

HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

School recycling mini grant

2026 guidelines



Introduction

Applicants may select up to \$5,000 worth of containers and BPI-certified compostable bags from the county's product list. Compostable bags are only available to applicants starting new organics for composting programs to line their containers, not organics programs that are already in place. (Organics programs require collection bins to be lined with compostable bags.)

Hennepin County Environment and Energy will purchase the containers and compostable bags, on behalf of the applicant, and products will be delivered to the address provided in the grant application unless noted otherwise. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until Thursday, October 15, 2026, or until the annual program budget is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

Eligible applicants

Preschools, K-12 schools, colleges, and universities

Information meeting

A virtual information meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19 from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. [Register](#).

To apply

Prior to applying, applicants must contact county staff through the school recycling request form. A consultation and potentially a site visit are required to assess container needs and, if applicable, compostable bag needs. To qualify for compostable bags, you must provide a quote or other documentation from a licensed hauler that supports your intent to start organics recycling. You may request up to a 3-month supply of compostable bags. Application materials will be provided to you after your consultation.

Email the following to schoolrecycling@hennepin.us:

- Completed application
- If requesting compostable bags: documentation of pending organics service

After your application is reviewed, county staff will contact you to discuss next steps. Upon application approval, the items will be shipped to your address. Hennepin County reserves the right to refuse funding or to partially fund an application.

Contact information

Hennepin County Environment and Energy

School recycling program

612-543-0429

schoolrecycling@hennepin.us

hennepin.us/schoolrecycling

