



Newton Schoolwide Recycling and Food Waste Diversion in 5 steps



<h1>1</h1> <p>6+ weeks from launch day</p>	<h1>2</h1> <p>4-6 weeks from launch day</p>	<h1>3</h1> <p>1-3 weeks from launch day</p>	<h1>4</h1> <p>Launch day</p>	<h1>5</h1> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>ASSEMBLE SCHOOL “WASTE-LESS” TEAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Captain (GC) has reviewed program guidance from DPW and has gotten buy-in from the Principal and Custodian • GC consults Principal on potential engagement from lunch monitors or service staff, PTO & parents, and students • <i>DPW consults throughout the process as needed</i> 	<p>PLAN PROGRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GC consults with Principal to plan schoolwide education program - student participation encouraged! • DPW provides information for custodians and provides equipment and arranges collection service(s) 	<p>FINAL STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-launch check-in with all leaders involved, including custodians and lunch staff • GC implements education plan and installs waste signs • <i>DPW provides announcement for school newsletter</i> 	<p>KICKOFF!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GC makes school announcement about day 1 of recycling and/or food scrap collection at lunch • First week: GC and possibly lunch monitors assist students with sorting and help answer questions at lunch 	<p>PROGRAM MAINTENANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GC provides quality control and feedback to DPW • GC provides education to new students, staff and for the whole school each Fall • Program expansion to consider: food collection from classrooms and teacher’s lounge, a share table at lunch • <i>DPW provides ongoing support for collection and equipment</i>

Abbreviations: Green Captain (GC); Newton Department of Public Works (DPW)

Updated 9/2024

Newton School Recycling and Food Waste Collection



Example lunchroom waste station including food scraps collection

1. Trash barrel
2. Recycling bin
3. Liquids bucket (optional)
4. Food Scraps bin

Testimonial from custodians about food scraps collection

“With collecting food scraps separately, the trash is lighter and less messy, and that keeps my dumpster cleaner than before. It works out just fine. After lunch I tie off the bags of food scraps and put them in special totes. The truck comes by at least weekly to pick it up.

I’m really proud of the students. Together we have kept over 32 tons of food out of the trash in just 5 years.

Resources

1. Two Steps to Make Classroom Recycling Easier - arrangement of bins and signs
2. Sorting trash, recycling, and food waste: FAQs
3. Managing recycling and food waste collection - Memo to Custodians
4. Waste station signs
5. School education examples:
 - o Presentation at schoolwide assembly
 - o Mason-Rice Elementary recycling video
 - o Green Team 5th Graders trained to teach younger students
6. Message to school community/PTO/families

Example classroom waste station



In order to meet climate goals, Massachusetts must reduce the amount of food waste that is sent to the landfill. According to the state’s November 2023 Organics Action Plan, we need to more than double the diversion of food waste by 2030 in order to meet the state’s goals.

Contact Newton DPW at recycling@newtonma.gov