



Green and Clean

Streamlining Edina Public Schools Recycling/Trash/Organics Collection

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History of Edina Public School's Go Green Committee

In September of 2008, Edina Public Schools formed a committee to evaluate current sustainability practices and to establish the core green norms and practices that drive the District's day-to-day operations. For 2015, the Go Green Committee has chosen to focus on streamlining all our elementary schools so that recycling/trash/organics look and feel the same at each school. Cornelia Elementary was our "pilot" school in this endeavor.





Why Streamline our Recycling/Organics/Trash Program?

- Each school had their own set-up; while similar, there was no consistency amongst our schools. Some did not even have organics cans in their classrooms
- By streamlining our recycling/organics/trash program, you can walk into any Edina school and it will look and feel the same, eliminating confusion as to which container receives recycling, organics or trash.
- Uniformity in signage also eliminates confusion for staff, students, and visitors to our schools, resulting in everyone recycling and sorting more.



Goals for Edina Public Schools / Focusing on our Elementary Schools for 2015

- Each elementary school will have a trash, organics and recycling can in each classroom. The trash can should be the smallest can in the room. Bathroom cans should be paper towel only. Trash and recycling cans will be used in hallways.
- We will utilize existing cans, and provide identical signage for containers. Stickers identifying what type of waste disposal will come from Hennepin County Recycling resources.
- We will have identical signage in our elementary lunchrooms above the trash/recycling/organics containers.





Goals continued...

- We will encourage elementary PTOs and outside events to use compostable/recyclable packaging to reduce trash going into the waste stream. This includes food packaging. We will also suggest they contact our District foodservice, Chartwells, for all their foodservice and catering needs. Chartwells uses all compostable/recyclable materials and supports our “Go Green” vision.
- We will encourage each elementary PTO to have a “Go Green” chair to monitor their school’s progress. The District Buildings and Grounds department will support each school, but each school is responsible for maintaining their own recycling/organics program for conformity.




Goals continued...

- We will reduce the amount of trash, and increase our recycling/organics collection, thereby reducing what we add to the waste stream.
- We will monitor our progress on how well we are doing by using data provided to us by our recycling and organics hauler. In addition, our custodial staff will count how many bags of trash, recycling and organics for a period of at least 4 months to see if we have been successful in reducing what goes into the trash.
- We will encourage teachers to connect recycling/organics collection into their curriculum and how this makes a positive impact on our environment.





Goals continued...

- We hope to implement our streamlined program at the middle schools and high school by 2017.
- We will seek to hire parent volunteers in all our schools as para-professionals during the lunch hour at each school to assist custodial staff in ensuring students dispose of their waste.



Pre-Streamlining Setup in Edina Schools



Concord Elementary Classroom Containers



Concord Elementary Lunchroom Containers



Cornelia Elementary Classroom Containers



Cornelia Elementary Lunchroom Containers





Pre-Streamlining Setup in Edina Schools cont.



Countryside Elementary Classroom Containers



Countryside Elementary Lunchroom Containers



Countryside Elementary Hallway Containers



Countryside Elementary Art Room and Office Containers



Pre-Streamlining Setup in Edina Schools cont.



Highlands Elementary Staff Lounge and Lunchroom Containers



Highlands Elementary Classroom Containers





Pre-Streamlining Setup in Edina Schools cont.

 ← Creek Valley Elementary Lunchroom Containers

 ← Creek Valley Elementary Classroom Containers





Pre-Streamlining Setup in Edina Schools cont.

 ← South View Middle School Lunchroom Containers

 ← South View Middle School Hallway Recycling Containers for Events

 ↑ South View Middle School Classroom Containers

 ← South View Middle School Hallway Trash Containers





Pre-Streamlining Setup in Edina Schools cont.



Valley View Middle School Hallway Trash & Recycling Containers



Valley View Middle School Lunchroom Containers



Valley View Middle School Classroom Containers



Pre-Streamlining Setup in Edina Schools cont.



Edina High School Classroom Trash & Recycling Containers



Edina High School Lunchroom Trash, Organics & Recycling Containers



Edina High School Hallway Trash & Recycling Containers



Edina Public Schools
DEFINING EXCELLENCE

What We Want All Our Elementary Schools to Look Like

Lunchrooms to have:
Trash, Organics & Recycling
BRUTE Containers, clearly labeled with metal signage above the bins to easily identify what goes in each bin with examples hanging above each bin from sign pole



↑ 3 clearly-labeled bins in each classroom for:
Trash, Recycling & Organics (paper towels & snack food waste)





↑ "Paper towels only" bins in bathrooms



Edina Public Schools
DEFINING EXCELLENCE

What We Want Our Middle Schools and High School to Look Like by 2017

Lunchrooms to have:
Trash, Organics & Recycling
BRUTE Containers, clearly labeled with metal signage above the bins to easily identify what goes in each bin with examples hanging above each bin from sign pole



↑ Middle and High school hallways and classrooms will have trash and recycling cans, clearly marked





↑ "Paper towels only" bins in bathrooms





Green & Clean Signage for Lunchrooms

3 = Trash Disposal

2 = Mixed Recycling

1 = Compost items, including compostable cutlery

*Separate containers (pails) located at the beginning of the disposal line to dump out excess milk from milk cartons. Students start with compost and work their way toward trash before tray is brought to the dishwashing window.



Cornelia Elementary Student Leadership Team Sorting Presentation Jan. 22, 2015 at School Assembly



4th & 5th Grade Students demonstrated via skit for their peers how to correctly utilize sorting bins and what items go in each bin at a school assembly





Cornelia Elementary is our “Pilot Project” School



The Cornelia Student Leadership Team program was well received by the teachers, staff and student body. They are leading the way in setting the standard for the rest of Edina elementary schools in reducing what goes into the waste stream.



Cornelia Elementary Student Leadership Team Skits

To view the skit, visit our webpage at:

<http://www.edinaschools.org/Page/3638>



Cornelia Elementary Student Leadership Group Recycling Video: **Click here to view procedures on how to empty your recycling at Cornelia Elementary**

<https://youtu.be/lp6VRNkSohg>





Conclusion

Edina Public Schools hope to increase awareness and participation in a uniform Districtwide sorting program for organics/recycling/trash in all our schools, starting with our elementary schools in 2015, and para-professional assistants in all school lunchrooms. Consistent metal signs in all our elementary lunchrooms and the hiring of parent volunteers will help us to accomplish this goal.

Edina Schools – Green & Clean!

