



# YES! Project Guide

## CONTAINER RECYCLING

<b>Category: Waste Reduction</b>	
<b>Approximate Cost: \$500 +</b>	
<b>Desired Results</b>	
<b><i>Project Goal: To reduce the amount of recyclable materials that are sent to our landfills.</i></b>	
<p><b>UNDERSTANDINGS</b></p> <p>Students will understand the logic for not placing recyclable containers in landfills. - Discussion about the life of materials and environmental impacts of not recycling materials.</p> <p>How to educate others about the importance of recycling containers.</p> <p>How plastics and foreign materials adversely affect our environment.</p>	<p><b>ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>What is the importance of recycling materials?</p> <p>What environmental impact will this have globally?</p> <p>Why should we evaluate the efficiency of recycling these materials?</p> <p>What obvious impact will this have on our school?</p> <p>What unforeseen results may happen?</p>
<b><i>Knowledge and Skills Acquisition</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why it is important to recycle containers in their schools.</li> <li>● Global knowledge of purpose.</li> <li>● Environmental impacts of not recycling containers.</li> <li>● Students will know how to plan design and implement an actual system to recycle containers within a school setting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The ability to evaluate effective systems within the realm of recycling.</li> <li>● Understanding the need of proper channels.</li> <li>● Work effectively within a group to accomplish a task.</li> <li>● Effectively evaluate an implemented system and create improvement plan.</li> <li>● Presentation skills - presenting ideas to group and appropriate channels - administrative.</li> <li>● Research of possible solutions.</li> <li>● Student should be able to explain the reasons for recycling containers and have the ability to design a system to implement it.</li> </ul>

## Data

### Impact Evidence

Qualitative (observations and descriptive data):

What impact did you have - student survey.

Quantitative (numerical data):

Track waste hauled away per month and enter onto Customized Metric sheet

Students should be able to:

- Measure weight/volume of uncollected material pre project - record.
- Weigh materials collected in recycling containers.
- Material data could be kept by 9 week periods with biannual and annual totals.
- Compare amounts to pre project amounts.

## Timeline

1 month - ongoing

Design and plan - 2 weeks

Approval - varied

Implementation and signing - 1 day

Education of student body ongoing

Collection - ongoing

## Process

How much of our school waste includes recyclable containers - Evaluate existing systems for handling recyclable containers - bottles and cans.

Develop a plan to create or improve an existing system.

1. Where are the main areas of your school that you could place containers to effectively collect targeted materials - consult your facility management team (janitors).
2. Determine the number of collection sites necessary to accomplish the project.
3. Choose a container design to fit the need - <http://recycleminnesota.org/work/message-in-a-bottle/>
4. Cost materials for project. Procure funding.
5. Approve project with custodial staff and administration.
6. Order and place containers.
7. Design a collection system with dates and personnel listed for collecting and keeping data.
8. Implement plan.
9. Evaluate data.
10. Evaluate process and improve.
11. Report efficiency.

## Resources

<http://recycleminnesota.org/work/message-in-a-bottle/>

<http://www.bottlebill.org/about/benefits/waste.htm>

Y.E.S. Funding for seed projects

"The Story of Stuff" - video