

School Recycling Grants

Hennepin County provides grants for K-12 schools to start or improve programs to divert recycling and organic materials, which includes food and non-recyclable paper, from the trash. Grant funding can also be used to take steps to reduce waste in the first place.



Eligible recipients	Public, private and charter K-12 schools in Hennepin County
Eligible expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bins, barrels, carts and sorting stations • Compostable bags • Reusable or compostable foodware to replace disposables • Bulk condiment dispensers to replace single-use options • Organics hauling (eligible only for new programs) • Reimbursement for monitors to oversee separation of organics, recycling and trash • Stipend for teachers to start and lead environmental clubs
Application timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for grants of up to \$50,000 are accepted once per year in late February. • Applications under \$15,000 are accepted on a rolling basis as funds remain.
Amount of funding available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varies depending on school size and project. Typical project awards range from \$1,000 to \$25,000. • Maximum award amount is \$50,000. • \$200,000 is available annually.
Matching funds	25% match (in-kind or cash match) for awards more than \$25,000.
Project timeline	Projects must be completed in 2 years.
Reporting requirements	Midterm and final report with progress of project.
Examples of projects	<p>School recycling grants are awarded on a competitive basis, and priority is given to the following types of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect organics for composting • Include food waste prevention or donation • Replace single-use and disposable items with bulk and reusable items • Expand collection of recyclables to areas outside of the school building and at special events



Contact us today

If you are considering applying for a school recycling grant, contact us to:

- Discuss your project and its appropriateness for this funding source.
- Get information and tips about the application process.
- Evaluate potential costs and savings.
- Learn about resources to start or improve recycling and organics programs.

For more information

- Visit hennepin.us/schoolrecycling
- Contact Kira Berglund at 612-596-1498 or Kira.Berglund@hennepin.us

