



Composting and Recycling Mandatory at Seattle Schools 2017/18

Seattle Public Schools comply with mandatory composting and recycling rules. This means everyone must place items in the garbage only if the items cannot be composted or recycled. The City may fine schools may for non-compliance.

- Recyclable materials have been prohibited from the garbage in Seattle since 2005 under Ordinance #121372 and #124313.
- Compostable materials are prohibited from the garbage starting in January 2015 under Ordinance #124582.

Other Benefits

- ❖ Garbage disposal costs are four times higher than the cost of recycling and composting.
- ❖ Recycling and composting reduces our carbon footprint, diverting materials from the landfill for reuse.
- ❖ Recycling and composting helps us to model environmental stewardship to our students, staff, and school communities (SPS Policy & Procedures H25.00 & H25.01).

Principals

Ensure that the school is properly sorting and disposing of compost, recycling, and garbage. School Green Teams are highly effective for teaching- “what goes where,” and reducing contamination in indoor containers.

Resources

- [Waste Sorting Help Sheet](#)
- [Share Table Guidelines](#)
- ["Where Does It Go?" flyer](#) (available 18 languages)
- ["Look It Up" tool](#)

Posters (large files)

- [Landfill](#)
- [Recycle](#)
- [Compost](#)
- [Refuse Container Standards & Placement Guidelines](#)
- [SPS Example of 3-D Kitchen Posters](#)

Teachers and Administrators

- When you are done with an item make sure to place it in the proper container.
- Make sure that your classroom containers meet district standards:
 - Place a pair of containers -one recycle with one garbage within five feet of your door
 - Place appropriate signage above each container
- Check that your classroom containers are not contaminated. If students place items in the wrong container, retrain them to sort correctly, to avoid school-based fines.

Nutrition Services Staff

- When you are done with an item make sure to place it in the proper container.
- Work with the custodian to make sure that the kitchen has enough containers in the right places for compost, recycling, and garbage.
- Use a spatula or spoon to clean items before placing them in the blue recycling container.
- Work with Resource Conservation staff to make sure that helpful sorting posters are placed near or on the right containers.
 - Note: Nutrition Services staff are not responsible for providing supplies to school Green Teams, nor sorting or monitoring kitchen containers for contamination.

Custodial Staff

- When you are done with an item make sure to place it in the proper container.
- Every day remove waste from the building. This includes:
 - All recycling and garbage containers
 - Cafeteria “liquids buckets”
 - Compost containers in kitchen, student cafeteria, staff lounge, and classes where food is cooked.
- Take the time to train all staff on your water procedures.
- Line containers with the appropriate bags. Make sure that you have enough of each type of bag. Order more bags before you run out using B2B.
http://snocww05/operations/Product%20Information/OrderingLinerBags_1-2015.pdf
- Manage containers using the proper equipment, such as tilt trucks and tandem dollies. Make sure that your equipment is clean and in good working order.
- Check to make sure that you have the right sized outdoor dumpsters. If your dumpster, or dumpsters are not entirely full *each time they are picked up* then we can save money by either paying for fewer pick-ups or a smaller dumpster. Call SPS Dispatch at 2-0602 to adjust your dumpsters.
- Make sure that custodial staff only use our standard containers color-coded by type of material. **Blue** recycle containers for recycling. **Green** compost containers for compost. **Black** containers for garbage that goes to the landfill.
 - *Note: Custodial staff are not responsible for sorting or monitoring indoor containers for contamination.*

Resource Conservation Specialist (RCS)

- Supply appropriate signage, containers, and equipment to ensure compliance with the laws.
- Work with the school to ensure that there is a sustainable method for servicing the containers.
- Work with the custodians and waste hauler on right-sizing outdoor dumpsters.
- Help the school certify or re-certify as a Washington Green School in the Recycling & Waste Reduction category, to earn state-wide recognition for conservation efforts.

More information about SPS Resource Conservation can be found at <http://tiny.cc/SPS-recycle> Information about what is recyclable and compostable is at www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/LookItUpWhatsAccepted