

RECYCLING RIGHT

CREATING ON CAMPUS RECYCLING

Setting up a school recycling hub


There are some important considerations to take into account when evaluating the feasibility of a recycling hub in your school.


A quick assessment of your school's current capabilities, using the steps below, can help determine what where you're at in your recycling journey. You can always build your capabilities as systems become more ingrained.

1. What materials can we recycle?

Most recyclers provide co-mingled recycling bins, making it easy to recycle items we usually recycle at home. However some recycling options and services may not be available in remote locations, checking with your councils is an important first step.

Conventional materials you may be able to start recycling include:

 Paper and cardboard

 Milk and juice cartons

 Glass

 Aluminium cans

 Plastic containers


 Steel cans

In addition to the free recycling programs mentioned in the section above, you can also recycle these materials through dedicated collection systems:

 Printer cartridges

 Food and garden scraps

 Batteries

 Mobile phones and electronic waste



Recycling Near You provides council sourced data on what materials can be recycled in your local area.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

2. How much is likely to be collected?

Be realistic with your expectations and create a collection system only for items your school is likely to collect a reasonable quantity. Conducting a waste audit will allow you to predict the amount of expected materials with good accuracy. You may simply want to choose one or two materials to recycle first, and then review other materials in the future.

Find resources to help you with a **waste audit**.

3. Find a recycler

-  The first step in finding a recycler is to review your school's current waste management contract.
-  Ask whether they can expand the current service provided, and review any costs that may be incurred by changing or expanding your current waste contract.
-  Search services on [recyclingnearyou.com.au](https://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au) for recycling services in your area that specialise in collecting recycling for businesses.
-  When contacting the recycling services, ask the questions outlined in **Planet Ark's Choose the Right Recycler Checklist and Factsheet**. This will ensure you secure an environmentally and legally reputable recycling service provider.



Check with your local council for any waste services they may provide to school. They can connect you to services specific to your area and help you get started. They may also be able to provide services including education visits, food waste, recycling and reuse initiatives.

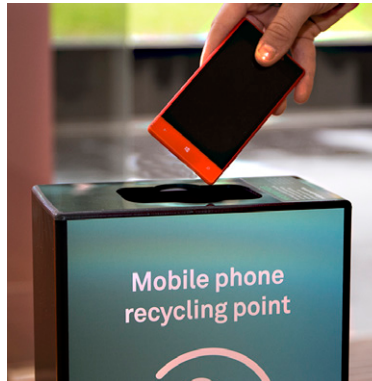
4. Set up a collection point

Start your recycling journey with these recycling programs. These are set up to make access to recycling easier for those just starting out:



PRINTER CARTRIDGES

A free scheme to that recycles used printer cartridges with zero waste to landfill.



MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones can be recycled through free programs for purpose beyond their life cycle.




DRINK CONTAINERS


Schools can connect with **Container Deposit Schemes** to fund raise through recycling.

Why recycling matters

Recycling provides students with an interdisciplinary lesson that educates students about the environment, personal responsibility, community action, sustainability and natural resource management. They'll learn lessons such as:

 You can **reduce up to 42% of the organic food waste** in your bins by starting a compost heap.

 **Over 95% of the resources in mobile phones** can be recovered and turned into new materials!

 Through Cartridges 4 Planet Ark, **100% of printer cartridges are recycled** into art supplies, eWood, and even roads.

 Container deposit schemes can be connected to schools to **raise thousands of dollars** in donations.

5. Collecting materials

The best way to collect and store recyclable items will differ from school to school. Things to consider include:

1. Location, location, location:

For conventional recycling and waste bins, make sure they are grouped together to avoid confusion. For additional recycling schemes, put collection points in a space accessible for students, staff, and parents.

2. Type of collection receptacle

Ensure they are easy to remove for collection by the recycler.

3. Who will be responsible for monitoring and emptying the collection receptacle?

For some schemes, this could be your school's cleaners, groundskeeper, or teachers. Others either have their collection services included or are regularly scheduled services.

4. Assess health and safety issues that need to be addressed.

Discuss these with your school principal before you begin.

5. Ensure you have effective signage at the collection points

Click below to access to free signage.



HOT TIP!




Place your recycling units in places where the waste is generated. For example, your cartridge box next to the printers, coffee capsules box in the staff kitchen and the mobile phone unit in the foyer or common areas so that students and parents can have access to it.

[DOWNLOAD FREE SIGNAGE HERE](#)







6. Building awareness and participation

School assemblies, day sheets, school newsletters and signage can all help with communicating your message within the school community.

7. Goals, record-keeping and reporting

-  Set a recycling goal based on your original waste audit results. Ensure your goals are measurable, achievable, and time-bound.
-  Keeping records of any the costs incurred by your recycling program, and reviewing the frequency of collections / drop off trips will help to determine if what you have in place is appropriate for the amount being recycled.
-  Evaluate your achievements in relation to your goals and review the effectiveness of your program.

Communicating the success of your recycling program to staff and students is also important, as it will show that their actions are leading to worthwhile results. Where possible, encourage your students to initiate these communication and feedback mechanisms by reporting in:

-  Newsletters
-  Annual Reports
-  Noticeboards
-  School homepage
-  Speech nights
-  Progress charts

Support your findings with our ready made resources here

