



York County Solid Waste Authority

Serving our community by providing education and resources for responsible waste disposal



Take Advantage of YCSWA's School Recycling Program!



Would you like to start a school-wide recycling program or make your current recycling program better? If so, we can help!

YCSWA's Recycling Coordinator can assist you with starting a new recycling program, improving your existing recycling program, support you with conducting a waste audit and more!

Read on for general information about implementing a School Recycling Program. For more specific guidance contact Mindy Waltemyer at m.waltemyer@ycswa.com or call 717-845-1066.

School Recycling Program Implementation Guide



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STEP ONE: Assemble a Recycling Team

Your school recycling team should include all key players such as administrators, custodial staff, students and teachers. Comprehensive school recycling teams foster the most successful and sustainable recycling programs.



STEP TWO: Conduct a Waste Audit

Assess the school's waste stream to identify the quantity, types and origins of waste. Include ALL wastes generated within the school (cafeteria, classrooms, offices, etc.) to produce the most accurate estimates. A thorough waste audit will help determine the size and style of recycling collection containers needed for your program as well as the container placement that will encourage the greatest participation.



STEP THREE: Determine Who Will Transport the Recyclables

Review your school's waste hauling contract to determine if it includes recycling services. If your school opts to not include recycling in its waste hauling contract, consider using school staff/vehicles or volunteers to transport recyclables directly to recycling outlets.

STEP FOUR: Determine What Materials Will Be Collected

If your school uses a recycling hauling service as part of its waste contract, find out what materials are accepted. If the school has opted not to include recycling in its waste hauling contract and staff and/or volunteers will be transporting recyclables, consult local recycling outlets to determine what items are accepted. Collect only what is manageable by your team. If five materials are acceptable but your school can only feasibly collect two, that's still better than no collection at all.



STEP FIVE: Educate and Promote

Use clear, consistent signage with pictures on bins to ensure that recyclables are disposed of properly. Enlist recycling "ambassadors" for face-to-face contact at bins to encourage correct recycling. Show strong administrative support to provide credibility and excitement for the program. Consider assembly presentations, guest speakers, bulletin boards and classroom contests to promote your program.

STEP SIX: Evaluate and Celebrate

Evaluate your program on an annual basis to investigate collection efficiencies and ways to improve your system. Showcase the benefits of your recycling program and celebrate your achievements with an Earth Day festival or end of the school year recycling activity.

Contact Mindy Waltemyer, Recycling Coordinator for the York County Solid Waste Authority, at m.waltemyer@ycswa.com or 717-845-1066 for free assistance in the implementation of your York County School Recycling Program.

[YCSWA Recycling Webpage](#)

[Curbside Recycling Video](#)

In Need of Donations?

Does your school maintain a bank of clothing, food, school supplies or other items for students and their family?

YCSWA keeps an ongoing list of schools and non-profit organizations that accept donations to serve the community throughout the year. If your school has a hub where you keep supplies and you would like us to share this with residents or businesses who are interested in donating, please email Mindy Waltemyer at m.waltemyer@ycswa.com to be added to the list. We look forward to helping you provide supplies to your students and families as we encourage people to donate rather than dispose of their unwanted items.

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2700 Blackbridge Road | York, PA 17406 US

717-845-1066

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