



Suffolk County School Recycling Program

Why do we recycle?



It's the right thing to do.

It's the law.

It saves money, the environment & models good behavior.

Suffolk Share

- The 2017-18 Enacted New York State budget included the Countywide Shared Services Initiative.
- By implementing a Recycling Partnership Program in our schools, we are teaching a life lesson to our community. Students who recycle in their classrooms will likely become lifelong recyclers, bring this learning home and encourage family members and friends to recycle.

Implementation

- Identify a Recycling Coordinator



- The Recycling Coordinator will be the driver of the recycling initiative, championing its benefits and ensuring the program is executed effectively.

Operations

- All recycling containers **MUST BE PLACED RIGHT NEXT TO EXISTING TRASH CONTAINERS.**
- Recycling bins are located in every classroom, cafeteria & athletic field
- Place signs on the wall above each recycle bin.



- Materials that will be collected include:
 - Paper, newspaper, magazines
 - **EMPTY**, bottles, aluminum cans
 - Cardboard

Train Faculty, Staff & Students



- It is essential to train all staff, faculty and students in the building.
- Everyone must be shown how to separate waste so that only acceptable materials end up in the recycle bins.
- Incorporate waste reduction into training:
 - Encourage reusable bottles
 - Encourage reusable lunch containers
 - Use both sides of all paper in classrooms and offices
(set printers for double sided copies)
 - Reuse materials generated in the school

Promotion



- Promote through the school/district newsletters and website
- Promote the program during morning announcements
- Present program and follow up with results at School Board meetings

Weigh to Recycle



- The “Weigh to Recycle” Program offers the students the opportunity to perform much of the recycling themselves and allows them to measure the results of their success.
- One or two mornings a week should be designated as “Recycling Days”. On recycling days, the large blue flip top totes are placed by the custodial staff in central locations in each hallway.
- During morning announcements, one student from each homeroom/classroom will be asked to empty their classroom paper bin at that time. Students empty their classroom paper bin into the nearest tote.
- Students then pair up into teams and use the rollable totes to empty the remaining non-classroom locations.
- Within minutes the entire school is emptied by the students.
- The students then take the flip top totes to a designated area where the industrial scale is kept and weigh the paper.

Weigh to Recycle

Industrial Scale for "Weigh to Recycle" Program



Charting the Results -- paper



MONTHLY CHART EXAMPLE

ALL WEIGHTS ARE AFTER SUBTRACTING
THE WEIGHT OF THE FLIP TOP TOTE

ONE TON OF PAPER SAVES 17 TREES!

Over 7000 gallons of water

60 pounds of air pollution

Enough energy to power the average home for six months

Location	4/1	4/3	4/8	4/10	4/22	4/24	4/29	5/1	Total
1st Floor North	62	54	45	86	102	65	58	76	548
1st Floor South	49	68	96	53	82	72	43	82	545
1st Floor East	44	72	81	95	51	46	93	56	538
1st Floor West	77	83	44	39	92	37	63	55	490
2nd Floor North	67	56	58	37	93	48	82	39	480
2nd Floor South	37	89	98	78	79	56	67	74	578
2nd Floor East	84	75	67	87	76	77	56	87	609
2nd Floor West	94	47	46	67	95	36	67	76	528
Total lbs	514	544	535	542	670	437	529	545	4316

1 ton = 2000 lbs

The school was able to save 34 trees!

Charting the result -- bottles



- Take whatever bag you use in your bins and count the number of bottles that it takes to fill it 1x
- This will give you an good estimate for you to report totals.
- Keep track of your numbers each week and report them to the county at the end of the month to:

Kevin Butterfield

631.853.5698

Kevin.Butterfield@suffolkcountyny.gov

What is Recyclable?



PAPER

White Paper	Envelopes	Mail
Colored Paper	Index Cards	Books (Any hard covers must be removed)
Newspaper	Magazines	Tissue Paper
Construction Paper	Folders	Wrapping Paper
Shredded Paper	Catalogues	Cardboard (broken down/flattened)

PLASTIC/ALUMINUM MUST BE EMPTIED

Clear & Colored Bottles & Cans	Food Containers	Aerosol spray cans (empty & caps removed)
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What is Not-Recyclable?

PAPER

Paper Towels	Tissues	Laminated Paper
Paper Plates	Paper Cups	Paper with lots of Glue/tape
Wax Paper	Copy Paper Wrapper	Styrofoam
Juice Boxes	Milk Cartons	

PLASTIC/GLASS/ALUMINUM

Ceramics	Drinking Glasses	Plastic Bags
Glass Bottles		

Supplies



Every classroom & shared space will receive two recycling bins (High Schools will receive one) with specialized lids. All MUST be placed next to the waste bin.



Classroom & Shared Spaces Recycle Bin
23 Gallon & 16 Gallon for Pre-K – 1



Top for comingles, EMPTY plastic,
glass and aluminum



Top for Paper



Mixed recyclables top for High Schools

Supplies



Rolling bin for collection & weighing



Cafeteria Recycling Center



Outdoor Bin for Athletic Fields

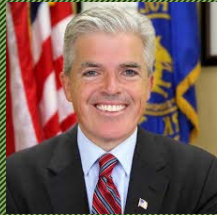
What Teachers & Staff can do:



- Keep garbage cans and recycle buckets next to each other. When receptacles are separated they will get a mixture of both garbage and recyclables.
- Be aware of what goes in your bin. If you see an item that does not belong, please take time to point it out to the students.
- Become familiar with what is and what isn't recyclable
- Model good recycling behavior for the students.

Special thanks to...

Suffolk County Executive



Steve Bellone

Brentwood Union Free School District

Elwood Union Free School District

Hampton Bays Public Schools

Middle Country Central School District

Remsenburg-Speonk Union Free School District

Quogue Union Free School District



Recycle These Items Only

1



Plastic

1 & 2 - RINSED

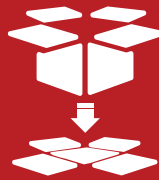
2



Tin & Aluminum

RINSED

3



Cardboard

FLATTEND

4



Paper

MAIL / NEWSPAPER /
MAGAZINES & OFFICE PAPER

5



Glass

CHECK WITH YOUR
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

6



**NO BAGS
Except**

SHREDDED PAPER THAT
CAN BE PLACED IN A CLEAR
PLASTIC BAG

Find out where to recycle or donate at suffolkrecyclesright.org or call 311

Thank you for Recycling Right!

RINSE & RECYCLE

REMEMBER -

Keep it loose and don't bag it, just rinse and recycle it.



Not on the list? Not in the bin!

To find out where to recycle or donate call 311

Thank you for Recycling Right!



COUNTY EXECUTIVE
STEVE BELLONE

SCHOOL RECYCLING MANUAL

2018



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ADVISORY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive
Jon Kaiman, Suffolk Deputy County Executive
Frances Reid, Recycling & Sustainability Consultant
Gilbert Anderson, Commissioner of Public Works
Ed Moltzen, Director of Shared Services
Jason Elan, Director of Communications
Craig P. Rhodes, Director, Buildings Operations & Maintenance
Nicole Duckham, Intergovernmental Relations
Scott Mastellon, Commissioner of Information Technology

WHY RECYCLE?

1-It's the law

¹Public and private schools, institutions of higher education and any other educational institutions in New York State are required to recycle materials collected in their local recycling program.

Each municipality was required by Chapter 70, Laws of New York 1988, to have a recycling law or ordinance requiring source separation of recyclables by September 1, 1992. The municipalities developed a recycling program that fit their needs and met the goals established by the State. Each municipality has established their own penalties or fines for those people who do not comply with the law.

According to our latest numbers, Long Island trucks as much as 5,000 tons of garbage off of Long Island each day. It's expensive, pollutes the air and batters our roads. In addition, when we landfill or incinerate our waste, the resources contained in those waste materials are no longer available to us in a useful form. Recycling has changed the way many of us view our solid waste. Instead of a useless "waste" we have come to realize that much of what we once threw away can be used again and again.

2- It saves money, the environment & models good behavior.

Recycling decreases the garbage we make, saves our natural resources, and lessens our need for energy and oil, which as a result decreases pollution and reduces our carbon footprint while saving taxpayer dollars.

Suffolk County Executive Bellone strongly believes schools are the perfect venue to initiate a meaningful, doable and measurable recycling partnership program for the community for several reasons.

- a. The lessons that would be taught to the students in the community would have an impact for future generations.
- b. There are vast amounts of paper and plastic generated from schools that are going into the waste streams
- c. There will be long term taxpayer savings by reducing the amount of garbage for disposal.

¹ <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8803.html>

3- Suffolk Share

²The 2017-18 Enacted New York State budget included the Countywide Shared Services Initiative, which established a Shared Services Panel in each county in New York State.

County Executive Bellone has fully embraced the Shared Services Initiative and has assembled a team of seasoned government experts to work with our municipal partners to develop Suffolk County's Shared Service Property Tax Savings Plan which includes the School Recycling Program.

By implementing a Recycling Partnership Program in our schools, we are teaching a life lesson to our community. Students who recycle in their classrooms will likely become lifelong recyclers, bring this learning home and encourage family members and friends to recycle.

² <https://www.ny.gov/programs/shared-services-initiative>

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

In order to start a successful recycling program, it's critical to implement the following guidelines:

1- Build support for the recycling program

- a. **Identify a Recycling Coordinator:** This person does not have to be the one to carry out the entire program outlined in this manual but should serve as the point of contact and organizer in charge of arranging that all steps are taken. The Recycling Coordinator will be the driver of the recycling initiative, championing its benefits and ensuring the program is executed effectively.
- b. **Form a Recycling Team:** Suggested stakeholders for the team should include:
 - 1- A representative from school administration
 - 2- A representative from the custodial/facilities dept.
 - 3- A representative from the school's *Green Team* and/or Student Council

2- Program Operations

a. Collection points inside and outside of school

- 1- For maximum diversion and minimum contamination, recycling containers **MUST BE PLACED RIGHT NEXT TO EXISTING TRASH CONTAINERS.**
- 2- Receptacles are located in every classroom, office, shared space, cafeteria & athletic field
- 3- Place signs on the wall (see pages 15 & 16) above each recycle bin.
- 4- Materials that would be collected include:
 - I. Paper, newspaper, magazines
 - II. **EMPTY**, bottles, aluminum cans, glass
 - III. Cardboard

3- Program Implementation

- a. **Train Faculty, Staff & Students:** It is essential to train all staff, faculty and students in the building.
 - 1- Emphasize that the recycling program is not generating any additional work or waste. It's just putting the recyclable waste in a different container.
 - 2- Everyone must be shown how to separate waste so that only acceptable materials (see list on page 6 & 7) end up in the recycle bins.

- 3- They must be instructed to empty the contents of all containers before they are recycled.
- 4- Training may occur in:
 - I. School wide assemblies
 - II. Classroom presentations
 - III. Student made videos
 - IV. Morning announcements
 - V. School digital message boards
 - VI. Empower everyone by emphasizing the environmental and community benefits they are helping to achieve.
 - VII. Incorporate waste reduction into training:
 - a. Encourage reusable bottles
 - b. Encourage reusable lunch containers
 - c. Use both sides of all paper in classrooms and offices (set printers for double sided copies)
 - d. Reuse materials generated in the school

b. Promotion

- 1- Now that you have implemented this critical program it is essential that you promote your hard work and results:
 - I. Promote through the school/district newsletters and website
 - II. Promote the program during morning announcements
 - III. Present program and follow up with results at School Board meetings
 - IV. Within the school community and through Suffolk County maintain enthusiasm for recycling with ceremonies and awards.

c. Track Your Results

- 1- If you are participating in the “Weigh to Recycle”(see pages 13 & 14) Program, you will be weighing your paper and charting your progress. You will report this information to a representative at Suffolk County and disseminating to the school community.
- 2- Because recyclables are now being diverted from the trash, the school should be able to either reduce the frequency of trash pickup or dumpster volume, saving money and your carbon footprint.

WHAT IS RECYCLABLE?

PAPER **RECYCLABLE**

White Paper Colored Paper	Envelopes Index Cards	Mail Books (Any hard covers must be removed)
Newspaper Construction Paper Shredded Paper (in a clear plastic bag)	Magazines Folders Catalogues	Tissue Paper Wrapping Paper Cardboard (broken down/flattened)

PLASTIC/ALUMINUM **MUST BE RINSED & EMPTIED**

Clear & Colored Bottles & Cans	Food Containers	Aerosol spray cans (empty & caps removed)
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WHAT IS NOT-RECYCLABLE?

PAPER **NON-RECYCLABLE**

Paper Towels Paper Plates	Tissues Paper Cups	Laminated Paper Paper with lots of Glue/tape
Wax Paper Juice Boxes	Copy Paper Wrapper Milk Cartons	Styrofoam

PLASTIC/GLASS/ALUMINUM **NON-RECYCLABLE**

Ceramics Glass Bottles	Drinking Glasses	Plastic Bags
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PROGRAM SUPPLIES

1- Elementary and Middle Schools

- a. Every classroom, shared space and office will receive two recycling bins with specialized lids. One for paper and one for comingles (**EMPTY** plastic, glass and aluminum).
- b. Each building will be supplied with one industrial scale to participate in the “Weigh to Recycle” Program and measure the results of their success.

2- High Schools

- a. Every classroom, shared space and office will receive one recycle bin with a specialized lid for all mixed recyclables including paper, plastic, glass and aluminum.

3- All Buildings

- a. The custodial staff of each building will receive 50 gallon rolling bins to collect the recyclables.
- b. Each cafeteria will receive a recycling center
- c. Outdoor bins will be supplied for athletic fields.
- d. An additional dumpster will be supplied for each school by the carter.



Classroom, Shared Spaces and Office Recycle Bin

23 Gallon & 16 Gallon for Pre-K – 2



Top for comingles, EMPTY plastic, glass and aluminum



Top for paper



Mixed recyclables top for High Schools



50 Gallon Rolling Bin



Cafeteria Recycling Center



Outdoor Bin for Athletic Fields



Industrial Scale for “Weigh to Recycle” Program

WEIGH TO RECYCLE – ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS

1- **The “Weigh to Recycle” Program:** offers the students the opportunity to perform much of the recycling themselves and allows them to measure the results of their success.

a. **Paper**

- i.* Blue paper recycling buckets are placed in all classrooms, learning centers and offices next to the garbage bin in each building.
- ii.* One or two mornings a week should be designated as “Recycling Days”. On recycling days, the large blue flip top totes are placed by the custodial staff in central locations in each hallway.
- iii.* During morning announcements, one student from each homeroom/classroom will be asked to empty their classroom paper bin at that time. Students empty their classroom paper bin into the nearest tote.
- iv.* Students then pair up into teams and use the rollable totes to empty the remaining non-classroom locations.
- v.* Within minutes the entire school is emptied by the students. The students then take the flip top totes to a designated area where the industrial scale is kept and weigh the paper.
- vi.* The students keep track of the amount of paper that is recycled in the building using a chart. Students log the data down each time they do the recycling collection.

b. **Bottles**

- i.* One time only the custodian should take the plastic bag that they regularly use & count how many bottles fill the bag. After that is determined the custodian will report how many bags they collect each week to the “Recycling Coordinator”.
- c. At the end of the month, students announce the amount of paper that was recycled and the environmental benefit derived from their recycling efforts.
- d. There should be a large display in the building in a place that the whole school can see.
- e. Results must be reported to Suffolk County once a month to:
 - i.* Stephanie Selter
stephanie.selter@suffolkcountyny.gov
631-853-4018

2- **What Teachers and Staff Can Do:**

- a. Keep garbage cans and recycle buckets next to each other. When receptacles are separated they will get a mixture of both garbage and recyclables.
- b. Be aware of what goes in your bin. If you see an item that does not belong, please take time to point it out to the students.
- c. Become familiar with what is and what isn’t recyclable (see page 6 & 7).
- d. Model good recycling behavior for the students

MONTHLY CHART EXAMPLE

APRIL 2018

ALL WEIGHTS ARE AFTER SUBTRACTING
THE WEIGHT OF THE FLIP TOP TOTE

ONE TON OF PAPER SAVES 17 TREES!

Over 7000 gallons of water
60 pounds of air pollution
Enough energy to power the average home for six months

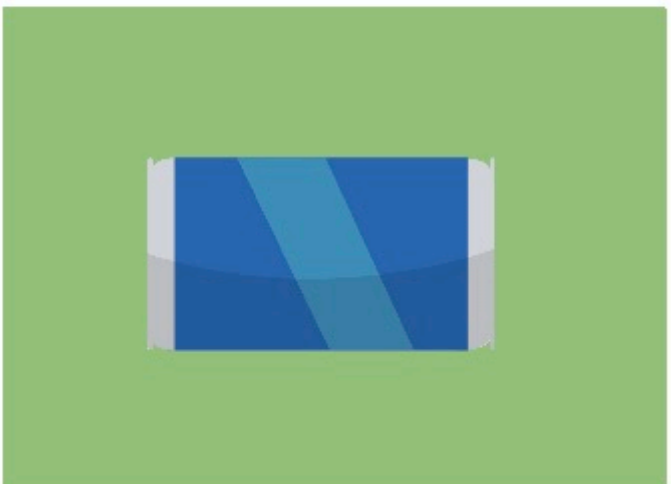
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Total lbs.	514	544	535	542	670	437	529	545	4316

1 ton = 2000 lbs.

This school would be proud to report that through the hard work and the partnership of the students and Suffolk County they were able to save 34 trees in one month!



PAPER ONLY. NO TRASH.



**EMPTIED OR RINSED GLASS,
PLASTIC AND ALUMINUM ONLY.
NO TRASH.**



Suffolk county Executive Bellone Announces Launch of Suffolk School Recycling Program

26 September 2018 Number of views: 777 Categories: County Executive

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2018

Contact: County Executive Press Office

(631) 853-4000 | Press.Office@suffolkcountyny.gov

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF SUFFOLK SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM

Nearly 6,000 Students to Participate in Initial Phase of Program

Suffolk County to Deploy Approximately 1,000 Recycle Bins to 11 Schools

[View Photos and School Recycling Bins Here](#)

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone today launched the first of its kind Suffolk School Recycling Program, a partnership between Suffolk County and six school districts that will help schools meet their New York State recycling mandate, save taxpayer dollars and teach students, faculty and the community to become stewards of the environment. Suffolk County will deploy approximately 1,000 recycle bins to 11 schools, enabling nearly 6,000 students to participate in the program.

“The School Recycling Pilot Program is the latest innovation for how municipalities can work together to reduce their carbon footprint,” **said County Executive Bellone.** “I want to thank our school district superintendents and Winter Brothers for their willingness to participate in this groundbreaking program and bring these best practices into the classroom.”

Under the program, schools will be able to reduce the frequency of trash pickup and dumpster volume while diverting more recyclables from entering into the trash. With the potential of thousands of students learning the importance of recycling and engaging in the process themselves, this will prevent vast amounts of paper and plastic that are generated from schools from ending up in waste streams. Based on its own analysis, Suffolk County will initially tap into 5,798 students with the launch of the pilot program, utilizing them as a resource to recycle in the classroom.

Suffolk County anticipates working with more school districts in the near future to rollout the recycling program on a full scale. Those who participate will be required to sign an inter-municipal agreement

that clarifies the respective roles and responsibilities of the various municipal partners. The initial school districts participating in the pilot include:

- Elwood School District
- Brentwood School District
- Hampton Bays School District
- Remsenburg-Speonk School District
- Middle Country School District
- Quogue School District

Program Supplies

Each school will receive two recycling bins in each classroom, office, cafeteria, and athletic field, along with scales that will allow the students to measure recycled materials and report on environmental impact.

Elementary and Middle Schools

Every classroom, shared space and office will receive two recycling bins with specialized lids, with one for paper and one for comingles such as empty plastic, glass and aluminum. Each building will be supplied with one industrial scale to participation the "Weigh to Recycle Program and measure the results of their success.

High Schools

Every classroom, shared space and office will receive on recycle bin with a specialized lid for all mixed recyclables including paper, plastic, glass and aluminum.

All Buildings

The custodial staff of each building will receive 50 gallon rolling bins to collect the recyclables. Each cafeteria will receive a recycling center, outdoor bins will be supplied for athletic fields, and an additional dumpster will be supplied for each school by the carter.

School Recycling Manual

Suffolk County will provide participating school districts with a School Recycling Manual, which will serve as a guide for the schools in understanding the various aspects of the program including the process of recycling, the program implementation, items that are considered recyclable and non-recyclable, program supplies and many more. The manual will contain a voluntary curriculum of educational components that are related to real-life application, including math, science and civics lessons.

The program also includes a *Weigh to Recycle* component that offers students the opportunity to perform much of the recycling themselves and allow them to measure their results. Each week, students will be encouraged to help empty their classroom paper bin and bring the materials to a designated area

where it can be weighed on an industrial scale. The students will be able to keep track of the amount of paper that is recycled in the building, log the data, and at the end of the month announce the amount of paper that was recycled and the environmental benefit in quantifiable terms.

The New York State Shared Services Initiative signed into law by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo allows participating municipalities and school districts to be eligible for state matching funds for savings achieved through cooperative efforts. Suffolk County is currently working on a number of programs with towns, villages and school districts in a plan that was approved unanimously by municipal leaders last year. Matching funds will be applied for in conjunction with the Shared Services Initiative as well as efforts to obtain recycling grants from New York State.

The Suffolk School Recycling Program is modeled off of the award-winning Town of North Hempstead School Recycling Partnership Program. The initiative was launched in 2008 under then-North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman, in which the Town distributed recycling bins to every single classroom and office in each of its participating 11 school districts. To date, more than 46,000 students have participated in the program. The Town was the recipient of the New York State Environmental Excellence Award in 2009 in recognition of the program's success.

Lars Clemensen, Superintendent Hampton Bays School District, said: "The Suffolk County School Recycling Pilot is a win for us on a number of levels. In the most practical sense, we are recycling and positively contributing to our environment. In another, we are empowering our students to be the leaders and learners; it will be them who change societal behaviors in a positive way. And finally, a shared service between local governments like schools and the county, help benefit taxpayers and improve service and efficiency. We are proud to participate and thank the County Executive for his leadership in this area."

Dr. Roberta Gerold, Superintendent Middle Country School District, said: "Middle Country's elementary school students, including our kindergarteners, are thrilled to be a part of the Suffolk County School Recycling Pilot Program. They are researchers in training...and will discover, through active participation in the collection and weighing of recyclables, analysis of materials and debate on the value of recycling, how to be proactive, productive, environmentally sensitive consumers. We thank the County for allowing our students this most wonderful opportunity!"

Dr. Kenneth Bossert Superintendent Elwood School District, said: "This program will give students the opportunity to develop sound practices that demonstrate the importance of respecting our environment. We are hopeful that these positive habits become lifelong practices to benefit our community for generations to come."

Dr. Ron Masera, Superintendent Remsenburg-Speonk School District, said: "The Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD is excited to partner with Suffolk County in the School Recycling Program. Our District

places a priority on educating students, not just in the academic areas, but as contributing members of a global society. The recycling program supports a cleaner environment, reinforces our mission of promoting social responsibility, and enables our students to participate in hands-on activities that will enhance our curriculum and make the learning highly relevant for our students.”

Fran Reid, Recycling & Sustainability Consultant, said: “Many thanks to County Executive Steve Bellone, participating school districts & Winter Brothers. By implementing a School Recycling Partnership Program in our schools we are teaching a life lesson to our community. Students who recycle in their classrooms will become lifelong recyclers, bring this learning home and encourage family members and friends to recycle.”

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said: “Schools must be engaged in recycling to help Long Island ward off a pending solid waste management crisis. Long Island must do better with regards to recycling and we can achieve greater recycling success with important programs like this one. Kudos to Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone for getting this started. We hope this program succeeds and grows.”

###



<https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/News/suffolk-county-executive-bellone-announces-launch-of-suffolk-school-recycling-program>

Suffolk County School Recycling Program Brief

¹Public and private schools, institutions of higher education and any other educational institutions in New York State are required to recycle materials collected in their local recycling program. Unfortunately most schools do not recycle and there is very little enforcement.

Recycling decreases the garbage we make, saves our natural resources, and lessens our need for energy and oil, which as a result decreases pollution and reduces our carbon footprint while saving taxpayer dollars.

Suffolk County Executive Bellone strongly believes schools are the perfect venue to initiate a meaningful, doable and measurable recycling partnership program for the community for several reasons.

- a. The lessons that would be taught to the students in the community would have an impact for future generations.
- b. There are vast amounts of paper and plastic generated from schools that are going into the waste streams
- c. There will be long term taxpayer savings by reducing the amount of garbage for disposal.

It was determined that The Suffolk County School Recycling Program initiative was to be executed through the Shared Services Department. County Executive Bellone has fully embraced the Shared Services Initiative and has assembled a team of seasoned government experts to work with our municipal partners to develop Suffolk County's Shared Service Property Tax Savings Plan which includes the School Recycling Program.

By implementing a Recycling Partnership Program in our schools, we are teaching a life lesson to our community. Students who recycle in their classrooms will likely become lifelong recyclers, bring this learning home and encourage family members and friends to recycle.

The program began with a kickoff press conference with County Executive Steve Bellone and the School Superintendents from 6 participating school districts which are Brentwood, Elwood, Middle Country, Hampton Bays, Quogue & Remsenburg-Speonk.

¹ <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8803.html>



Suffolk County purchased 2 bins for every classroom, cafeteria, shared space and athletic field. Each bin has a specialized lid, one for paper & one for bottles. In addition, each building received an industrial scale and roll top totes for collection so that the students are responsible for the collection and weighing the results of their efforts. They then report these numbers to a representative at Suffolk County who tracks the progress of each building and calculates the energy savings.

A recycling coordinator visited each school when the program was implemented to educate the students and the faculty on the program. This program is based on the DEC Environmental Excellence Award winning program from The Town of North Hempstead. Our coordinator developed and implemented that program. She continues to visit the schools on a regular basis to assist the schools with any questions or needs that they may have.

County Executive Steve Bellone attended kickoff assemblies in each building. In 2019 he visited each school again for Earth Day to join the students on the day that they collect and weigh the recyclables.

Suffolk County is committed to expanding this program. We have applied to NYS for a recycling supply grant and have invited the schools to join at their own expense. They can purchase the bins on our Shared Services Contract and we will implement the program and track the progress. Our goal is to have the program in all 69 school districts.

“Suffolk Recycles Right” Initiative

Chronic messaging confusion has led residents to throw tons of garbage in their recycle bins. This coupled with the conversion to single stream recycling has led to contamination that has crippled the economics of recycling.

China, which used to purchase a third of U.S. recycling, enacted the Green Fence Policy in 2013 warning the U.S. to clean up the recyclables. Without seeing improvements with the contamination levels, in January 2018 China announced the Green Sword Policy banning the purchase of most U.S. recyclables due to the contamination.

By creating a coordinated clear educational campaign sending one uniformed message for all of Suffolk County will impact and lower the contamination rate for the entire county. By including the towns, villages and schools we send one united message. “Suffolk Recycles Right”.



This initiative focuses on educational outreach to both reduce solid waste and contamination on how to “Recycle Right”. Before we developed the entire “Recycle Right” material we met several times with a committee that consists of our towns, villages & local carters. We developed an entire campaign that includes an app that will have a “Recyclopedia” will promotes secondary materials to further reduce the solid waste stream to educate the community on the proper disposal and/or donation of trash. We are educating the public through a simple clear unified message through social media, press, web sites, community events, etc. We have already begun to educate the towns to simplify the message. In addition, we have the Suffolk County School Recycling Program where the students are already in charge of the collection and weighing of the recycling in their buildings. We can send the information, posters, flyers etc to our 69 school districts and our best ambassadors – the students will spread the word to their friends, family & neighbors.

WISHCYCLING

STOP WISHCYCLING!

Putting the wrong items in your recycling bin does more harm than good.



Not on the list? Not in the bin!

To find out where to recycle or donate call 311

Thank you for Recycling Right!