

## **FREE RECYCLING FOR SCHOOLS in SOCRRA**



SOCRRA, located in Oakland County, Michigan, the authority that handles recyclables and trash, is offering free recycling for schools located in one of our 12 member communities.

### **WHY RECYCLE?**

Recycling conserves natural resources and energy, creates jobs, and reduces waste. The majority of waste generated at schools is recyclable. Just think of all the paper that teachers, students and staff handle in one day! Having a successful recycling program not only helps the environment, but will substantially reduce the volume of trash generated by your school, helping your bottom-line. Recycling also provides students the opportunity to become responsible citizens of our communities, by reducing trash and litter, while recycling more!

### **HOW DOES THE RECYCLING PROGRAM WORK?**

- SOCRRA staff will visit your site to assist in setting up a program that will work for your location.
- Free recycling bins or carts provided by SOCRRA are placed at various locations throughout the building to make recycling as convenient as possible for staff and students.
- Empty recycling bins as needed, and store materials in SOCRRA provided bins, carts or in clear plastic bags.
- Once a week, set recyclable materials outside for collection in a designated area in provided bins. In some cases, the recyclables are collected by the same trucks that pickup from residential homes in the area.



Sample Bins & Carts

## **MATERIALS TO BE RECYCLED**

The school recycling program accepts and recycles all materials currently collected through the residential curbside program. This includes paper items such as newspapers, magazines, office paper, notebook paper, direct mail, shredded paper, etc. and beverage containers made of plastic, glass and aluminum. New items that are now accepted by SOCRRA as of July 2008 are empty paperboard beverage containers such as drink or juice boxes and milk cartons and green and blue glass bottles and jars.

## **HOW TO PREPARE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS**

Recyclables are collected in two separate groups: fiber items and container items. All types of paper can be recycled in the same container, whether it's office paper, notebook paper, newspapers or magazines. All colors of office paper are also acceptable as well as sticky notes, envelopes (with or without windows), and junk mail. To recycle shredded paper, please place in a clear plastic bag. In addition, we will accept cardboard boxes as long as they are flattened and smaller than 2' x 2' x 1'. Small boxes, such as small FedEx boxes can simply be placed into the plastic bags or in the provided recycling bins used for paper. Please include empty paperboard drink boxes and milk cartons with the PAPER recycling. You may want to consider placing paperboard containers in a clear plastic bag and then placing the bag into the PAPER cart.

Plastic, metal, and glass containers are also acceptable for recycling. Examples would be water bottles, iced tea cans, yogurt containers, clamshell containers used for take-out food, etc. Containers should be emptied and rinsed, if needed, to remove any food contamination.

## **TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS**

SOCRRA recommends using enough bins to make recycling very convenient for everyone. Ideally, recycling bins for paper would be located in each classroom, near all printers and copiers and where your mail is sorted and recycling bins for plastic, metal and glass containers would be located in your lunch room and teacher lounge areas.

Start your program with a great kick-off. This can be done through daily announcements, memos to teachers and staff, or even presentations. SOCRRA can provide signs, memos and information to assist you in getting the message out that your school recycles.

After your recycling program has been running for several months, we suggest that you perform a trash sort to determine how much recyclable material is being trashed. We would be glad to assist you with this. Conducting a trash sort is one of the best ways to determine how your recycling program is working. A trash sort it is not nearly as bad as it sounds!

## **WHO DO I CONTACT TO GET STARTED?**

If you have any questions about this program, please call SOCRRA at 248-288-5150 or e-mail us at [socrra@socrra.org](mailto:socrra@socrra.org). We work with schools located in our member communities, which are located in Oakland County, Michigan. We look forward to working with your school to establish a recycling program that meets your needs.

**NOW YOU CAN RECYCLE MORE!**

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### Paper Recyclables Examples



### Container Recyclables Examples

