

# School waste reduction and 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.



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| <b>Eligible recipients</b>         | Public, private and charter K-12 schools in Hennepin County  |
| <b>Eligible expenses</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bins, barrels, carts and sorting stations</li> <li>• Reusable foodware to replace disposables</li> <li>• Sharing table supplies</li> <li>• Bulk condiment dispensers to replace single-use options</li> <li>• Reimbursement for monitors to oversee separation of organics, recycling, and trash</li> <li>• Stipends for staff to implement and lead the grant project</li> </ul>                       |
| <b>Application timeline</b>        | Schools with at least 50% of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch may apply for grants until Wednesday, March 15. Applications from all schools within the county (regardless of free and reduced lunch percentage) are accepted from April 3 to November 15 or until available funds are depleted.  |
| <b>Amount of funding available</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varies depending on school size and project. Typical project awards range from \$1,000 to \$12,000.</li> <li>• The maximum award is \$25,000 for schools with 50% or more students qualifying for free and reduced lunch and who apply by the March 15 deadline.</li> <li>• The maximum award is \$15,000 for schools applying April 3 or later.</li> <li>• \$100,000 is available annually.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Project timeline</b>            | Projects must be completed in 2 years.   |
| <b>Reporting requirements</b>      | Midterm and final report with progress of project.   |
| <b>Examples of projects</b>        | <p>Priority is given to the following types of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food waste prevention or donation</li> <li>• Replacing single-use and disposable items with bulk and reusable items</li> <li>• Collection of recyclables in areas outside of the school building and at special events.</li> </ul>   |

## Contact us today

If you are considering applying for a school waste reduction and 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](https://hennepin.us/schoolrecycling)
- Contact Kira Berglund at 612-596-1498 or [Kira.Berglund@hennepin.us](mailto:Kira.Berglund@hennepin.us)