




TAKE ACTION – WASTE ACTION PROJECTS

RECYCLING - PLASTIC, GLASS AND METALS

What can be recycled?

NB: Check your local council website for which items are recyclable in your area



Plastics with these symbols  can go into your recycling bin. The symbols are usually located underneath the item. Check the lids too. If there is no symbol or the number is 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 then the plastic can't be recycled in the Wellington region.



Left: Number one symbol on base of plastic container

Plastic bags can also be recycled by certain contractors. Check with your contractor to check if they can take plastic bags.



Glass Coloured and clear glass can be recycled. All colours can go into your bin. However, mirror glass, window glass, pyrex and arcoroc glasses are not recyclable.



Aluminium, tin and steel cans including steel spray cans, and tins made of these metals can be recycled.

Rinse the items clean before recycling.

Check with your contractor or district council if you are not sure about what you can and can't recycle.

See www.gw.govt.nz/takeaction/districtcouncilcontacts to organise your school collection

How do we recycle if there is no collection in our area?

If you do not have kerbside recycling in your district there will be recycling facilities provided at recycling stations. Recycling stations are usually located at landfills or near shopping areas. They will display details about what can be recycled there.

Take your recycling to these stations regularly.

How will we collect our recycling?

Collect recycling in a robust container. Most district councils provide free small kerbside recycling bins to schools. Make recycling bins accessible to children during eating times when they are most likely to need the bins. You will find that the staff will produce most of the plastic, metals and glass waste. Make sure that you have a recycling bin in the staffroom.

As well as collecting bins you will need something for the recycling to be stored in before collection eg, wheelie bin. Contractors can provide wheelie bins for storage and to use when they pick up the recycling.

Decide where you will store your recycling bins. Consider locking them away at night- they can be a target for vandals.



Above: Fernridge school's recycling collection bins in the lunch eating area
Bins from left: food scraps bin, reusables, recyclable plastics, paper

How do we start recycling?

Make sure that you have several staff involved in the maintenance of your recycling systems. This will ensure that they keep going for the long term. Tell people about the scheme before it starts.

Do a waste audit to find the volume of recycling produced at your school daily. Most recycling will come from the staffroom, so include these in your collection. This will give you information about how much recycling volume you will have per week. Then you can organise the appropriate bins and equipment.

Will you need a wheelie bin?

This will depend on how much recycling you have per week. If you fill more than two kerbside bins with your weekly recycling you will need a large wheelie bin or similar.

If the recycling fits into several kerbside bins, put these out for weekly collection at the same time as your rubbish.

Contact your district council waste representative. See www.gw.govt.nz/takeaction/districtcouncilcontacts to obtain kerbside recycling bins (if available). Let the contact person or your contractor know when you will start putting out bins for the weekly kerbside collection.

Decide where your recycling collection points will be. How many bins will you need? You may want to put one recycling bin in each lunch area and one in the staffroom.

Need a wheelie bin? Contact one of the recycling contractors above to organise a bin and collection service. This will involve a monthly fee. The fee usually includes hireage of the wheelie bin and weekly collection of your recycling.

How do we tell the school about our new recycling scheme?

Let everyone in the school know about the new recycling scheme! You could make posters, have presentations at assembly and write articles in school newsletters or for local newspapers.

Right: Douglas Park school uses recycling bins in each classroom to collect paper, plastics and cans. It is sorted by monitors before recycling at transfer stations.



Who will be responsible for putting out the recycling bins each day?

You may need a roster system for this. It could be a different class every term or the same people every day- you may need to experiment with different systems to find what works best for your school. You will also need people to bring the bins in and empty them into the storage bin

The bins will need regular cleaning so make sure you designate someone to be responsible for this. Remember to keep educating the whole school about your new recycling systems. People will need regular reminding about what to do with their waste.

Make an adult responsible for putting out the weekly collection bin for the contractor to pick up.



Right: Muritai school's recycling bin

Who are the recycling contractors?

There are three major recycling contractors in the Wellington region: All Brite, Full Circle and Waste Management. These contractors recycle paper and cardboard as well as plastic, glass and metals.

They can help you work out what kind of collecting bins you will need and which collection service is best for your school.

All Brite Industries Ltd

0508 732 925 or (04) 568 5521

Contact person:

Leanne Pelabon

leanne.p@brite.co.nz

Full Circle Ltd

Freephone 0800 RECYCLE

www.fullcircle.org.nz

Contact: Wellington office (04) 568 5848

Waste Management

97-99 Port Rd, Seaview, Lower Hutt

0800 697 329

Contact: Wellington office (04) 568 3550

www.wastemanagement.co.nz

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

www.gw.govt.nz/takeaction/waste

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