recycling Campaigns:

Recycling campaigns in schools should focus on the student body, since they offer the greatest potential for increasing the recycling rate. Allowing students to produce their own outreach and marketing campaign is the best way to reach students with the recycling message. They will communicate the ideas in a way the majority of students can relate to and they will take ownership in the process. With clear goals, good organization, and a diverse group of students adding their influence to the messages, the resulting campaign will best suit your school's spirit so the entire school will have a sense of pride in their recycling program.



Encouraging students to get into recycling can create some interesting results but this is not the “student body” we had in mind.

The Student Council, National Honor Society, and groups focused on art, environment or marketing may be looking for initiatives to improve their schools. However, if a new group is being formed for this project, here are some key points that will help you form the most effective group.

1. Choose a staff person or volunteer to organize and foster the initiative. This should be someone that will motivate the group and encourage their creative ideas.
2. The group should be well rounded with interested and motivated students that represent all age groups and have a variety of social and academic backgrounds.
3. Get the word out that the group is being formed. Ask other staff members to recommend students and encourage specific students with the backgrounds you need for

- a well-rounded group. Students with backgrounds in Visual Arts, Communications, Science, Social Studies, English, Math, and even Athletics will all offer their unique perspectives on the subject.
4. Keep the size of the group manageable. Larger groups might spread out the workload, but the decision process will take longer, and it might be difficult to keep track of assigned tasks. Consider the size of the school and the scope of the project to determine group size, but eight to ten students are recommended for most schools.
 5. Giving the group a fun name is a good way to generate interest. “The Green Team” is a good example that other schools and even businesses are using.
 6. Appoint a team leader to represent the group at meetings or other functions.
 7. Some schools offer extra credit or count the time toward required community service.

Key Staff Members and Administration:

During the first meeting, key staff members should be present to show their support for the program. The Principal should invite staff members such as marketing, art, or science teachers who can provide important input. Also, custodians can attest to the amount of recyclables that end up in the trash. They may also reveal other issues or problems that the group should consider in setting their goals. The group should also be made aware of any rules, restrictions or other advisements so there is a clear understanding of direction and boundaries.



Students learn, first hand, the difference between trash and recycling by evaluating the school's waste.

Planning Sessions:

The first meeting can be used for orientation and appointment of members. Organize the group's goals, budget, meeting dates and times, and the timeline for the project. A good way to start establishing goals is to jump right in and see what's being wasted. Evaluating the school's waste can be fun and reveals a lot about recycling habits.

- **Goals:** List your goals on a board, starting with the primary goal of increasing the schools recycling rate. Discuss current recycling practices and determine what areas can be improved. The discussion can then focus on possible methods for achieving the primary goal. Students should brainstorm their ideas freely and with no judgment. There are no bad ideas since even the most far-fetched scheme might lead to a workable solution. A little coaching might be needed to get the ball rolling. Typical promotions like posters, signs, banners and murals might be suggested. If you look at samples, the group can discuss the good and bad points to get them thinking of how to best present their ideas.



- **Budget:** Ideas must be achievable within the budget you have set. If no budget is available, but funds are needed, revenue can be created through recycling. If your goals include raising funds by selling aluminum, perhaps the projected earnings can be used for material expenses. See Step D for additional information.
- **Meeting Times:** Meeting at least once per week will help keep the group on task and motivated. Group projects for the production of materials like signs and banners will keep the excitement going and likely produce a better product.
- **Timeline:** Projects with shorter timelines are more likely to be completed by the group. Limiting the time helps create a sense of urgency and completing the program quickly will allow more time for the group to study the results. This doesn't mean that the initiative is over. The same group or a new group can set new goals and continue to improve recycling.

Brainstorming Sessions:

Once goals have been set, the next step is to figure out how to achieve them. Remind the group that the objective is to encourage recycling in all areas of the school and outdoor facilities, including recreational fields. Different areas may require different approaches. For example, paper signs won't last in outdoor areas so those bins might be painted or decorated with lasting materials. Your target audience should also be considered. Football, track and other events invite a diverse audience to the school and grounds. The group should consider if people outside of their peer group will respond to their promotions. These sessions will help refine and develop the broader ideas. As you did in the planning session, write all ideas on the board so everyone can see them. Once all the ideas are in, discuss each idea and narrow them down by asking some basic questions:

1. How will the majority of people react, and will it produce the desired results?
2. Will it have a lasting effect, or can it be changed to renew the effect?
3. Does it fit within our timeline?

4. Do we have the needed skills within our group, or can we get the skills needed?
5. Does it fit within our budget?
6. Are there safety concerns?



Questions like these will weed out the ideas that can't work for this program but other ideas may evolve out of the rejected ones. So take the time to write them all down, have fun, and be supportive of each other. When you have your ideas narrowed down, if you still can't do them all, the group will need to decide which of the ideas have the most merit. Is it best to put all of your time and money into one big project, or should your resources be spread out to develop several smaller projects? This might be a hard question to answer, but if the right questions are asked and openly debated the group will likely make the best decisions.

Production and Implementation:

Materials such as small posters, signs or handouts can easily be reproduced on office copy machines. Many schools have graphic arts or media production classes that can produce larger format prints or communicate your message through other visual mediums. Consider all resources available and remember that materials like paint, cardboard, lumber and hardware don't always need to be purchased. There are plenty of used materials available at little or no cost. Using them reinforces your message since "Reuse" is even better than recycling!



Get permission for installing large banners or signs. You may find there are safety issues that need to be considered and you'll also need permission for painting murals or recycling bins. If you are planning to paint, make sure the paint is compatible with the work surface. Some surfaces like smooth plastic or glossy walls may need to be prepped for latex paints. Oil paint should be avoided since it contains toxins and is difficult to clean up. Ask maintenance staff for advice and do some testing for durability.

Celebrate! It's Time to Recycle:

Holding a kick-off event to celebrate your hard work is a great way to include the rest of the school in the goals that you've set. It's also a good idea to invite members of the School Board, community leaders and local media so the rest of the community will be aware of your school's recycling efforts.

This is also a good time to educate people about recycling. There are many games and contests you can use to make the education fun and memorable. Ideas, suggestions and web links filled with helpful information can be found in Step E of this guide.



Students organize recycling kickoff event and invite news media.

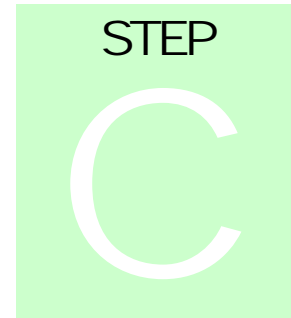


Detailed information, recycling facts and announcements can be displayed this way.



Poster contests or recycling art shows attract attention and help drive the point home.





Keeping it Going – Generating Enthusiasm

Setting Goals and Breaking Records:

Schools are very enthusiastic places. The energy that goes into planning a homecoming football game and the organizing that publishing a yearbook needs couldn't be achieved without a lot of enthusiasm. Schools all over the country have applied their natural enthusiasm to recycling and found new ways to make schools "greener" and healthier for the environment. This section offers advice on how schools can keep their programs active and continue encouraging recycling into the future.



Students sort recyclables and draw attention to their recycling campaign.

Making Recycling Exciting:

Students in many schools have been energized to recycle by getting involved in competitions and being challenged to meet goals. Competitions for best artwork, best reuse of materials, or any theme that suits the purpose will help generate excitement. Students can then vote for their favorites or a committee might choose the winners. Classes competing for highest recycling rate will continually be reminded to recycle. If calculating the volume of recycling isn't practical, it may be easier to base the competition on having fewer recyclables in the trash. It might also be fun to form a group of inspectors, waste watchers, recycling police, etc. or maybe it's the Principal wearing a detective's hat who surprises a class with a spot trash inspection. You can use the opportunity for a quick lesson on what to recycle and remind them of why it's important.



It becomes a matter of school pride when the competition is against neighboring schools. Colleges and Universities throughout the country are currently competing in the RecycleMania contest. This is a great example and one that can easily be organized on a smaller level. Check it out on the website: www.recyclemaniacs.org. Once again, it doesn't have to be based on volume. It can be a yearly goal to have the best promotions, least amount of trash, least recyclables in the trash, or even most money earned through a recycling fundraiser. Reaching goals and breaking records held by previous classes or schools is fun. Setting reachable goals, making contracts with students and offering rewards to encourage recycling will not only make recycling exciting, but it will keep it exciting long into the future.



Measuring Success:

Recycling rates can be measured in several ways. The current volume of trash and recycling can be established by asking custodians to estimate the levels based on the number, size and average volume of waste in dumpsters. This might not be statistically accurate, but it will establish a fair representation of these volumes and give you a good starting point. More accurate measurements can be taken by gauging the level of trash and recycling on pickup days. The need for more or larger recycling bins and the reduction in trash bins will be a landmark occasion and a testament to the success of the program.

For contests, more accurate measurements may be needed. A large scale is the best tool for this. One might be available in the school, as even an old nurse's scale can be used. With a little ingenuity, a balance scale can be devised. Ask an industrial arts or science teacher for assistance.



STEP

D

Generating Revenue from Recycling

Profit from Recycling:



When schools increase their recycling rates, the savings on disposal fees can be far greater than most people would imagine.

Considering the types of disposable materials a school generates and the percentage that can be recycled, reused or reduced, the average school has the potential to cut trash volumes in half.

Before we explain how this is possible, let's look at the numbers.

How much does your school pay for the collection of waste?

Check with your waste hauler for a breakdown of costs. Collection

fees are less for recycling, because haulers can recover some revenue from it and they also save on landfill fees. If the recycling rate can double and additional efforts are made to reduce trash, the potential savings can be significant with a place as large as a school.

Is it Waste or Recycling?

Actually, it's a trick question. People who work in the field of recycling include recycling as part of the waste stream. The real question is, is it recyclable or is it trash? Knowing more of the answers to this question will help schools reduce the amount of trash they discard.

Most schools already do a fairly good job of collecting paper in the classrooms and offices. Corrugated cardboard is also commonly recovered at most schools. Food prep staff usually recycles tin, glass and plastic containers. Many schools with vending machines have bins for mixed containers near the machines, and some save aluminum cans for fundraisers. If all of this is already being done, what more can we do to increase recycling, reduce trash and save money?



Container Recycling:

This is the area of recycling where schools have the most to gain. Most schools generate large volumes of plastic bottles and other recyclable containers from sources within and outside the school. Since waste charges are by volume and not weight, schools have been paying for the air space in every bottle or can that's not recycled.

Most schools have a limited collection system in the school and outdoor athletic facilities are frequently overlooked. Some have bins for aluminum fund drives, which is a good idea, but doesn't provide a place for plastic and glass containers. Providing a mixed container recycling bin next to each trash bin makes it easy. It's just a simple matter of choosing the right bin. Collecting more plastic and glass will greatly reduce the volume of trash and the school will likely see a direct savings on waste hauler fees.

Paper Recycling:

A few commonly overlooked paper items include post-it notes, tissue boxes (tissues can be composted), cardboard backings from blister packs (ie: marking pens, toys) and programs from special events. When you really start to study what your school throws out, you'll be amazed at how much of it could be **reused** (like the backs of printed paper), **reduced** (by not printing it in the first place), or recycled (by making sure everyone knows what can be recycled). The recommendations in this guide will help your school divert more paper and cardboard from the trash, which saves money and lessens your school's impact on the environment. It's a win, win situation!

Fund Drives – Profit from Recyclables:

Many schools or organizations within the schools already benefit from the collection of aluminum cans. Currently, the market is very good for aluminum so it is an excellent opportunity for raising funds. What may not be known is that scrap dealers will often pay premium prices to schools and other organizations. The dealer benefits from receiving a larger quantity of clean aluminum, and they also want to help a good cause. We've listed some local scrap dealers below but, if transportation is available, you may be able to shop around for an even better rate.

Kadinger's Salvage in Downing – (800) 503-8895

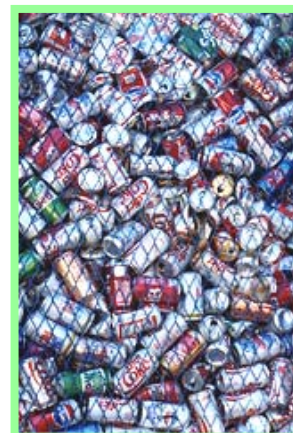
Toy's Scrap & Salvage Corp. in Eau Claire – (800) 657-6940

Max Phillips in Eau Claire – (715) 832-3431

U Can Recycling in Eau Claire – (715) 379-0750

Louis Recycling in Deer Park – (715) 263-3134

Norma-Cycle in Chippewa Falls – (715) 720-7777



Recycling Bin Advertising – Save and Profit:

As the state of the environment draws more attention and concern, some companies are finding ways to resolve environmental problems and turn a profit at the same time. Community recycling is a good example. The following plans describe two similar solutions to providing convenient recycling at schools and other public places. Both offer the installation of recycling bins which feature advertising panels on their sides. The ad spaces provide revenue for the companies, so the bins can be provided for free and a portion of the revenue is also shared with the community or school. This appears to be a good option for schools but the inclusion of this section is not intended as an endorsement. Schools are encouraged to explore these options and request additional information, presentations and references to be certain the system will compliment their own recycling program.

Envirobinz Inc. – Community Based Recycling Bins

Envirobinz Inc. is a company focused on bringing awareness to environmental issues like community recycling. Their objective is to provide communities with bins for the convenient collection of recycling and trash. The banner on top and the color will be customized to fit the school district's theme and school names. 5% of the gross advertising revenue will be shared with the local school district. Up to another 5% will be dedicated to local environmental organizations. The company policy prohibits tobacco, alcohol, or sexually explicit advertising. Features include vandalism proof doors, anti graffiti coating, powder coat paint and galvanized metal for rust prevention. Visit their website or call for further details.



www.envirobinz.com

Phone: (888) 88-EBINZ (3-2469)



DP Enviro - Ad Share Program

DP Enviro provides recycling containers to schools and, in return, they earn revenue from the leasing of ad space. Schools receive recycling bins for their outdoor recycling needs. Each bin has space for two advertisements that generate "Ad Share" revenue. Schools receive a small portion of the profits which can help fund other parts of the recycling program. Bins and advertising are maintained by media partners. Ads are approved by the school district based on the district's advertising policy. Visit their website or call for further details.

www.dpenvyro.com/schools.html

Phone (317) 915-1640 ext. 112

Other Recycling Initiatives:



Ink Jet and Laser Cartridges: Printer and copier toner cartridges should always be recycled, and most schools do a good job of diverting them from the trash. These items can also be a good source of revenue from parents and other community members. Organizations such as **Recycle First** and **AAA Environmental Inc.** pay for many types of cartridges. Contact Recycle First at www.recyclefirst.com or call (888) 777-7359. Contact AAA Environmental Inc. at www.aaaci.com or call (866) 332-2234.



Cell phones: Cell phones are being discarded at an alarming rate and far too many end up in landfills. Many people are not aware that the batteries are hazardous and that their old phone can be recycled or even reconditioned and reused for a good cause. Beginning a school collection program is a great way to draw attention to this issue and teach students about electronics recycling. The Charitable Recycling Program is an international non-profit organization that purchases used cell phones to be reconditioned or recycled. Reconditioned phones are sent to emerging countries and areas in the United States where there is an economic necessity for cell phones for both safety & communication. Learn more at www.charitablerecycling.com or call (800) 527-4700 x301 or contact ReCellular, Inc at www.recellular.com or call (734) 205-2129 x204 for another option.



Composting: Food waste comprises a large percentage of the total volume of waste generated at schools. Every day, students and kitchen staff throw out food that's perfect for composting. But schools like Stowe Elementary in Duluth, MN (See article at the bottom of this web page: www.moea.state.mn.us/campaign/school) have developed composting programs and are now enjoying the benefits. Reducing the waste stream is the most obvious benefit but composting can also serve as a demonstration for students in science (ecology and chemistry), social studies or other related topics. It also sets a good example for students who will learn that we can live in a more sustainable manner. Students will learn that we can live in a more sustainable manner and schools will have plenty of high grade compost for gardens and grounds.

Composting is a convenient way to discard grass clippings, leaves, small branches and organic food waste. All you need is adequate space (usually fairly small) in a convenient location. When composting is done correctly, it does not smell and it won't attract rodents or other pests. In six months to a year, the compost is ready for use. Cornell University provides extensive information on their website (<http://compost.css.cornell.edu/why.html>) about composting and how it can benefit schools.



Recycling - An Educational Experience

Educational Resources:



The number of internet resources for teachers and students on the subject of recycling is staggering. This is a good indication that many organizations believe teaching young people the value of recycling is extremely important. Recycling can also be associated with many other environmental lessons and initiatives. This section provides brief descriptions and links to websites that we have found to be informative, interesting and appropriate for middle and high school students. Many sites offer great ideas for improving school recycling. Let your school recycling project coordinator know of any ideas you see that might work well for your school.

Making Your School Greener:

Improving your school's recycling habits is a great step toward a more environmentally conscious school. Many schools have begun to teach students how people can make a positive impact on their environment by using the school building as an example. The Wisconsin DNR (www.dnr.wi.gov) has created the [Green and Healthy School Initiative](#), which outlines steps to be taken to make your school a healthier place and reduce the school's "footprint" or negative impact on the environment.



Other non-profit initiatives are similar in their intent. The Go Green Initiative www.gogreeninitiative.org is a simple, comprehensive program designed to create a culture of environmental responsibility on school campuses across the nation. Founded in 2002, the Go Green Initiative unites parents, students, teachers and school administrators in an effort to make real and lasting changes in their campus communities that will protect children and the environment for years to come.

Recycling – What’s In It For Us? :



This guide offers many explanations of how recycling can benefit the school community. If every person was to hear these messages and understand how the simple act of recycling can benefit their lives, it stands to reason that more people would recycle. The reality is, too few are hearing the message. Adults are overwhelmed with information and most of us don't have the time to sort it all out and decide what's most important. We tend to focus on the information that seems most critical to our immediate needs and we give more attention to the messages we want

to hear. This is why educating younger minds about recycling is crucial in the effort to change the way people think about their place in the environment and what they can do to improve it.

When searching the Internet for the best resources that help teachers with this subject, the information is truly overwhelming. The following links will help guide you to some of the most useful websites for lesson plans and general information about recycling. We will continue to update this section as we learn of new or better educational sites and resources. Please watch for updates and contact the County Recycling Program with suggestions or advice on resources you feel others might find useful.

Internet Resources:



www.dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/greenschools/resourcesWaste.htm

Part of the Wisconsin DNR's Green and Healthy Schools program, this link brings you directly to the educational resources page.



www.uoregon.edu/~recycle/edu_promo.htm

This site is sponsored by the University of Oregon. It's packed with helpful information about recycling programs at schools, activities, games, lessons, staging events and more.



www.grn.org

Grassroots Recycling Network is an environmental advocacy site promoting the concept of zero waste and offering information on campaigns, news on related issues and tools for teaching and learning about recycling. www.kidsrecycle.org is just one of the many resources you'll find on this site.



www.ecocycle.org/index.cfm

Eco-Cycle is one of the largest non-profit recyclers in the USA and has operated in Boulder, CO for 30 years. Their mission is to provide publicly-accountable recycling,

conservation and education services, and to identify, explore and demonstrate the emerging frontiers of sustainable resource management.



www.earth911.org

A great source for a variety of information on the environment. Their mission is to make every day “Earth Day” and to empower the public with community-specific resources to improve their quality of life. Zip code search provides links to local information and there’s loads of links to sites for teachers and students.



www.stopwaste.org

Stop Waste is an organization in California’s Alameda County. Reducing waste from all sources is their main goal but a large focus is on schools since their 350 schools generate 4% of the total waste or 60,000 tons per year. There’s some good advice and information but mostly we’re including this as a model and inspiration for school recycling in our county.



www.reduce.org

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offers information on many recycling and waste reduction topics. A handy index is available at the top of the screen and Educational Toolbox (also at top) offers printable pdf materials.



www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/

The California Integrated Waste Management Board has developed an extensive waste management website. A large section is dedicated to school waste management education. This includes curriculum and waste reduction programs.



www.nrdc.org

The National Resources Defense Council website touches on many environmental subjects. The topic of recycling is found under Cities and Green Living. For a list of articles, search “recycling” on the sites search engine.



www.epa.gov/wastewise

The Environmental Protection Agency is assigned the huge task of preserving our Countries natural resources and protecting our environment. This site requires some time to sort through the tremendous amount of collected information and links but it is well organized and a great source for general information on the environment.

Fun Facts and Truths about Recycling:



Material recovery facilities sort and bail tons of paper and cardboard each day.

Every day American businesses and schools generate enough paper to circle the earth 20 times!

Every Sunday, Americans waste 90 percent of recyclable newspapers. This wastes 500,000 trees!

Old scrap paper of all kinds can be used to make new paper towels and tissues, egg cartons, fruit trays and flower pots.

One recycled glass bottle saves the energy needed to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.

It takes 2 plastic soft drink bottles to make enough polyester fiber for a baseball cap.

Recycling one aluminum can saves the amount of energy to light one 100-watt bulb for 20 hours or run a TV for 3 hours.



Plastic bottles are used to produce fine fleece fabric.



Consider the fact above this image and imagine the energy 7 tons of recycled aluminum will save.



www.resourcefulschools.org

For more facts like these and other resources for schools, visit the St. Louis County (St. Louis, MO) recycling website. Their site offers many resources for teachers and students including a series of videos on setting up a school recycling program. Search on the pull down menu for more FACTS.

Recycling Bins and Suppliers

Selecting the Right Recycling Bins:

Recycling bins are much more than receptacles for recyclable materials. Effective bin design and labeling must define the bins purpose and encourage correct use. Design, cost, durability, size and maintenance were considered in making the best recommendations for school recycling programs. The information provided in this section is for comparison purposes only, and the endorsement of products or companies is not the intent. The same or similar products may be offered by other vendors at a different price.



Bins for Classrooms:

Most schools have implemented paper recycling in classrooms using a variety of bins. In this controlled environment, most any receptacle (whether purchased or not) can work if its purpose is clear and the placement convenient. Place recycling bins next to trash bins and clearly label them. Bins for mixed containers are needed, even if beverages are not allowed in classrooms, since empty containers may be discarded when students come to class.



Rubbermaid Plastics Inc.

Rubbermaid offers many styles and sizes of bins for recycling. Prices can vary widely depending on the distributor, size, and quantity ordered. Talk to your school administrator or head custodian about vendors in your area.

Price Range: \$3.00 - \$6.00



Midpoint International Inc. – Large Side Saddle

This system will work well in most classrooms. Use the large bin for paper and one small bin for containers. The small hanging bins can attach to most standard trash bins both square and round. Liners are available when using the side saddle for trash.

www.midpoint-int.com

phone: (888) 646-4246

Size: 8" x 6" x 9"

Capacity: 1.15 gal.

Cost Range: \$3.05 - \$3.25

Bins for Halls and Entries

There are many bin designs for public spaces. The majority are designed for placement in government buildings, corporate offices, convention centers and other high exposure places. So esthetics, function, and durability are more important than keeping the price low. As the need for convenient public recycling grows, more bins like these will likely be produced.



Midpoint International Inc. – Recycled Recycler

The Recycled Recycler Indoor Square Series is made from 100% recycled plastic. It is available in 4 different sizes with a 3-inch height difference to allow the units to be opened without interference from adjoining units. The design allows for different configurations and sign insert windows are optional.

www.midpoint-int.com

phone: (888) 646-4246

Size: 16" x 16" x 31" to 40" Capacity: 25 - 31 gal. Cost Range: \$ 260.00 - \$275.00



Windsor Barrel Works – Canables Series

These bins are made of galvanized steel which offers strength and fire resistance. They can be ordered with or without graphics. Graphics can be customized for student poster contests and community artwork. Contact vendor for price quotes on graphics.

www.windsorbarrel.com

Phone: (800) 527-7848

Size: 25" to 30" tall Capacity: 20 to 30 gal. Cost Range: \$130.00 - \$170.00 (without graphics)



Midpoint International Inc. – Bullseye Multi-Pack

This series of bins helps specify recycling through color, labels and openings. They can be purchased pre-assembled in groups or separately with or without mounting hardware.

www.midpoint-int.com

Phone: (888) 646-4246

Size: 20.5" x 11" x 34" Capacity: 19 gal. ea. Cost Range: \$55.00 - \$60.00 or 3 for \$220.00



Busch Systems – Upright Series

This style has several options for size, lid openings, and clear or opaque lids. The 7 gallon is suitable for classroom recycling. The 14 and 26 gallon bins are suitable as centralized containers. They are made with a minimum of 50% recycled material.

www.buschsystems.com

Phone: (800) 565-9931

Size: 17.25" sq. x 22.5" Capacity: 26 gallon Cost Range: \$40.00 to \$50.00



Chevy Lane Design Consulting – School Recycling Bin

This system is wall mounted and specifically designed for public buildings. It is constructed of 1/8" aluminum and sized to hold a standard curbside recycling bin (not included). Multiple units can be assembled side by side with trim that covers seams. Colors, logos, signage and decals can be custom ordered.

www.chevylane.com

Phone: (905) 295-7224

Size: 24" x 18" x 18" Capacity: 24 gallon Cost Range: \$120.00 to \$150.00



Busch Systems – 519 A/B Centralized Recycling

The 519 is designed for the separation of cans, bottles, paper, etc. and has a minimum of 50% recycled content. They can be wall mounted to save space and lids have round holes or slots with appropriate recycling decals.

www.buschsystems.com

Phone: (800) 565-9931

Size: 20.5" x 11" x 35" H Capacity: 19 gallon Cost Range: \$70.00 to \$90.00

Bins for Lunchrooms

Lunchrooms can generate a variety of recyclable containers. Students and faculty often have access to vending machines, and they also bring some containers into the school. The type of recycling bins used in many school lunchrooms match the waste bins but have a lid with a 5 inch hole. This appears to work sufficiently but, like any recycling bin, proper placement and clear labeling will increase recycling and reduce contamination.



Busch Systems – Recycling Waste Pail

This style is similar to the standard waste containers used in schools but the color and logo makes it stand out from the rest.. Busch Systems supplies it in various sizes and colors and all bins are made with a minimum of 50% recycled content. Different lids are available for more specialized collection.

www.buschsystems.com

Phone: (800) 565-9931

Size: Varies Capacity: 20 – 32 Gal.

Cost Range: \$45.00 - \$70.00

Recycling Cart

It doesn't have to be expensive to look great and get the job done. This is the type of recycling bin used at many businesses and apartment buildings. With the creative design work, it's a great answer to your lunchroom recycling needs. There are many suppliers of wheeled carts like this. Your hauler may be a good resource or our office can provide you with further assistance in locating supplier.



Bins for Outdoor and Sports Facilities:

Recycling bins need to be present anyplace groups of people gather. This is especially important where bottled beverages are sold at or brought to an event. Since events like football games are attended by people from outside of the school, it is very important that recycling bins are easy to identify and convenient. They must also be weather resistant, durable, easily maintained and affordable. The following examples meet these standards and represent some of the best solutions to outdoor school recycling.



Eco-Pop Pyramid-Top Recycling Container

This container is specifically designed for outdoor collection of cans and bottles. The stainless steel lid has two 4.5-inch openings on opposite sides. Labeling is laser cut and stands out well on each side of the lid. It is made from at least 77% recycled and reused material, providing a durable, secure, fire safe, and rust resistant container. The lid can be purchased separately or with the 55 gallon reconditioned, galvanized drum. An optional stainless steel lock secures the front-hinged lid.

www.ecopopdesigns.com

Phone: (650) 728-9220

Size: 48" x 18" Capacity: 55 gallon Cost: \$250 Lid and Hardware or \$375.00 Complete



Windsor Barrel Works – 55 Gallon Barrel Lid

This lid offers a less costly solution for outdoor recycling barrels. It will fit plastic or metal 55 gallon barrels which are readily available at little or no cost.

www.windsorbarrel.com

Phone: (800) 527-7848

Size: 24" x 6" Capacity: 55 gallon Price Range: \$ 90.00 to \$100.00



Rubberline Inc. – Recycling Lid for 55 Gallon Barrel

Made of 100% recycled rubber and plastic, this lid provides a functional solution to outdoor recycling. The hole flap is optional and not recommended as it forms an obstacle to depositing bottles and cans. The appearance may be less inspiring as shown but, with the addition of labels and bright paint, this is a good, low cost option. Lids are secured to barrels with bolts.

www.rubberlineinc.com

Phone: (940) 759-2986

Size: 23" diameter Cost: \$19.50 Order Code: [Z] RLI-23-R