



DCPS Recycles! Program Newsletter | January 2017



Happy New Year!

Celebrating and Expanding on Last Year's Success

Take Action in the New Year:

Give feedback: Fill out this [feedback form](#) by Friday, January 27 with your suggestions to help improve the *DCPS Recycles!* program.

Apply for recognition: Fill out the [DCPS Recycles! Honor Roll 2017 Application](#) by Friday, March 3 to get your school recognized on Earth Day.

Sign up to reduce paper waste: Sign up for the *DC Reduce First Challenge – Paper Edition* – taking place in February 2016 to reduce paper consumption. [Read more](#) and [sign up](#) by Friday, January 20!

Check services: Check the [updated list](#) of schools participating in organics recycling. Wonder what it would take to join them? Ask us how!

Watch for supplies: Schools that ordered recycling supplies in November 2016 should expect these supplies to arrive by the end of January 2017.

Purchase clear bags: Clear bags, or no bags, must be used for recycling. Review the [DCPS Recycles! Guidance on Liner Use](#), which is consistent with [OCP sustainable purchasing guidelines](#).

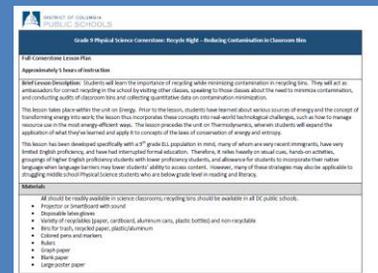
Request support from environmental educators: Sign up for SWEEP Jr. Presentation from the DC Department of Public Works: contact Wilson.Reynolds@dc.gov; Check out [Teacher & Environmental Educator Resources](#)

Request help! Contact our new teammate Michelle Minstrell michelle.minstrell@dc.gov if you need assistance with recycling.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

DCPS Curriculum-Linked Recycling Lessons

In 2016, five all-star DCPS teachers developed 5E lesson plans to integrate real-life recycling into the DCPS curriculum. Try out these [lesson plans](#) for pre-K through grade 12.



2nd Annual DC Recycle Right Competition

Congratulations to the 26 schools that participated in the second annual district-wide recycling competition. Participating schools improved classroom recycling bin “correctness” by 17 percentage points while applying 21st century math and science knowledge and practicing invaluable interpersonal skills. [Check out the press release and pictures of the competition and awards ceremony.](#)

Connect with us!



Sign Up for the DC Reduce First Challenge – Paper Edition

Did you know that preventing one ton of paper waste saves between 15 and 17 mature trees? The *DC Reduce First Challenge – Paper Edition* is a challenge, open to all DC schools, focused on reducing paper use. [Learn more](#) and [sign up](#) for the competition. The deadline to sign up is **Friday, January 20**. Also, mark your calendars for a teacher training on the competition on **Wednesday, January 25** or **Thursday, January 26**.

Replicate Success – Schools' Best Practices

Langdon Elementary School (Ward 5) organized **student bin monitors** to make sure their peers sorted materials correctly in the cafeteria.

Two students at **Ballou High School (Ward 8)**, which achieved 1st Place Most Improved in the DC Recycle Right Competition, demonstrated initiative by **volunteering to do classroom presentations** about the recycling program.

Tyler Elementary School (Ward 6) focused on paper recycling in its pre-k and kindergarten classrooms. The Tyler recycling team **customized recycling bins and gave out stickers** to reward students who recycled correctly.

The cafeteria manager at **Malcolm X Elementary School (Ward 8)** created **"lunch bunch,"** a rotating group of students that sit in the kitchen during lunch to learn about healthy eating.

The environmental club at **Roosevelt High School (Ward 4)** held a **recycling meeting** to make preparations to launch their paper and bottles/cans recycling program next semester.



Noyes Education Campus (Ward 5) made **morning announcements** reminding the school about correct recycling procedures.

This year more **high schools** than ever participated in the organics recycling program. **Ron Brown College Preparatory High School (Ward 7)** was the first modernized high school to launch the program in the cafeteria from the first day of school. **Cardozo Education Campus (Ward 1)** has a team of student monitors in the cafeteria to make sure everyone sorts correctly.

Highlighted Resources

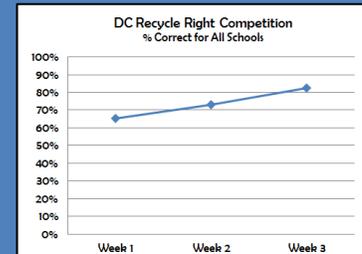
[5 Steps to Recycle Right](#) – Every school can recycle using these 5 steps.

[DCPS Recycles! Waste Management Procedures SY16-17](#) - Mr. Calep Epps, custodian at **Burroughs Elementary School (Ward 5)**, keeps the PDF on his phone as a quick reference guide of what, how, and why to recycle.

[Field Trip Ideas](#) – Take students and staff on a field trip to a recycling facility, composting facility, nearby garden and compost bin, and more.

[Schedule a SWEEP Jr. Presentation](#) - Contact Wilson.Reynolds@dc.gov (DC Department of Public Works)

Special congratulations go to **Brookland Middle School (Ward 5)** for Highest Performance, **Ballou High School (Ward 8)** for Most Improved, and **Ballou High School (Ward 8)**, **School Without Walls @ Francis-Stevens (Ward 2)**, and **Cardozo Education Campus (Ward 1)** for Most Replicable Solutions. [Find DC Recycle Right competition information here.](#)



Anacostia River Boat Tour

Three DCPS maintenance staff participated in a tour of the Anacostia River hosted by the Anacostia Watershed Society to learn about how recycling helps keep our river clean. Check out [pictures!](#)



Kitchens Highlights

In coordination with DCPS Food & Nutrition Services, DCPS kitchens are continuing to implement recycling programs for plastic jugs, metals cans and aluminum pans as well as food waste. **Burville Elementary School (Ward 7)** and **Columbia Heights Education Campus (Ward 1)** are kitchens that recently launched organics recycling!



Contact Us! Beth Gingold, Schools Conservation Coordinator

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