



Cambridge Green
Schools Initiative

Sustainability Memo, Fall 2014

To: Teachers, Staff & Students, Cambridge Public Schools

From: Meryl Brott, DPW Recycling Program Manager
Kristen von Hoffmann, CPS District Sustainability Manager

Re: Sustainability Information & Resources, SY2014-15

Dear Teachers, Staff and Students:

Thank you for your continued efforts to go green! Your efforts truly benefit the environment and make a difference in our community – see reverse for data and numbers. As you green your classroom or office this school year, please use the attached resources.

You make a difference!

Please keep in mind these important things:

- Sustainability at CPS is online: www.cpsd.us/departments/facilities/office_for_sustainability.
- Cambridge has “Single Stream” recycling – so you can place clean bottles, cans, paper and cardboard together in one recycling bin.
- Some materials need special handling and get recycled separately from the recycling bins.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again!

Most sincerely,

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cc: Dr. Jeffrey Young, CPS Superintendent of Schools
James Maloney, CPS Chief Operating Officer
Dana Ham, CPS Director of Facilities
Mellissa Honeywood, CPS Food & Beverage Director
All Principals
Owen O'Riordan, DPW Commissioner
Randi Mail, DPW Recycling Director



Did You Know?

- Cambridge has been a leader in recycling for many years. There has been mandatory curbside recycling since 1991.
- Materials we recycle are banned from trash disposal in Massachusetts.
- In addition to reducing energy use, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions, recycling saves Cambridge money by reducing trash disposal costs.
- Recycling saves energy, water, natural resources and landfill space, and prevents pollution.
- Composting food scraps reduces methane emissions at landfills that result from decaying organic matter.
- Saving energy reduces carbon emissions, and can be done by turning off lights and lowering thermostats.
- Saving water helps to ensure that there is enough drinking water for people and animals in the future.



Keep Recycling!

Last school year CPS recycled nearly 370 tons of containers, paper and cardboard!

These CPS recycling efforts saved:

- 4,942 Trees
- 737 Barrels of Oil
- 258 Households' Worth of Electricity Use
- 2.58 Million Gallons of Water
- 43.5 Truck Loads of Trash

Thank you!



Composting Is Cool!

Last school year CPS composted 42 tons of food scraps!

These CPS composting efforts saved 42 Tons of Greenhouse Gases and 5.5 Truck Loads of Trash

This helped make soil to grow food and flowers!

Thank you!





Working Together to Green Our Schools!

Cambridge Green Schools Initiative (CGSI)



Thanks for helping the environment. You're making a difference for kids today and future generations.

REDUCE

Minimize margins and font sizes.	Print double-sided whenever possible.	Have paper-free days.
Use tap water instead of bottled water.	Get used binders from Cambridge Recycling.	Plan zero waste events and reduce food waste.

REUSE

Use a reusable mug and water bottle.	Donate unwanted reusable items in good condition.	Collect and use scrap paper.
Use reusable bags for your lunch and shopping.	Repair broken things. (Visit Facebook.com/CambridgeRepairCafe for info.)	Print documents on "Good on One Side" paper.

RECYCLE

Place all empty containers, papers and cardboard in recycling bins.	Have a recycling bin next to each trash can in your classroom/office.	Post a "What to Recycle" sign on and/or above the recycling bins.
Watch the Casella "zero-sort" recycling facility tour video (on YouTube).	Need blue bins, desk-side bins, labels or posters? Ask us or your senior custodian.	Sign your class up for The Green Team. (www.thegreenteam.org)

COMPOST

Collect food scraps and paper towels and place in the lunchroom compost bin.	Don't have lunchroom composting yet? Talk to your principal or contact us.	Have a worm bin in your classroom.
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PRODUCTS

Choose non-toxic cleaning and classroom products.	Order recycled paper with 30-100% post-consumer content.	Choose products that are reusable, refillable, durable and recyclable.
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ENERGY

Use natural light from windows. Turn off lights when leaving the room.	Turn off printers, computers, etc. at the end of the day. Use a power strip to make it easier.	Use a CFL or LED bulb in your desk lamp.
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GREENSPACE

Turn off the tap and report leaky faucets to your senior custodian or Kristen.	Promote Walk/Ride Days and travel sustainably to work whenever possible.	Go outside for lessons, plan trips in nature, and have a plant in your room.
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LEARN MORE

Invite Meryl or Kristen to present to your class or give a workshop.	Organize a student tour to the City's Recycling Center or Casella Recycling.	Organize an environmental assembly with a special presenter, such as EarthTunes.
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SPECIAL RECYCLING

Printer/Toner Cartridges Return to manufacturer, give to IT technician, or contact us.	Fluorescent Bulbs Give to senior custodian for DPW pickup.	Metal Items Give to senior custodian for DPW pickup.
Electronics Coordinate with your IT technician. ICTS will work with DPW for pickup.	Thermometers/Thermostats Give to senior custodian to give to DPW.	Non-alkaline Batteries (Rechargeable, Button, etc.) Give to senior custodian for DPW pickup. Alkaline go in the trash.

For additional resources visit the "Sustainability Department" on the CPS website (cpsd.us) and the "Schools" section of the DPW website (CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle).

Questions?

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Meryl Brött, Recycling Program Manager, DPW, 617-349-4836, mbrott@cambridgema.gov.

RECYCLE MORE. TRASH LESS.

Recycling is easy! Place clean containers, papers and cardboard together. Flatten or nest boxes when possible. Thanks for reducing waste - you help make the Cambridge Recycling program a success!



YES

CONTAINERS

- ✓ Aerosol Cans (empty)
- ✓ Aluminum Cans, Trays & Foil
- ✓ Glass Bottles & Jars
- ✓ Metal Cans
- ✓ Milk Cartons & Juice Boxes
- ✓ Large Plastics (broken toys, buckets, laundry baskets)
- ✓ Stiff Plastic Containers
- ✓ Spiral Cans (potato chip, nut cans)

PAPERS

- ✓ Books (rip off hard covers)
- ✓ Cardboard Boxes (try to flatten / nest boxes)
- ✓ Coffee Cups (empty, no Styrofoam)
- ✓ Frozen Food Boxes (if it rips)
- ✓ Newspapers with Inserts
- ✓ Magazines & Catalogs
- ✓ Paper Bags
- ✓ Paperboard (paper towel rolls, cereal & tissue boxes)
- ✓ Phone Books & Junk Mail (remove free samples)
- ✓ Pizza Boxes (empty, oil stains OK)
- ✓ Shredded Paper (in a clear plastic or a paper bag)
- ✓ White & Colored Paper (staples, paper clips, spirals OK)
- ✓ Wrapping Paper



NO

- ✗ No Trash
- ✗ No Liquids / Food
- ✗ No Plastic Bags
- ✗ No Styrofoam
- ✗ No Paint Cans
- ✗ No Paper Towels / Tissues
- ✗ No Ceramics / Dishes / Glasses
- ✗ No Electronics
- ✗ No Light Bulbs
- ✗ No Mirrors / Windows
- ✗ No Pots / Pans / Scrap Metal



www.cambridgema.gov/recycle 617-349-4800

Visit our "Get Rid Of It Right" webpage to learn how to donate, recycle, or dispose of almost anything. Email us at recycle@cambridgema.gov to sign up for our monthly recycling eNewsletter!