

How to set-up an effective recycling program in your school...

Teamwork and communication are key to a successful program. Waste Management Teams are an effective way to "get the ball rolling", to help launch a 3Rs program and to promote recycling activities in the school. As the recycling coordinator, you cannot accomplish this alone! You need support from many different people in your school building. Develop a Waste Management Team that is made up of an administrator, custodian, other teachers, parents and students to support your recycling efforts. This diverse group will allow you identify various key issues in the school and assist in problem-solving in order to ensure your program's success.

Once you've identified key players, it's time to develop "A Plan of Action". In order to make all building users aware of the school's commitment to waste reduction and environmental issues create a mission statement for your efforts and post it in a prominent place. Set realistic goals and re-assess your progress often. A downloadable worksheet is available to help you keep track of what you intend to accomplish during the course of your recycling efforts and who will be responsible for each piece of the work.

For additional information on "How to set-up a recycling program in your school or school district", please consult the video on this website.

Other things to consider:

Does your district have an environmental policy? Encourage the purchasing department to develop a procurement policy to buy office supplies that are environmentally responsible. Buy equipment that is energy efficient, releases less harmful emissions and is made with reused or recycled components. Ask your suppliers not to over-package goods, to use recyclable packaging, and to take back any excess or reusable products, or packaging (e.g., pallets).