

## Zero Waste Action Ideas for Schools

**Hold a waste sort:** Determine how well your school sorts Trash, Recycling, and/or Food Scraps, evaluate areas needing improvement, and set an action plan to increase diversion rates.

**Collect non-blue bin recyclables:** Set up a school-wide collection for ink-cartridges, batteries, electronics, clothing, flip-floppy plastic and other non-blue bin recyclables. This is a great way to include the community! Use **Terracycle** to collect hard to recycle items like drink pouches and granola wrappers.

**Ban water bottles:** Create a school policy banning the sale of bottled water or encourage students to bring in their own water bottles.

**Set up scrap paper bins:** Set up a single-sided copies bin where people can reuse paper for scratch paper then recycle.

**Start collection food scraps for composting:**

- Work with kitchen staff, custodians, students and teachers to increase the amount of cafeteria and classroom food waste (plus paper towels, napkins) being diverted from the landfill-bound trash.
- Set up a composting system on school grounds to compost kitchen food scraps and paper towels generated at your school.

**Reduce disposable plates, cups, and plasticware:** Discourage disposables whenever possible. Ensure cafeteria supplies are made from recycled and/or compostable materials when there is no durable alternative.

**Fill out the CSWD Materials Management Survey:** Complete the [Materials Management Survey](#) to find out if you are managing your materials in accordance with state and local laws and receive recommendations on how to save resources, time, and money.

**Purchase recycled materials:** Paper, hand towels, tissues, toilet paper, waste receptacles, etc. with at least 50% recycled content. Purchase locally sourced materials.

**Create a policy for two-sided copying:** Implement double-sided copying policy for entire school.

**Create double-sided printing network defaults:** Set school printers to automatically print double sided.

**Write a policy for paperless communication:** Create a school policy that encourages paperless communication.

**Encourage reusable bottles, mugs, plates and utensils:** Start a school-wide campaign to encourage other students to bring reusables from home.

**Create a school-wide Waste Management Policy:** Establish a waste and recycling policy supported by the head of school or school district and all administrators that engages students and all members of the school community to help monitor and solve waste issues in class and on campus. Set specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, targets and timely goals to reduce and eliminate landfill waste and increase recycling and food scrap collection programs.

**Start a 3 R's Campaign:** Create a campus-wide culture of 3R's: Reduce-Reuse-Recycle. Educate students, faculty and staff about recycling, composting and other sustainable practices.