

255mm width

Design Your Own Recycling Signs!

Use this A3 template to create your own sign for the Source Separation Systems' MultiSort Sign Holder.

You can paint, draw, or design digitally - just make sure your artwork fits inside the border shown.

Tips for Awesome Signs

Keep it clear: Make your waste stream title big and easy to read. Do some detective work:

- Understand what goes into each bin - and check what shouldn't go in!
- Find out what happens next!

Be helpful: Show the most common items that belong and the ones that often cause confusion.

Science says: Studies show that showing what not to recycle is one of the most effective ways to reduce contamination.

Make it pop: Design for the people who will actually use the bin, keep it simple, catchy, and easy to understand.

Use Australian Standard Waste Colours for each stream:

- Landfill - Red
- Recycling - Yellow
- Organics - Green

Create one MultiSort sign per sheet! You will have three sheets in total

Your design can help our community recycle more and waste less!



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Teacher Notes & Learning Outcomes

(Aligned with the Australian Curriculum and National
Recycling Week 2025 — November 10–16)

Program Overview

This activity invites students to design a Recycling Sign for the Source Separation Systems' MultiSort Sign Holder, as part of Planet Ark's National Recycling Week (November 10–16, 2025) campaign. Students will explore how waste and recycling are managed at their school, investigate what happens to waste after collection, and design signage that helps their community use bins correctly. The focus aligns with behaviour science research showing that signage is an important part of successful recycling programs, and highlighting “what not to put in the bin” is highly effective in reducing contamination.

Competition Overview

Education is at the heart of every successful recycling program. While Source Separation Systems' Australian-made MultiSort Bins make sorting easy through Australian Standard Colours and clear symbols, the most effective systems include localised signs designed by the people who use them every day.

That's why this year's competition invites students to:

Design the best **LANDFILL**, **ORGANICS** and **RECYCLING** MultiSort signs for their school.

Students' signs will be judged for clarity, creativity, and impact in helping others put waste in the right bin.

The winning school will receive a School Recycling Kit to strengthen their waste and recycling program.

Prize - School Recycling Kit

The winning school will receive a complete Source Separation Systems' School Recycling Kit, featuring Australian-made bins — some manufactured from up to 100% Post-Consumer Recycled content - and certified compostable liners from Compost-A-Pak®.

Recycling Bins for Common Spaces

- 4 × 60 Litre MultiSort Units in Landfill Design with Signs
 - 4 × 60 Litre MultiSort Units in Recycling Design with Signs
 - 4 × 60 Litre MultiSort Units in Organics Design with Signs
- (Bases made in Australia from 100% Post-Consumer Recycled content)



Recycling Bins for Classrooms

- 15 × LandfillMultiStacks
- 15 × Recycling MultiStacks
- (Made in Australia)

Organics Collection

- 15×OrganicKitchen Caddies
- (Made in Australia from 100% Post-Consumer Recycled content)
- Compost-A-Pak® Australian Certified Compostable Liners
- (Made from corn, not plastic)

This prize kit allows the winning school to model best-practice recycling across classrooms and shared spaces -turning student learning into visible, community-wide action.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Investigate how waste and recycling are collected and processed within their school.
- Identify contamination issues and understand the environmental impact of incorrect sorting.
- Apply design and communication principles to develop clear, engaging recycling signs.
- Collaborate to promote responsible recycling behaviours across their school.
- Recognise how local action contributes to Australia's circular economy and sustainability goals.

Curriculum Alignment

This activity is aligned with the Australian Curriculum (Years 3–8) and supports learning outcomes across:

- Science – Sustainability and environmental systems
- Design and Technologies – Designing sustainable solutions
- Visual Arts – Communicating messages through design
- Civics and Citizenship – Responsible citizenship and community action

This alignment supports equivalent outcomes across all state and territory curricula, including the NSW, Victorian, and Western Australian curricula.



Suggested Classroom Activity

1. Investigate: Audit your school's waste and recycling bins. Identify common items and contamination issues.
2. Research: Find out who collects your bins and where your waste goes — landfill, composting, or recycling.
3. Design: Create clear, effective signage for the **LANDFILL**, **ORGANICS** and **RECYCLING** bins using the A3 template.
4. Submit: Enter your school's designs via the Planet Ark competition portal available at <https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/schools-recycle-right>