



# Your Guide to Successful Waste Reduction and Recycling in School

## Recycling in the Classroom

Here at GSI, we want to ensure area schools continue to recycle quality paper and beverage containers in the classroom. As a result of COVID-19 and new rules requiring students to eat breakfast and lunch in the classroom, the direct impact is more waste will be generated. Recycling is an easy way to provide enrichment activities for students to learn how to become stewards of the earth, understand the connection between natural resources and waste, as well as preserve valuable natural resources.

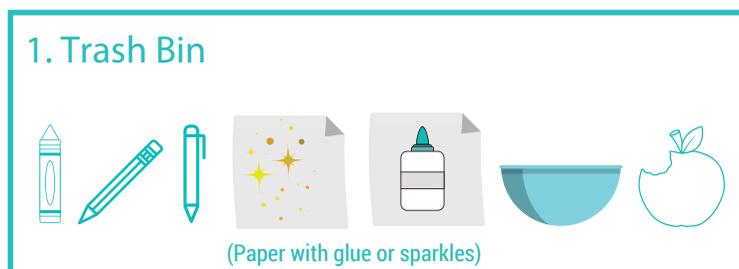
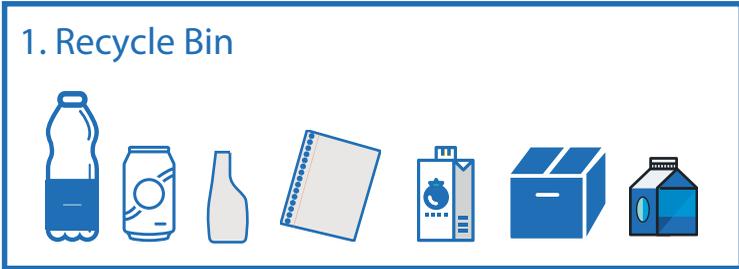


## Set-up your classroom recycling program to capture both academic and lunchtime waste.

### What you will need:



### What goes in each bin?



### Classroom set-up:



For more detailed information refer to the GSI recycle guide and the GSI trash guide.

### Prepare:

- 1) Line both trash and recycling cans with trash liners to keep bins from getting dirty and needing to be cleaned more often. (Pro Tip: Leave extra liners in the bottom of the bin to easily grab and install when needed)
- 2) Use the sink by encouraging students to drain liquids from milk cartons and other beverage containers, when ever possible, before recycling them. If you cannot drain the liquids, please put the containers in the trash.



### Emptying bins:

- Remove trash and recycling nightly.
- Bag and tie trash bags from each classroom, and place into the hallway collection bin that will go outside to the dumpster.
- Dump recycling out of the classroom recycle bin into a larger recycle cart. Recycling must always be loose! Leave the liner inside of the recycle bin to be used again.

**Set-up a system for lunch:** When students are done eating, have them complete the following tasks:

**1**



**Drain:** Go to sink/bucket to dump liquids

**2**



**Trash:** All food, wrappers, napkins and disposable plates/trays

**3**



**Recycle:** Emptied beverage containers

## The Why in Recycling

Recycling a Ton of the Items Below Is Equivalent to Saving:



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- 5,774 kWh of electricity
- 16.3 barrels of oil
- 30 cubic yards of landfill space.



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- 7,000 gallons of water
- 17-31 trees
- 4,000 kWh of electricity
- 60 lbs of air pollutants



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- 95% energy savings
- 14,000 kWh of electricity
- 40 barrels of oil
- 10 cubic yards of landfill space

Thank you for doing your part to decrease waste and increase recycling in school! For questions, please reach out to Becca Walkinshaw, Gallegos Sanitation's Sustainability Specialist, at [greenqueen@mywasteco.com](mailto:greenqueen@mywasteco.com).