



## Education and Outreach for Cafeteria Recycling

Here are a few ways to set your school up for success when starting organics:

Have all students and staff watch these videos from Hennepin County and local students:

- [How to sort waste in the cafeteria \(3 minutes\)](#)
- [How to recycle milk cartons \(2 minutes\)](#)

Pick 2-3 events to kick off your program and get the community excited:

- **Teacher-led waste sorting game**
  - Printable PDF waste sorting [game](#) and [key](#)
  - Includes:
    - Instructions
    - Cards with pictures of waste items
    - Colored recycling, organics, and trash labels
- **Guest speaker/class visit:** Contact Kira Berglund, Hennepin County ([Kira.Berglund@hennepin.us](mailto:Kira.Berglund@hennepin.us)) or Kellie Kish, City of Minneapolis ([Kelliekish@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Kelliekish@minneapolismn.gov)) for information about guest speakers or class visits.
- **Teacher/staff information session:** Training school staff on cafeteria recycling, especially staff who work in the kitchen or supervise the cafeteria at meal times. Contact Julie Danzl, CWS Student Wellness Manager ([Julie.Danzl@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Julie.Danzl@mpls.k12.mn.us)) for help setting up a staff training.
- **Start/Collaborate with a “Green Team”:** Does your school have a green team? Student Green Teams can play an essential role in cafeteria recycling by creating signs, volunteering to monitor waste bins at meal times, and engaging peers in recycling education. If your school does not already have a Green Team, contact Billy Menz, Edison Green Team Advisor ([William.Menz@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:William.Menz@mpls.k12.mn.us)) for advice on how start your own.
- **Handout an informational flyer** for staff and to send home with students.





- **Announcement to include in your newsletter or website:** Include information about your school's motivation for recycling and resources to learn more about its importance, as well as logistical information to let the community know how this changes waste sorting.
- **Morning Announcement:** If your school announces the lunch menu for the day, you can target particular items each day, reminding students to put them in the proper bin. For example- "Remember the clear and orange plastic container for the Bagel yogurt pack goes in the blue recycling bin", "Don't forget to use the liquid bucket to fully empty all the milk out of your milk carton before you put it in the blue recycling bin".

Contact MPS Culinary & Wellness Services with any questions about outreach and education for school recycling. Fill out our Contact Us form at [https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/contact\\_us](https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/contact_us).

