

Recycling in Salem Public Schools

Why is recycling important?

Recycling is very important because we are all responsible for reducing our waste and reusing resources however we can. We received money from a highly competitive grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) and we've been working to implement it for the past year. We need your help to make sure the students understand how to recycled right!

What happens to recycling?

Recyclables arrive at the recycling plant and get separated into different categories - plastics, paper, cardboard, glass and metals (aluminum, tin) by different types of machinery. MA DEP has a waste ban which prohibits the disposal of all of these items, so the City could receive a fine if they are found in the trash!

Hard Plastics can become jackets and other types of cloth material as well as new plastics

Paper can become new paper, paper towels, and napkins

Aluminum is one of the most valuable materials to recycled because it can become new aluminum cans and be recycled indefinitely!



Plastic Bags and Wraps should NEVER go in your blue recycling bin because they get stuck in recycling machinery. The recycling plant needs to be shut down daily so workers can cut out this material by hand, which is very dangerous (seen in the photo below).

To recycle plastic bags, you can bring them to drop off bins at grocery stores, that look like the one in the photo below. Trex Decking processes the plastic bags differently so it can become decking material.





Food and Beverage Cans
empty and rinse



Bottles, Jars, Jugs and Tubs
empty and replace cap



Bottles and Jars
empty and rinse



Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Boxes
empty and flatten

NO!



Do Not Bag Recyclables
No Garbage



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap
(return to retail)



No Food or Liquid
(empty all containers)



No Clothing or Linens
(use donation programs)



No Tangles
(no hoses, wires, chains or electronics)



AN INITIATIVE OF
THE MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

RecycleSmartMA.org



@RecycleSmartMA



RecycleSmartMA



Recycle-Smart-MA

Useful Resources:

Recycle Smart MA – This website has all the state-wide recycling regulations as well as a Recyclopedia where you can search for an item and determine how to dispose of it. Visit <https://recyclesmartma.org/>

GreenSalem – This website is run by the Salem Recycles Committee and has more specific information about recycling in Salem. Visit <https://greensalem.com/>

Recycle Often, Recycle Right – This campaign run by Waste Management has informational videos that teach kids what recyclables can become as well as posters, guides and curriculum. Visit <https://recycleoftenrecycleright.com/resources/for-schools/>

For More Information, Please Contact:

Micaela Guglielmi, Waste Reduction Coordinator
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Micaela would be happy to send you even more resources, games and videos about recycling. She would also be willing to come into the classroom and do a quick lesson about recycling or a bean bag toss recycling game.

Funded by a grant
from MassDEP



RECYCLE



Empty bottles, cans and cartons.
All paper, cardboard, magazines and newspapers.

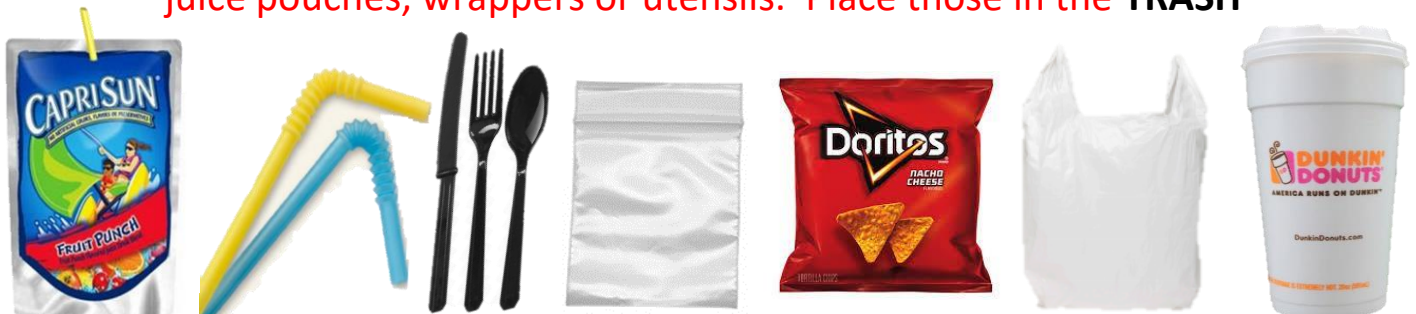
As of June 2018



DO NOT RECYCLE



NO liquids, styrofoam, plastic bags, paper towels/tissues, straws, juice pouches, wrappers or utensils. Place those in the **TRASH**





3-Year \$30,000 Grant from MA DEP to
Create Sustainable School Recycling Program
in the Salem Public Schools

Getting Results in School Year 2018-19

Custodians Report Drop in Trash Output

6% Increase in Recycling Output

2019	Recycling	23%	Trash	77%
2018	Recycling	17%	Trash	83%

Equipment Rollouts Complete!

- All Classrooms & Offices throughout the district have been fitted with brand new recycling bins as well as instructions on what paper, aluminum, plastic, and glass items may be deposited in the bins.
- Our new mantra is **"100% Clean Recycling"** district-wide. Eliminating recycle bin contamination helps to achieve that goal. Focus is on removing items that will "tangle" (ex: plastic bags) the single-stream separation process at the recycling facility and to keep liquids and foods out of the bins.
- In addition to classroom and office recycling equipment, the grant has funded large 96 Gallon "toters" that can be wheeled out to the recycling pickup location and lifted by the mechanical arm recycling truck. "96g Toters" are placed on every floor of all SPS schools. These may eventually eliminate the 10 yard recycling dumpsters at every school.

Student "Green Teams" -- Recycling Projects in School

Enrolling Student Teams in MA DEP's TheGreenTeam.org

- SPS Staff with Students from ages 3-22 have created Green Teams in all our schools. MA DEP Green Team projects connected with our grant are asked to focus on creating a sustainable school recycling program built into the school curriculum and culture. Check out this great program at TheGreenTeam.org.
- SPS Green Teams in every school are currently helping custodial staff achieve our goal of **100% Clean Recycling**. Student teams schedule times each week to "edit" the recycle bins in classrooms & offices to remove things that could make our recycling unmarketable.



**100% Clean
Recycling
in our Schools**



Salem High School Green Team in Action! (SHS Filmography Student Video)

- SPS Educator, Myra Caldeira, created a Vocational Skills Green Team work study program at Salem High School wherein students learn to "edit" recycle bins and record data on the number of edits made.
- This data is then handed off to a companion Green Team led by science educator, Graeme Marcoux. This team of students analyzes the data and reports trends to the Buildings & Grounds department.
- Based on the analysis presented, Buildings & Grounds, the lead school department for recycling innovation, can then prepare messaging for students /staff as well as make adjustments to the recycling program, as needed.

Please Don't Put these IN the BIN!



Check out these Cool Links!

www.recyclesmartma.org

Features "Recyclopedia" when you don't know if it can be recycled or not check with Recyclopedia!

www.greensalem.com

Salem MA's very own city guide "one stop shop" for reducing, reusing, recycling, in our community!

SALEM PREP HIGH SCHOOL GREEN TEAM NEWS

PRINCIPAL BRIAN EDMUNDS is really excited about Recycling Green Team at Salem Prep High School!!

- The SPS Green Team grant has been a positive addition to our current trash and recycle program. Salem Prep students have responded well.
- Our students do not hesitate to ask questions when they're unsure about whether an item is considered trash or recycling.
- With multiple posted resource materials and strategically placed bins, it's easier than ever for our students and staff to participate.
- *Best of all, Salem Prep has cut trash usage by approximately one-third.*