



# School Waste Prevention & Recycling Resources

NEWAC October 14, 2013



Minnesota Pollution  
Control Agency

# Why Schools?



- Schools are in every county of the state
- Many local partners are working with schools
- Resources can be developed that are broadly applicable
- Opportunity to pair diversion programs with education

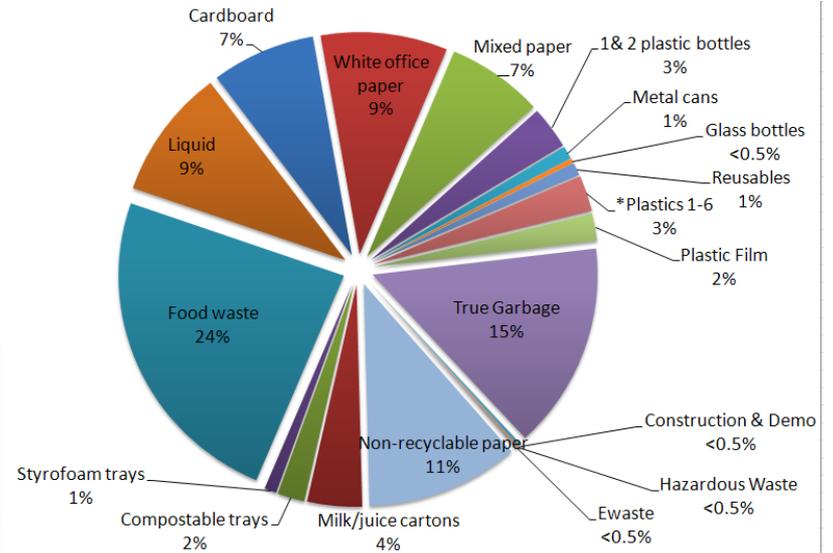
# Digging Deep Through School Trash

A waste composition analysis of trash, recycling and organic material discarded at public schools in Minnesota



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

September 2010



Find the full report online at:

[www.pca.state.mn.us/schoolwaste](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/schoolwaste)

# Green Corps Program



- AmeriCorps Members work with public institutions and non-profits for 11 months.
- 3 current projects involving waste prevention and recycling at schools: St Louis County, Carver County and Recycling Association of Minnesota
- Focus on recycling/composting infrastructure and class room education:
  - Clear and consistent signage (images & words)
  - Co-locate trash and recycling bins
  - Support with education

# Recycling at Schools: Compliance & Enforcement

- The *Waste Management Act* requires that public entities have containers for at least three recyclable materials, such as paper, glass, plastic and metal, and transfer all recyclable materials collected to a recycler ([Minn. Stat. 115A.151](#)).
- School superintendents were reminded of this requirement in October of 2012
  - The notification included a survey to evaluate how well schools are compiling with the law



Minnesota, we're here to help you **recycle *more***.

## WHAT

can be recycled?

## WHY

do we recycle?

## WHERE

can I recycle?

## HOW

can I tell others?

## The Recycle More Minnesota toolkit for your school

The purpose of this toolkit is to help schools get a recycling program organized and operating successfully.

Why should your school start a recycling program?

- **Save money.** As you reduce waste and increase recycling, you'll need to "right-size" your dumpsters and collection frequency. Often, this "right-sizing" process is where districts can see substantial savings. This is because the State of Minnesota requires waste haulers to add taxes or charges to the waste bill, but recycling and composting are exempt from these charges. [Read more about the solid waste tax \(PDF\)](#).
- **Meet regulations.** The *Waste Management Act* requires that public entities have containers for at least three recyclable materials, such as paper, glass, plastic and metal, and transfer all recyclable materials collected to a recycler (Minn. Stat. 115A.151).
- **Do the right thing.** By choosing to recycle, we reduce fossil fuel demand, create jobs in Minnesota, conserve natural resources and benefit the environment in innumerable ways. Great news for Minnesota's citizens, businesses and wildlife!

## How to create a successful recycling program at your school

If you are ready to start a recycling program, or improve your existing program, we recommend the following steps and resources. Come back to this page regularly to check your progress and download resources.



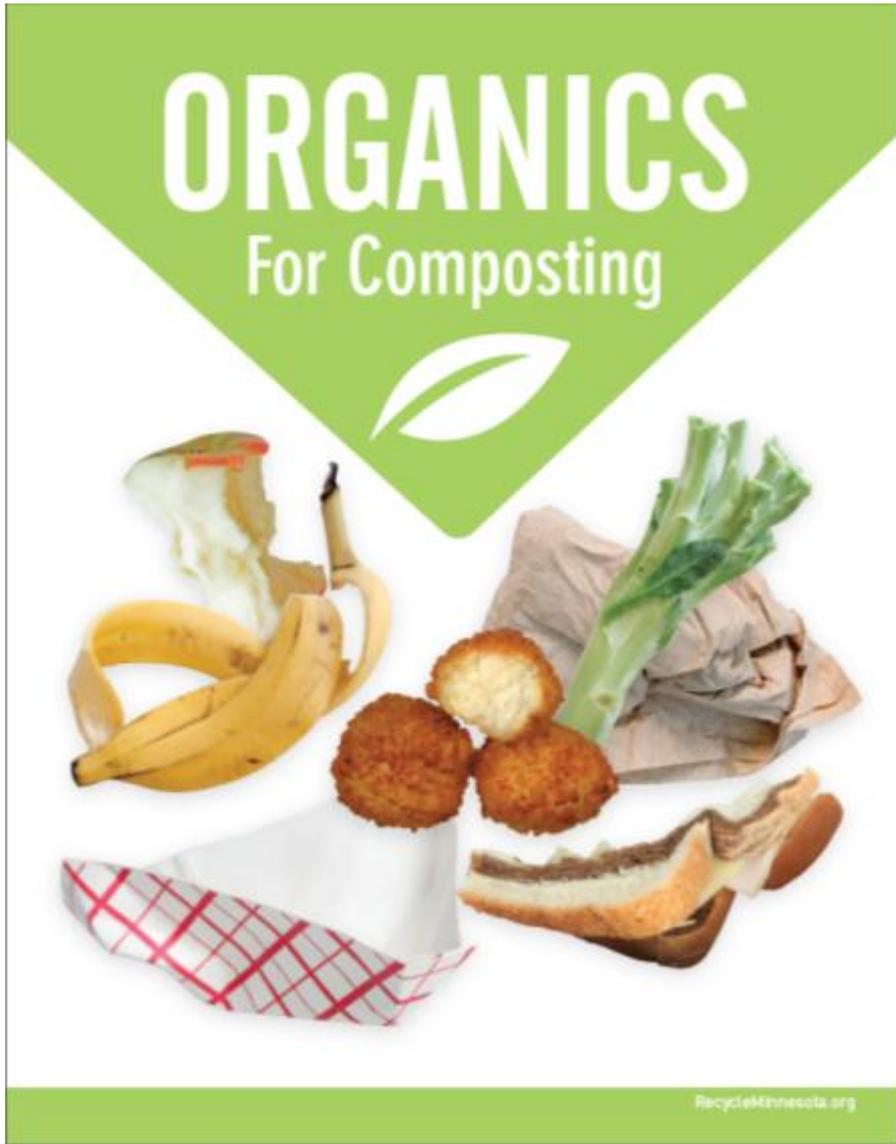
## Get inspired by schools across Minnesota who are creating and expanding their recycling programs!

[ISD 197 \(Dakota County\)](#) successfully expanded their recycling programs to collect more materials, and to include every school in the district! Read all about their efforts, and the efforts of other schools and districts across Minnesota, on our [Case Studies](#) page.

# Resources to Reduce Waste



Examples from: [www.recycleminnesota.org](http://www.recycleminnesota.org)



# Resource Management Contracting

- Possible state contract coming in 2014 or 2015
- Schools can negotiate with haulers to have priorities included in your contract
- Templates recommend schools consider including:
  - Monthly or quarterly reports detailing waste and recycling statistics
  - Additional containers for inside the building
  - Assistance with education and promotion
  - Procedure for 'right sizing' containers
  - Clauses that ensure accountability



View template contracts at:

[www.pca.state.mn.us/resourcemanagement](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/resourcemanagement)

# Cost Benefits Study

- Will evaluate recycling program costs
  - How does program performance impact costs?
  - What opportunities are there to reduce costs?
  - What resources do schools need to have cost effective programs?
- Survey out in October/November 2013
  - Please participate
  - Hoping to access hauler bills
  - Will do in-depth evaluation of ~10 schools
- Results available in early 2014



# School Waste Prevention & Recycling Network

- Web- Ex Meeting coming up on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm
- Quarterly meetings for county/city/district staff
- 1-2 presentations, time for discussion
- Aim to have one in person meeting per year
- Sign up for Gov Delivery list by emailing:  
[johanna.kertesz@state.mn.us](mailto:johanna.kertesz@state.mn.us)



# Questions or comments?

Tim Farnan –

[timothy.farnan@state.mn.us](mailto:timothy.farnan@state.mn.us),

(651) 757- 2348



Minnesota Pollution  
Control Agency

