

Going Green Quick Tips for Fall

Easy activities for your school to utilize in Going Green!

from MassDEP Green SWORD and The Green Team



Has your school become a Green Team member? visit: www.thegreenteam.org to find out more



Morning Announcements / Electronic Bulletin Boards

- Principals can share the importance of recycling and composting during daily announcements. Include facts on how recycling/composting works and how it benefits everyone. Invite students to provide recycling questions, tips, or facts for the announcements.
- Share your school's commitment to waste reduction, recycling, and composting.
- Acknowledge the accomplishments of waste reduction and recycling in each school. Encourage custodians, teachers, Green Team Coordinators, cafeteria volunteers, and kitchen staff to share the success stories of how they are actively contributing to recycling and waste reduction.

America Recycles Day

- Participate in America Recycles Day on November 15.
- America Recycles Day® (kab.org) 2024 Theme: One day to educate, one day to motivate, to make recycling bigger and better.

Events for Waste Reduction

- Recycling pledge: Create a signature board for students to sign to be 'Recycling Champions' at school and at home. Place the board and markers in a highly accessible and visible area like the cafeteria or an adjacent hallway, enabling students to sign before or after lunch.
- Host a Pumpkin drop, roll, or smash event. Work with a local farm or a composting company to collect pumpkins after a fun collection event.
- Have a school club hold an aluminum can drive for redeemable cans as a fundraiser. Use the event as an opportunity to share the information on aluminum, the most recyclable of recyclables! Share videos about how aluminum is made and how it is recycled. See how aluminum can recycling saves energy and environmental resources.
- Create a pilot program for food waste reduction in the cafeteria.

Marketing and Promotion

- Have posters with waste reduction facts in halls and the cafeteria.
- Share the RecycleSmartMA.org link on signage as a tool anyone can use to find out if an item is recyclable.
- Display information regarding closing the loop on recycling: from manufacturing, to the recycling bin, to the sorting and sale of recyclables, and finally to reuse as a new product.
- Share the school's buy recycled policy, or the town, state, or federal policy.
- Create a video with the facilities manager and/or custodian discussing what happens to various waste and recyclables from your school waste/recycling. Share the video in classrooms.

Collect Items for Reuse

Textiles:

- Schools can sponsor a bin for donations. Have contests to see which class collects the most textiles during a specified time. Give 1 point for a small grocery store-size bag, 2 points for a medium bag, and 4 points for a large bag of textiles. The most points collected by a class wins a prize.
- Create a list of organizations and locations in your municipality for donations. Use Beyond the Bin on recyclesmartma.org for additional information on recycling.
- Host a coat drive for reuse at your school or for donation. Do a mitten and hat drive along with the coat drive.