



Sustainability Memo, September 2015

To: Teachers, Staff & Students, Cambridge Public Schools

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

Re: Sustainability Information & Resources, SY2015-16

Dear Teachers, Staff and Students:

Did you hear the great news? The US Department of Education recognized the Cambridge Public School District with the 2015 Green Ribbon Schools District Sustainability Award. YOU are an important part of this success. We appreciate all your ongoing dedication and efforts to make our schools more sustainable.

Did you hear the other great news? Cambridge is competing for the Georgetown University Energy Prize. Reducing your energy use and encouraging others to take action will help Cambridge win \$5 million and the honor of this prize. Look for more info in the months to come.

Thank you in advance for being "green" this school year. Please see the reverse and attached for resources to help you. Your efforts truly benefit the environment, and make a difference in our community.

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. See CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle.
- Some materials need special handling and get recycled separately from the recycling bins.
- Reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, saving energy and saving water not only help protect nature and animals but save the district money as well.

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

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Middleton'.

Kristen (von Hoffmann) Middleton
Sustainability Manager, Cambridge Public Schools
(617) 349-6856, kvonhoffmann@cpsd.us

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meryl Brott'.

Meryl Brott
Recycling Program Manager, Dept. of Public Works
(617) 349-4836, mbrott@cambridgema.gov

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



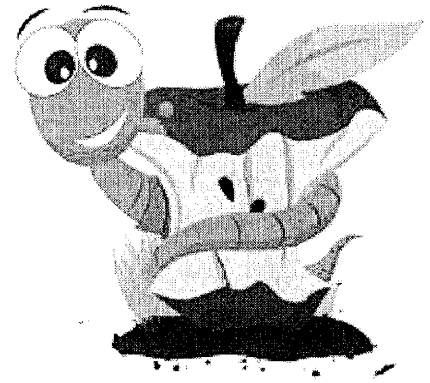
Composting Is Cool!

Last school year CPS kids kept 120,000 pounds of food scraps out of the landfill/incinerator!

These composting efforts prevented the creation of greenhouse gases and 16 truckloads of trash.

The food scraps were turned into awesome soil to grow food and flowers!

Thank you!

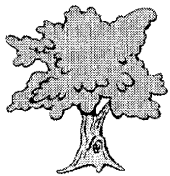


Did You Know?

This fall, curbside pickup of food scraps is expanding in the Monday collection route starting 10/19! All residences with 12 or fewer units and City trash service will get curbside and kitchen bins to participate. For more info visit CambridgeMA.Gov/CompostPickup.

Recycling Rocks!

Last school year CPS students, staff and teachers recycled 383 tons of empty containers, paper and cardboard!



5,778 Trees

These CPS recycling efforts saved:

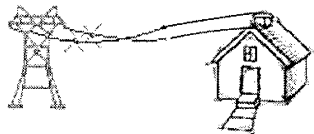


767 Barrels of Oil

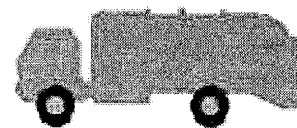


2.7 Million Gallons of Water

268 Households' Worth of Electricity Use



51 Truck Loads of Trash



These efforts also prevented 665 tons of carbon dioxide from being released, and prevented the creation of methane in the landfill.

♻️ Let's recycle even more this year! ♻️



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.	Print documents on "Good on One Side" paper.	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. (Somerville Tool Library has a fix-it event Oct 24.)	Get used binders from Cambridge Recycling. (recycle@cambridgema.gov)

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, 03:39).	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.	Spread the word about the benefits of composting. (Visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle)	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 smart strip to make it easier.	Use a CFL or LED bulb in your desk lamp.
Help Cambridge win the Georgetown University Energy Prize and \$5 million dollars. Reduce your energy use and encourage others to take action too!		

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?

Kristen Middleton, Sustainability Manager, CPS, 617-349-6856, kvonhoffmann@cpsd.us.
Meryl Brott, 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!