

Recycler's Digest

Newsletter of the Green Schools Project
Carlton County's Recycling & Waste Reduction Grant Program

Volume 6
October 2022

Keeping Garbage out of the Recycling Bin

Providing an opportunity to recycle in school hallways or any public area is always a challenge, but there are some effective rules of thumb.

1. Always pair recycling bins with a trash bin. Stand alone recycling containers invite trash and stand alone



2-Stream recycling center at Washington Elementary in Cloquet.

trash containers invite recyclables to be placed in the trash. Trash in the recycling is called

“contamination” in the solid waste field.

Always pair a recycling bin with a trash bin to make it

easy for people to make the correct choice and reduce contamination in the recycling. Too much contamination can lead to recycling being too dirty to be recycled into new products.

2. Attractive, clearly labelled bins work the best. Find the right functional bins that are attractive, clearly labelled, and are functional for custodial staff to empty and maintain.



4-Stream recycling centers in hallways at Moose Lake Community School.

3. Don't bag recyclables. Unless your solid waste hauler specifically requests bagged recycling, do not collect recycling in bags. Plastic bag liners are okay to use to help the bin stay clean, but recycling needs to be emptied loose into the collection bin for the school's solid waste hauler.

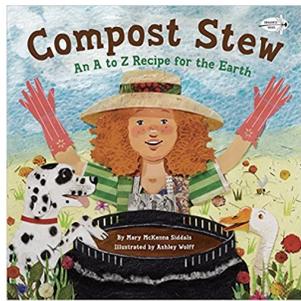
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Busch Systems Holds State Contract

Busch Systems is the container company which currently holds the state contract for purchases by public entities such as schools. They produce a variety of collection bins for indoor and outdoor use. Recycling collection units are an eligible purchase for Green Schools Project grant funds. Email recycling@co.carlton.mn.us to receive a spreadsheet from Busch Systems which makes the current state contract a little easier to navigate.~



Books!



Up to \$300 of Green Schools Project grant funds can be utilized for books. The subject matter should be under the topics of environmental sustainability such as recycling, waste reduction, or composting. Here



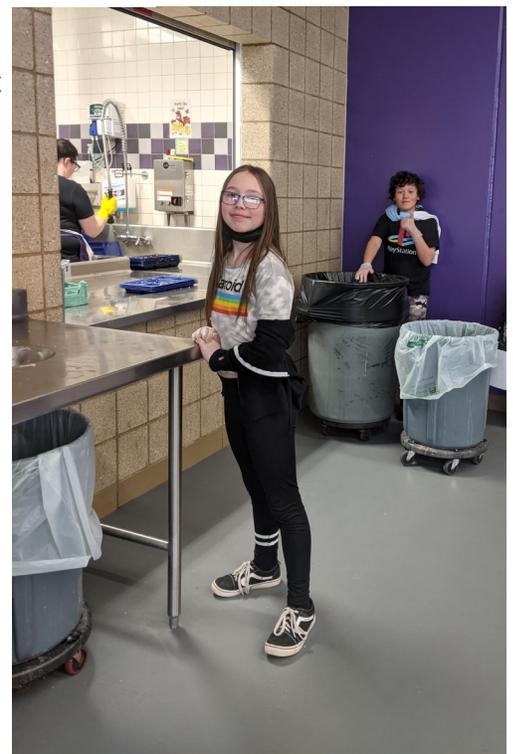
are examples purchased for classroom use at Washington Elementary. ~

CMS Students Setting the Example

Student volunteers help remind Cloquet middle schoolers the rules for sorting their trash and food waste after lunch. It



is important that only food waste goes into the compostable bag which will then go into the food waste dumpster. Final destination is WLSSD's commercial composting facility in Duluth. Peer help is awesome, and school administration and custodial help is also essential to getting food waste composted and keeping it out of the landfill. ~



Cloquet Middle School students help monitor the cafeteria sorting station. No trash in the food bin!

Green Schools Project — *Project History*

Barnum Elementary

2017

- Recycling bins for paper in every classroom
- Recycling substation for the entryway
- Water bottle filling station

2018

- Outdoor recycling station for playground area
- Reusable towels for custodial staff
- Reusable tumblers for weekly breakfast smoothies
- Recycling education books for school library

Barnum High School

2017

- Recycling bins for classrooms and hallways

2018

- 32-gallon rolling recycling container
- Double capacity janitorial cart
- Four (4) simple-sort two-stream stations
- Equipment for collecting compost on a small scale

South Terrace Elementary

2017

- Recycling bins for every classroom
- Recycling substation for the entryway
- Water bottle filling station

Carlton High School

2016

- Materials to build recycling centers around the school
- Cart to aid the emptying of recycling centers
- Identical blue bins for every classroom, every office, and the library
- Two worm composting towers
- Water bottle filling station

2020

- Reusable silverware for the cafeteria
- Recycling containers for use in gym, concessions

Queen of Peace Elementary

2016

- Recycling bins for every classroom, office, and the lunchroom
- 50-gallon carts for recycling collection in the hallway
- Water bottle filling station

2017

- Bin for organics collection in cafeteria
- Five hand dryers for bathrooms

Washington Elementary

2016

- Recycling bins for every classroom
- Reusable silverware for the cafeteria

2017

- Water bottle filling station for cafeteria
- Plastic recycling container for the cafeteria
- Cart to transport recyclable materials

2018

- Equipment for organics collection start-up

2019

- “Share Table” cooler

2022

- Books for Classrooms (Composting)
- 2-Stream Collection Unit for hallway

Churchill Elementary

2020

- Equipment for organics collection start-up

Cloquet Middle School

2016

- Recycling bins and labels for every classroom and office
- Large bins for the school’s substations in the hallway
- Reusable silverware for the cafeteria

2018

- Additional recycling bins needed for the hallways and classrooms
- Recycling bins for the exterior and interior of the school’s main entrance
- Prizes for student “Team Green” activities

2022

- 3-Stream collection units for hallways

Cloquet High School

2016

- Recycling bins for every classroom
- Recycling bins for the hallway

2017

- Reusable silverware for cafeteria
- Water bottle filling station

2019

- Equipment for organics collection start-up

2020

- 3-stream collection unit for library hallway

Cromwell-Wright K-12

2016

- Recycling bins for classrooms and hallways
- Water bottle filling station

Moose Lake K-12

2016

- Recycling bins for classrooms and hallways
- Outdoor collection carts

2017

- Water bottle refilling station
- Recycling receptacles for new school facility

2020

- Bins to transport paper recycling
- Paper recycling bins for classrooms

2021

- 4-Stream Recycling Centers for hallways

2022

- Carts to collect recycling
- 4-stream Recycling Centers for hallways

Wrenshall K-12

2016

- Recycling collection kits for every classroom
- Five recycling substations for use in gyms, common/student areas

2018

- Cooler and shelves for cafeteria “Share Table”
- Bins and dollies to improve cafeteria disposal line
- Condiment dispenser for the cafeteria
- Carts for collection of classroom recycling bins
- Carts for collection and emptying of the classroom recycling bins

2020

- Worm composting kits for science class

**Applications for a
Green Schools Project
2023 grant are due by
Nov. 30th.**

**MN Statute 115A.151 and Carlton
County Solid Waste Ordinance #17
have requirements for school
recycling.**

State: (a) A public entity,(1) ensure that facilities under its control, from which mixed municipal solid waste is collected, also collect at least three recyclable materials, such as, but not limited to, paper, glass, plastic, and metal; and (2) transfer all recyclable materials collected to a recycler.

Ordinance: Owners of establishments which are open to the public,, shall provide receptacles for recyclable materials alongside their present public receptacles for Solid Waste.

Green Schools Project is administered by Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services. For more information on the grant program, please visit the web site at www.co.carlton.mn.us/228/Green-Schools-Project or contact the Resource & Recycling Coordinator at karola.dalen@co.carlton.mn.us or 218-384-9178.