



RECYCLESMART KIDS

Set up a RecycleSmart Kids recycling program at your school!

You can make a difference by following the three R's—reduce, reuse, and recycle—at home and at school. Recycling not only cuts down on the amount of garbage going to landfills but also helps reduce air and water pollution. Recycling conserves energy, because it takes less energy to recycle than to make new products. Schools generally produce a great deal of recyclable waste, such as printer paper and drink containers. How does your school dispose of these items? If there isn't already a recycling program in place at your school, establish one. Here are some guidelines to help you get started.

1. Form a committee. Recruit students, faculty, and staff to join your recycling team. Work with them to design, implement, and maintain your program.
2. Get the facts. What, if anything, is already recycled at your school? What recyclable items are thrown away? Possibilities include paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastics, and glass.
3. Explore your options. Find out who collects recyclables in your area. Do you provide collection bins?
4. Set up recycling stations. Place your recycling bins throughout the school, according to what you'll be recycling. For example, put your aluminum can collection bin next to the trash barrels in the cafeteria. Place boxes for scrap paper in classrooms, offices, and the library. Make sure the bins are clearly marked so that students and staff know what goes where.
5. Spread the word. Let everyone know about your school's new recycling program. Put up posters explaining why recycling is important, what you'll be recycling, and where your recycling bins are located in the school. Ask for permission to make an announcement over the PA system. Write an article for your school's newspaper describing why the program was started and what students can do to help.
6. Keep up the good work. Once your program is underway, it's important to make sure that it is maintained. Hold regular meetings with your recycling committee to assess how the program is going and if any changes need to be made. Including underclassmen in your committee will help ensure that the recycling program is carried on from year to year.

Tell us about it! If you've successfully started a recycling program at your school, give us all the details. Write to us about your recycling program. We may want to publish your story in our RecycleSmart e-Newsletter and other publications. Please include your school name, grade, and your teachers name.

Write to:
RecycleSmart Kids
Grand Traverse County Resource Recovery
2650 LaFranier Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686

