

School waste reduction and recycling grants



Hennepin County provides grants for preschools, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions to start or improve recycling and organics recycling programs. Grant funding can also be used to take steps to reduce waste in the first place.

Eligible recipients	Preschools, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions in Hennepin County
Eligible expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bins, barrels, carts and sorting stations• Reusable foodware to replace disposables• Sharing table supplies• Bulk condiment dispensers to replace single-use options• Reimbursement for monitors to oversee separation of organics, recycling, and trash• Stipends for staff to implement and lead the grant project
Application timeline	<p>The following organizations may apply for the first round of grants: Head Start, two-year colleges, and preschools and K-12 schools with at least 50% of students qualifying for benefits (such as the former free or reduced lunch program). Applications for this round are due Thursday, March 12.</p> <p>Applications from any K-12 school, preschool, college, or university in the county will be accepted from April 2 through October 15 or until available funds are depleted.</p>
Amount of funding available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The maximum award per school is \$15,000 and \$45,000 per school district• \$150,000 is available annually.
Project timeline	Projects must be completed in 2 years.
Reporting requirements	Midterm report or site visit and final report with progress of project.
Examples of projects	<p>Priority is given to the following types of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food waste prevention or donation• Replacing single-use and disposable items with bulk and reusable items• Collection of recyclables in areas outside of the school building and at special events

Contact us today

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

- Discuss your project idea and determine whether it is a good fit for the grant.
- Get information and tips about the application process.
- Learn about resources to start or improve recycling and organics programs.

For more information

- Visit hennepin.us/schoolrecycling
- Contact the school recycling program coordinator at schoolrecycling@hennepin.us or 612-596-1498