

# Prince George's County Public Schools Recycling Program

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) can recycle materials via recycling bins and dumpsters, warehouse pickup, and return programs.

## [Acceptable items in PGCPS recycling bins and dumpsters:](#)


### Paper

- ✓ Office paper (place shredded paper in a paper bag and staple closed), colored paper
- ✓ Envelopes, files, folders, notebooks and notebook paper, catalogs, junk mail, magazines, posters
- ✓ Paper bags, newspapers (including inserts), wrapping paper (no plastic or glitter)

### Cardboard

- ✓ Flattened cardboard boxes
- ✓ Empty milk/juice cartons and juice boxes (remove straw)

### Plastic

- ✓ Empty plastic containers with #1, 2, 3, 5, or 7 inside the recycling symbol 
- ✓ Empty plastic bottles and caps, plastic drink cups (No #6 plastics)
- ✓ Empty plastic narrow-neck and wide-mouth containers, including caps and lids

### Metal

- ✓ Empty metal cans, food and beverage containers and lids
- ✓ Aluminum foil, aluminum pie pans

### Glass

- ✓ Empty food and beverage containers of any color, including lids

## Unacceptable Items—Do not place these items in PGCPS recycling containers:

- Textbooks, furniture, scrap metal, pallets, etc. - [request warehouse recycling pickup](#).
- Computers, electronics and accessories recycling - contact the IT Technician for your facility.
- Light bulbs - [recycle PGCPS fluorescent bulbs via special pickup](#).
- Empty ink cartridges and toner tubes—return for recycling via [pre-paid labels](#).
- Batteries - recycle 9-volt or less via mail-back program
- ✗ **NO #6 Plastics** (not accepted at our recycling facility), NO Styrofoam or Polystyrene; [PGC is Foam Free](#)
- ✗ **NO Plastic bags, plastic film, or bubble wrap; Do NOT bag recyclables.**
- ✗ **NO Food** (Food scraps can be composted)
- ✗ **NO Dirty/Food-Soiled paper trays, plates, or pizza boxes, NO paper cups**
- ✗ **NO Tissues, napkins, or paper towels**
- ✗ **NO Plastic utensils, straws, condiment packets; [PGC has banned non-compostable straws](#)**
- ✗ **NO Snack packaging**—chip bags, granola/energy bar wrappers, candy wrappers, etc.
- ✗ **NO Drink or food pouches**
- ✗ **NO Hazardous materials, broken glass**
- ✗ **NO Branches or yard material**



Date:

## PGCPS Simple Recycling Audit

Look in all recycling and trash bins within your assigned area and complete the chart below for each bin you audit. You do not need to rummage through the bin, simply conduct a visual assessment.

TAKE A PHOTO of the inside of the bins you visit to share with your team.

Location Audited (Room # or Area):

R E C Y C L I N G	List all <b>recyclable</b> items you can see within the <u>recycling bin</u> .	# of recyclable items counted (# correct items in the recycling bin):  _____
	How many recyclable items in the recycling bin are heavily food soiled or unsuitable for recycling? Please identify the item and the reason for its unsuitability.	# of dirty recyclable items counted (# incorrect items in recycling bin):  _____
	List all <b>non-recyclable</b> items you can see within the <u>recycling bin</u> .	# of non-recyclable items counted (# incorrect items in recycling bin):  _____
T R A S H	List all <b>recyclable</b> items you see in the <u>trash can</u> . (Heavily food-soiled and dirty items belong in the trash.)	# of recyclable items counted (# incorrect items in trash can):  _____

Share the photos of the bins you visited with your team. Discuss the items that were sorted correctly and incorrectly, and create a plan to improve recycling (and decrease the number of incorrect items in bins).

**Now share this information with your school.** After implementing your team's plan to improve recycling, conduct another recycling audit and compare the results before and after.