

Intro

- Hello! My name is _____, this is __, and we are members of the _____, a club dedicated to helping students, staff, and teachers recycle in our schools. First off, I'd to go over WHY we need to recycle. Fairly recently the state commenced the California's 75 percent Initiative (through enactment of AB 341). Briefly, the law establishes a policy goal for California that states not less than 75% of the solid waste generated be source-reduced, recycled or composted by 2020. One avenue to meet this goal is to remove organic material from the waste stream and the City of Davis is going to do this with the new organics program starting May of 2016. Soon all businesses in Davis, including schools, will be required to sort or they could be fined! So, we are here today to explain, clarify, and help facilitate recycling in our school.
- Recycling is important for many reasons. Here are a few that are specific to (school name)
 - Teaches students, staff, and teachers to be good stewards of the environment
 - Recycling paper, cardboard, hard plastic, glass, and cans is free. Removing them from our waste stream cuts down on our trash.
 - Trash pickup is expensive, as DWR charges about \$300-\$600 per month depending on the size of the dumpster. By promoting a recycling and compost program, schools can save hundreds of dollars each month by reducing the amount of trash removed from campus.
 - The compost program fee is \$150 per month, but the school is partly reimbursed as Napa Recycling gives the school gardens free compost. The fee for compost will significantly decrease when the City of Davis begins its Organics Program in May, 2016. (not official-first cart free and second about \$24)

Recycling Bins

- At (school name), we use a five bin recycling station outdoors--no trash can should stand alone: We have a red container for food waste, a grey cart for plastics (blue bins in the classroom), a green cart for paper, a small blue container for CRV, and - finally - a metal can for trash. We would like teachers to create recycling stations in their classrooms as well because we feel strongly that no trash container should stand alone. There should be a blue bin and paper bin placed next to the trash can.

It's important that students and staff do not contaminate the bins for two reasons.

- 1) Nobody has time or wants to decontaminate the bins.
- 2) If the carts are contaminated by 25%, the custodian will throw the entire contents of the recycling bin into the trash. And, if the custodian doesn't throw it away, the recycling facility might. They can also start refusing to take our recyclables or fine us for noncompliance. This is why we need to start sorting properly! Also, we recently learned that recyclables thrown in the trash are not recovered at the landfill. Sadly, no landfill employees sort out recyclables.

Slow down here so that your audience can absorb the information

• food waste

- Yes - all food waste including meat, bones, fat & grease, food-soiled paper such as napkins, paper towels—even restroom paper towels, waxed paper, paper take-out containers, paper cups and school milk and juice containers.

Yard clippings/debris can also be placed in the food waste carts but we generate so much food waste (mainly soiled cardboard) the space is needed for lunch waste. Therefore, yard waste should be put out on the curb.

- We don't want plastic bags, plastic wrap, straws, Styrofoam, foil, or cat or dog waste. And, no juice bags, juices boxes, or Capri Sun pouches.
- We also don't want glass, any plastic or plastic coated items placed in this bin. As you can image, glass and plastic are pollutants. Nobody wants them in their garden. Most of the compost generated from our waste goes to the almond growers in our area. It comes back to you!
- Further, there are better choices for clean paper and cardboard. They should go in the green paper bin and large cardboard boxes should go in the cardboard dumpster.
- Remember, there is limited space in the compost bins.

• Paper

- Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, white or colored paper, shredded paper, small boxes that have been broken down, phone books or other soft covered books, and notebooks (spiral removed)...Staples and glassine windows are ok. Hard covered books (textbooks) require the cover to be removed and thrown in the trash. Jennifer Gilbert, City of Davis Conservation Coordinator, is trying to find a better option for recycling textbooks.
- Not acceptable - greasy paper, milk/juice cartons, paper towels, napkins and tissue (the fibers are too small), photo paper, paper clips, packing material, waxed paper or waxed cardboard.
- Anything that is not paper.

• Rigid plastic, cans, glass

- Let's start with **plastics** - all rigid plastic #1-#7 as well as other hard plastics without a number (the number was meant to be a logo so the absence of the number doesn't mean it is not recyclable), all plastic bottles and cups, clamshell trays, and deli containers. The containers should be empty. Please throw the left-over food in the compost!
- No Styrofoam, plastic bags, film or wrap—but **you** can recycle clean plastic bags at supermarkets and large retailers.
- **Glass**- all colored glass bottles and jars that are empty and the cap and lids removed. We should not have much of this because glass beverage containers are not allowed at school.

- No mirrors, light bulbs (lamps or tubes), ceramics, window glass, Pyrex, or porcelain
- **Cans**- empty aluminum, tin & steel cans, clean aluminum pans & foil, jar lids and *empty* aerosol cans
- No juice pouches, juice boxes, fake foil wrappers (show one), pots or pans, electronic equipment or scrap metal. And, CRV should be put in the CRV container.

• CRV

- Anything with a California Redemption Value label – CRV on the label
- If you aren't sure, look closely at the label. Typically milk and some plastic juice bottles are not CRV items.
- As you may be aware--there is a no glass on campus policy but sometimes students, staff and teachers bring drinks in glass bottles. Glass bottles **should not** be placed in the CRV carts because the risk of injury to volunteer collectors is too great. We found that breakage occurs when students place the bag on the ground when collecting the CRV. Glass should be placed in the grey rigid plastic cart and should not be removed.
- Where does the CRV go? Student groups can be responsible to collecting CRV and taking it to DWR to claim the redemption money. At some schools the redemption money has been used to start and maintain the recycling program, to purchase thank you cards and gifts, and for prizes for recycling education games.

| TRASH IS LAST

- Trash-- Styrofoam, plastic bags, or plastic film or wrap, Ziploc bags, Capri Suns, candy wrappers, ceramics, porcelain, & photo paper,
- if everything is recycled properly, should be nothing left for trash

Hazardous items

- There is a battery box in the office for batteries used on campus
- And, appliances, fluorescent light bulbs, electronic devices, and computers are handled according to district policy. They should not be put in the dumpster

What can you do to help?

- **We need you** to help students start the school year right!
- **Encourage** a positive school recycling climate
- **Maintain** the classroom recycling containers weekly or more often if the containers are getting contaminated or are overflowing--when student leave to empty the blue classroom bin ask them to separate out the CRV and place it in the small blue container. Last year several classrooms had impeccably managed indoor recycling stations so we know it's possible---(Shout out to some of the best?)
- **Help students** sort properly the first few days of school (no contamination) by coming out to the lunch area and standing by the recycling station. Helping students learn to sort is a great way to meet and greet and hear what is going on in your student's lives. Bring out a chair if you like and ask a co-worker to join you.

- **Have your class or club adopt a station** for a week, month, or the entire year. Use the snack period or other time to keep it contamination-free. The most effective time is after lunch, but any time will teach students the importance of sorting right. Students may enjoy “customizing” the station (make signs, name it, advertise your club)
- **Be a good role model**...it all starts in the classroom. You set the tone for the campus. And students watch what you do and what you say. We want to build a positive school recycling climate.
- **Movie Day-** Davis Farm to School and the Davis public library have the movie **“Bag It” Is your life too plastic?** It is an informative movie about the impact of plastic in the environment.
- **Jennifer Gilbert**, City of Davis Conservation Coordinator, is willing to give free recycling presentations at schools, either in individual classrooms or an all school assembly. Please consider this and take initiative to arrange it.

Thank you so much for your time and support.