

School waste reduction and recycling grants

Hennepin County provides grants for preschools, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions to start or improve programs to divert recycling and organic materials, which includes food and non-recyclable paper, from the trash. Grant funding can also be used to take steps to reduce waste in the first place.



Eligible recipients	Preschools, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions in Hennepin County
Eligible expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bins, barrels, carts and sorting stations • Reusable foodware to replace disposables • Sharing table supplies • Bulk condiment dispensers to replace single-use options • Reimbursement for monitors to oversee separation of organics, recycling, and trash • Stipends for staff to implement and lead the grant project
Application timeline	<p>The following organizations may apply for the first round of grants: Head Start, two-year colleges, and preschools and K-12 schools with at least 50% of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. Applications for this round are due Thursday, March 7.</p> <p>Applications from any K-12 school, preschool, college, or university in the county will be accepted from March 20 through November 15 or until available funds are depleted.</p>
Amount of funding available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minimum award is \$1,000. • The maximum award is \$20,000 for qualifying applications who apply by the February 29 deadline. • The maximum award is \$15,000 for applications submitted March 20 or later. • \$100,000 is available annually.
Project timeline	Projects must be completed in 2 years.
Reporting requirements	Midterm and final report with progress of project.
Examples of projects	<p>Priority is given to the following types of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food waste prevention or donation • Replacing single-use and disposable items with bulk and reusable items • Collection of recyclables in areas outside of the school building and at special events.



Contact us today

If you are considering applying for a grant, contact us to:

- Discuss your project and its appropriateness for this funding source.
- Get information and tips about the application process.
- Evaluate potential costs and savings.
- Learn about resources to start or improve recycling and organics programs.

For more information

- Visit hennepin.us/schoolrecycling
- Contact Kira Berglund at 612-596-1498 or Kira.Berglund@hennepin.us

