Sort it Out: Recycling in NYC Secondary Ed

www.grownyc.org/rcp
Understanding Sustainability
The Three R’s: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle is sustainability in practice.
- They are strategies we can use to prevent and reduce our waste.
- “Going Green” sustainability initiatives can be led by students, who can measure progress.

Understanding Sustainability
Reduce:
Sustainable Practice and Design

Make decisions that prevent waste.

Understanding Sustainability
Design & Technology Solutions for Reducing Waste

Compostable or edible packaging reduces waste. Is it a good idea?

Understanding Sustainability
Re-use & Up-cycling:
Re-use for another purpose

Understanding Sustainability
Recycle:

Break down and remanufacture discarded things to make new ones

Understanding Sustainability
Sort it Out, NYC!

Over 90% of school waste is recyclable or compostable

Understanding Sustainability
Why Recycle?

*Are these made from renewable resources?*

- Plastic
- Steel
- Paper
- Aluminum

Understanding Sustainability
Recycling Reduces Greenhouse Gases

**Recycled Plastic**
1 ton of recycled plastic saves 16.3 barrels of oil
- Stanford University, 2013

**Recycled aluminum**
Uses 95% less energy than raw bauxite aluminum
Getting Trashed: The Scale

Average waste per American, per day: **4.4 lbs**

NYC: **91,000 tons** residential waste...every week
400,000 tons

THAT'S THE AMOUNT OF RECYCLABLE PAPER PEOPLE IN NYC THROW AWAY EACH YEAR...
ENOUGH TO FILL THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!

40% of what we throw away in school is paper

What can we do better in the classroom?
Recycling Saves Your Money

Exporting Waste Costs NYC:

$300 Million

= Over 13,000 NYC students’ tuition to SUNY for all four years (...plus books)

= over 750,000 iPad 2’s
Trash goes to landfills

stats & facts
Trash Can Become Litter

stats & facts
Recycling Creates JOBS

stats & facts
NYC GREEN JOBS:
SIMS Municipal Recycling, BK

SIMS recycles metal, glass, plastic, cartons, and paper collected from schools & residences throughout NYC
NYC GREEN JOBS: Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, BK

Newtown Creek converts methane from Food Scraps into energy. Other commercial facilities turn organics into compost.
NYC Organics Collection Program

Creates compost for NYC trees, parks, and schools

stats & facts
Sort it Out: What to Recycle ...And how

Guidelines
Recycle paper **in Green**

Paper
Envelopes
Cardboard
Newspapers
Magazines

**Leave out:** tissues, napkins, paper with too much paint.

**Guidelines**
Don’t Trash It, Recycle It.

If you can rip it, you can recycle it.

Guidelines
Introducing...

Cafeteria Recycling & Food Scrap Collection
Guidelines
Please Empty Liquids First

- Please empty leftover milk, juice, water and soda into the bucket *before* recycling the container.

- Cartons are emptied and then placed in the BLUE Bin.
Guidelines
Recycle MGPC in Blue

Metal
Glass
Hard Plastic
Cartons

Leave out: soft plastic (plastic bags, chips wrappers, Capri Sun pouches)

Guidelines
Recycle in the **BLUE BIN**

- Take-out containers
- Plastic utensils
- Fruit & pudding cups
- Yogurt, dairy, deli & clamshell containers

All hard plastics in the **blue bin**

*Guidelines*
Recycle in the **BLUE BIN**

Anything Mostly Metal

Cans and foil in the **blue bin**

**Guidelines**
Guidelines
Remaining Trash Goes in the GRAY Landfill Bin

Guidelines
Landfill Bin: Soft plastic

Chip Bags
Candy wrappers
Plastic Bags
Zip Lock Bags
Capri Sun Pouches
Plastic wrap

Guidelines

Soft PLASTIC can be crumpled up in your fist. Plastic you can SMASH is TRASH
Guidelines
Add **All** Leftover Food Scraps to the **Brown Organics Bin**
Add **All** Food Soiled Paper to the **Brown Organics Bin**

- Compostable plates
- Napkins
- Paper cups, plates, boats
What happens to food scraps?

Creates compost for NYC trees, parks, and schools
Teach Recycling

For Community Service Credits

College Applications

Job Applications

Develop Real Skills!

Maintaining Habits
Recycling Resources

Recycling Champions Program
grownyc.org/rcp

NYC Dept. of Sanitation
2015 Golden Apple Awards
RRResource Guide
nyc.gov/recycle

DOE Sustainability Initiative
schools.nyc.gov/sustainability

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Thank You

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