

# Benefits of Cafeteria Recycling

What is recyclable in the cafeteria?

Cafeteria recycling is easy, as it follows the same guidelines as NYC Metal, Glass, Plastics and Cartons recycling:



## Common Cafeteria Recyclables

- milk cartons
- juice cartons
- plastic utensils
- yogurt/desert cups
- plastic beverage bottles
- plastic cups
- take-out containers
- aluminum foil
- metal cans

\*If your cafeteria has clean paper trays (usually from *Trayless Tuesdays*), these can easily be recycled with other paper and cardboard.

How would school culture benefit from cafeteria recycling?

Is your cafeteria a mess? Do students leave waste on tables? Are there food fights? Emphasizing and starting recycling can be great leverage to a more orderly cafeteria.

Custodians & School Food: If employees are spending an extraordinary amount of time cleaning up after students, then increasing discipline in the cafeteria and having students recycling more will lower the amount of time spent cleaning up after students. With set stations for sorting waste and recycling, cafeteria staff will not have to move bins around to tables and clean up after students.

Faculty & Administration: If your cafeteria lacks oversight from administrators, students can take the opportunity to act out in a fashion inconsistent with what would be expected of them in class. A more orderly cafeteria, achieved through emphasizing recycling, can work to curb inappropriate behavior that begins in the cafeteria and is carried into classrooms after lunch.



Is cafeteria recycling the law?

Cafeteria recycling complies with the following:

- Mandatory DOE School Sustainability Plan developed by: Principal, Sustainability Coordinator, Custodian Engineer
- Local Law 19, 41, and Chancellor’s Regulation A-850
- NYC Departments of Education and Sanitation recycling regulations

For a complete list of what to recycle in NYC schools and residences, visit <http://www.grownyc.org/>