

eco-cycle®

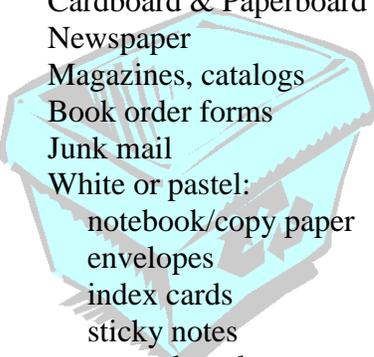
Building Zero Waste Communities

Dear Families,

We are pleased to announce that Lyons Middle Senior High School has been selected to participate in Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools® program as part of the EPA-funded Green Star Lyons Zero Waste project. This is an exciting and aggressive program aimed at significantly reducing the amount of garbage produced by Lyons schools, businesses, nonprofits, government and community events. Your town will be the first in the nation to reduce waste in such a coordinated and comprehensive way throughout every sector of the community. St. Vrain Valley School District, in partnership with Eco-Cycle, also has one of the most comprehensive school recycling programs in the nation. In the U.S., over 25% of our waste stream is compostable. As a Green Star School, this project will add the collection of compostable materials to your school's recycling program, along with several waste reduction projects that encourage reducing and reusing whenever possible.

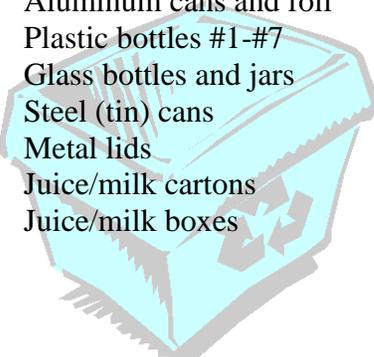
Your school will now have four types of bins for discarded materials:

Paper Recycling



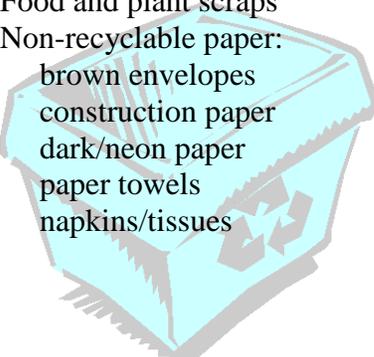
Cardboard & Paperboard
Newspaper
Magazines, catalogs
Book order forms
Junk mail
White or pastel:
notebook/copy paper
envelopes
index cards
sticky notes
poster board

Container Recycling



Aluminum cans and foil
Plastic bottles #1-#7
Glass bottles and jars
Steel (tin) cans
Metal lids
Juice/milk cartons
Juice/milk boxes

Compost



Food and plant scraps
Non-recyclable paper:
brown envelopes
construction paper
dark/neon paper
paper towels
napkins/tissues

Trash



All other plastic
Juice pouches
Food wrappers
Styrofoam
Plastic-coated
disposable items:
plates, cups,
take-out, etc.

The compostable materials will be taken to a large scale composting facility. Some of that compost will be made available to you and your school for gardening later this spring!

*Another important part of making this project a success is avoiding waste in the first place. Did you know that more trash is produced during lunch than at any other time during the school day? Approximately 1/3 of all trash is packaging. To combat this problem, we are asking students and their families to pack waste-free lunches by using recyclable and reusable containers whenever possible. **Here are some tips for creating a waste-free lunch:***

- use a reusable lunch bag or box
- pack food in reusable containers
- bring drinks in refillable or recyclable containers
- save and reuse plastic bags
- use a cloth napkin instead of a paper napkin
- provide reusable eating utensils

Old clothes can be made into cloth napkins, thrift shops sell cheap eating utensils and some food containers can be reused to hold snacks. Even doing one or two things from the list above will make a difference!

Your school will serve as a model to others throughout the nation. Your support will help make this innovative project a success. Together we can make a difference for the environment at your school!

The Green Star Lyons project is funded by The U.S. EPA, Eco-Cycle, St. Vrain Valley School District and the CAN'd Aid Foundation, www.candaid.org