



### Infrastructure/Materials

Materials	Number Needed
<b>1</b> Lunch station recycling bins – 32 gallon (blue)	
<b>2</b> Lunch station compost bins – 32 gallon (green)	
<b>3</b> Slop bucket – 5 gallon (red)	
<b>4</b> Classroom recycling bins – 14 gallon square (blue)	
<b>5</b> Classroom/restroom compost bins – 7 or 10 gallon (green)	
<b>6</b> Rolling carts (for staging recyclables) – 50 gallon (blue)	
<b>7</b> Tall compost bin for kitchen or teachers’ lounge – 23 (green)	
<b>8</b> Tall recycling bin for copy rooms or teachers’ lounge – 23 gallon (blue)	
<b>9</b> Deskside recycling containers for offices – 7 or 10 gallon (blue)	
<b>10</b> Trash pickers for Compost Monitors/Custodians	
<b>11</b> Recycling Monitor aprons	
<b>12</b> Sidecars for trash – 1 gallon (black)	

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### RECYCLING AND FOOD SCRAPS AT LUNCH

#### Recycling and Food Scraps at Lunch A lesson plan for Grades 3-5

##### INTRODUCTION

On the first day of the new recycling program students will make a poster to show how materials are recycled in school.

##### BACKGROUND

Recycling is important for the environment to preserve and protect our resources for ourselves and for future generations. Today we are proud to be introducing our recycling program at school to include food scraps.

The decomposition of food and other organic materials under anaerobic (without oxygen) conditions in landfill produces methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The amount of methane produced from one ton of food scraps in a landfill is equivalent to driving 5,000 - 10,000 miles in a 20 mpg pickup truck.

Food scraps in landfills also produce leachate (leakage) a liquid which flows down through the layers of waste ending up in water streams and finally on to the sea. It can be highly toxic and causes a serious environmental and health risk unless carefully collected and treated.

By diverting food scraps from a landfill and school we can help reduce greenhouse gases responsible for global warming. To do this at school we need your help by teaching and learning the correct procedures we can reach our goal of keeping most of our discarded materials out of the landfill.

This year recycling in school will be different, there will be food bins. Today we will learn how to identify different types of materials and the type of bin they go in. This is an important step - it will help you successfully recycle.

Recycling is important for the environment to preserve and protect our resources for ourselves and for future generations. Today we are proud to be introducing our recycling program at school to include food scraps.

**Objectives:**  
• Understand why recycling is important  
• Be able to identify and sort the three types of materials (recyclable, food scraps, and trash)

**Standards:** Science, Social Studies  
**Skills:** Analyze, classification, observation, problem solving

**Grades:** 3-5  
**Time:** Approximately 30 minutes

**Materials:**  
• Chart paper  
• Markers  
• Handout "Recycling Bin"  
• Handout "Bin"

**Advanced Preparation:** Read the instructions if working in groups to produce posters. Activity 1: Will you need an extra copy per group of materials: Recycling Bin, and "Bin"

**2. FOOD SCRAPS (green bin):** Ask: What are food scraps and in which bin do we put food scraps?

Four articles are materials which come mostly from animal or plant sources. Do: Arrange some of the materials in the handout "Bin". Ask questions like: Where does meat come from? (meat - animal), are our food scraps in the green bin. The recycling company will take our food scraps to feed energy from the methane gas sent to landfills.

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# RECYCLE

clean paper, plastic containers, aluminum foil, bottles, cans, milk cartons, juice boxes

14

# COMPOST

food scraps including fruit and vegetables peelings, leftover meat and bread, food-soiled paper including paper napkins and paper plates

15

# LANDFILL

plastic wrappers, plastic bags, utensils, straws

16

Let's Compost in the Bathroom...

# PAPER TOWELS ONLY!

SOLO TOALLAS DE PAPEL  
在衛生間有機堆肥...只要紙巾

不要 塑膠 金屬 玻璃 垃圾

NO PLASTIC - PLASTICO  
GLASS - VIDRIO  
TRASH - BASURA  
METAL

17

### Education/Posters

	Materials	Number Needed
13	K-5 Lesson Plans	
14	Lunchroom Recycling (11 x 17)	
15	Lunchroom Composting (11 x 17)	
16	Lunchroom Trash (11 x 17)	
17	Bathroom paper towel composting (8.5 x 11)	

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# NEW STICKERS

Stickers 9" x 12" (for signs – see picture)

## RECYCLE

**plastic marked ♻️ 1-7:**  
including bottles, jars, lids & trays

**clean paper and cardboard:**  
including newspapers, cardboard boxes & paper, magazines, poster paper & books

**other recyclable items:** including glass jars & bottles

**aluminum & metals:**  
including clean foil, food cans, empty aerosol cans, soda cans & scrap metal

**NO FOOD**  
**NO STYROFOAM**  
**NO PLASTIC BAGS**  
**in blue can**





## COMPOST

**food-soiled paper:**  
including paper plates and cups, takeout containers

**other compostable paper:**  
including tissues, napkins & paper towels

**foods:**  
including fruits, vegetables (peels, pits & rinds), meat, bones, egg shells, etc.

**other organic items:** tea bags, coffee grounds, wooden chopsticks, corn dog sticks,

**NO PLASTIC - PLASTICO**  
**NO GLASS - VIDRIO**  
**NO METAL**  
**NO STYROFOAM**  
**in green can**





## LANDFILL

**mixed materials:**  
including pens, pencils, glue sticks, juice pouches & laminated paper

**other landfill items:**  
rubber bands, balloons, photos, metallic wrapping paper, CDs/DVDs, sponges, paper soaked with cleaning products

**styrofoam:**  
including packaging, food trays & cups

**unmarked plastic:**  
including plastic wrappers & bags, plastic utensils and straws

**NO FOOD**







Stickers 6" x 18" (for cans) or 3" x 9" (for lids)

# RECYCLE

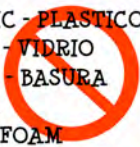
Clean paper, plastic containers marked ♻️ 1-7, aluminum foil, all bottles, cans, milk cartons, cardboard, magazines and newspapers.



# COMPOST

Food scraps including fruits & vegetables (peels, pits & rinds), meat & bread, & dirty paper including paper towels, napkins, tissues, cups & plates.

NO PLASTIC - PLASTICO  
NO GLASS - VIDRIO  
NO TRASH - BASURA  
NO METAL  
NO STYROFOAM



# LANDFILL

Plastic wrappers, snack bags, drink pouches, utensils, straws, & styrofoam

