

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



August 23, 2013

DCPS Recycling Program 2013-2014 Kick Off

The Department of General Services (DGS) is excited to kick off this year's recycling program for DCPS schools. Here are the answers to a few basic questions to help you get started.

Why does DCPS recycle? Developing good recycling habits in students helps grow responsible citizens! Recycling is a basic part of responsible building waste management and is required in schools under DC Municipal Regulations. The Healthy Schools Act has set a target diversion rate of 45% by 2015.

What is expected from DCPS schools? All schools are to separate paper and cardboard into a designated recycling dumpster or compactor; and plastics, metal, and glass into separate "supercans." The eleven schools participating in the pilot compost pick up program will also separate food waste from their kitchens and cafeterias into separate supercans.

What does DCPS recycle? DCPS recycles all paper products including colored paper, envelopes, post-it notes, glossy paper, cardboard boxes and paperboard, hard and soft-cover books, spiral notebooks, magazines, and file folders; metal products including aluminum and tin cans and aluminum foil; plastics #1-7 including bottles as well as food containers; and glass including bottles and jars.

Who recycles in DCPS? All DCPS staff and students are expected to recycle. Although building operations and custodial staff are ultimately responsible for what goes in which dumpsters, the program only works if everyone pitches the right materials in the right bins.

What supplies should I expect to see in my school? By the end of this year, each classroom and office should have a clearly labeled recycling bin for paper only. Common areas and cafeterias may have additional clearly labeled bins for collecting glass/plastic/metals.

Why do we have separate bins for paper/cardboard and glass/plastic/metals? These materials are NOT TRASH! We are selling them on the recycling market. By separating clean paper and cardboard and empty glass, plastic, and metal containers, we produce a higher quality, more valuable product. The program in schools is different from the residential recycling program because schools produce far more paper and cardboard than individual homes.

What does DGS provide? DGS provides recycling pick up services, recycling supplies such as bins and labels, and support such as guidance information and training.

How can I get help? Please contact Beth Gingold, Schools Conservation Coordinator, 202-727-3587 beth.gingold@dc.gov. For more information please visit <http://dgs.dc.gov/page/healthy-schools>.