



## Hennepin County

Public Works

Environment and Energy Department  
701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1842

612-348-3777, Phone  
612-348-8532, Fax  
[www.hennepin.us/environment](http://www.hennepin.us/environment)

### **Note Recent Recycling Changes:**

*Hennepin County now accepts food cartons, plastic cups and containers and clear packaging as recyclable material. Please refer to [www.hennepin.us/recycling](http://www.hennepin.us/recycling) and the "Recycling Guide" for the latest information.*

### **Directions for small group activity:**

- Split into groups, each group takes a bag to sort recyclable items from trash.
- Take 10-15 minutes for each group to sort out what is recyclable and not recyclable.
- Once finished sorting, each group should look at the Hennepin County "Recycling Guide" and "Organics" guide for answers.
- Discuss between the two groups what they got right or wrong, and any surprises found.

### **Directions for large group activity (20-50 people):**

- Set up three bins and attach the recycling, organics or trash sign to the bins.
- Ask participants to line up and take an item from the bag to sort into recycling, organics or trash. (You may want to add a "?" pile as well.)
- Participants should place their item in the appropriate bin. If a participant doesn't know which bin, they may place the item in the "?" pile.
- Take 15-20 minutes to sort the materials.
- Once finished sorting, the activity leader should go through each bin to identify mistakes and determine where the "?" items should go. Discuss what they got right or wrong, and any surprises found.
- Refer to the Hennepin County "Recycling Guide" and "Organics" guide for answers.

### **Additional Resources:**

- Recycling information: [www.hennepin.us/recycling](http://www.hennepin.us/recycling)
- Green Disposal Guide for more items: [www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide](http://www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide)
- Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities: [www.hennepin.us/dropoffs](http://www.hennepin.us/dropoffs)
- Organics information: [www.hennepin.us/organics](http://www.hennepin.us/organics)
- Plastic bags: [www.itsinthebagmn.org](http://www.itsinthebagmn.org)



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### **Recycling Learning Trunk Supplies:**

#### **Recyclable items:**

- Paper bag of shredded paper
- Shampoo bottle
- Soda bottle with cap
- Glass jar
- Cardboard
- Cereal, pasta or cracker box (boxboard)
- Newspaper
- Milk carton
- Soup carton
- Clear plastic packaging
- Yogurt cup
- Sour cream container
- Plastic produce packaging or take out container
- Soap box
- Soda or soup can

#### **Organic/compostable items:**

- Napkin
- Pistachio nut shells (in plastic baggies for educational purposes)
- Paper clam shell container
- Paper cup (wax coated)
- Compostable soup cup or bowl (with BPI certification logo)
- Frozen food box
- Yogurt, butter or other refrigerator box
- Soiled paper

#### **Trash\* items:**

- Styrofoam cup
- Styrofoam packaging peanuts
- Highlighter/marker (2)
- Plastic fork
- Candy wrapper
- Protein, granola or breakfast bar wrapper
- Various plastic bags (2)
- Chip bag
- Plastic lined coffee cup (like the type at Starbucks)
- Plastic beverage cup (like SOLO cup)

*\*Some items may be recycled at various sites. Check the Green Disposal Guide for details.*