

# About the Grant

## Mission Statement

This grant program aims to ensure waste in local schools is reduced and recyclables are diverted from the landfill. Students and staff will gain valuable knowledge of the importance of waste reduction and recycling methods they can apply at home. Working with institutions such as schools will aid in the effort to increase the county's overall recycling rate and reduce waste to landfills.

## Available Funds

Each school facility may apply for a maximum of \$2,000 per school per year.

## Eligible Purchases

Grant money may be used for:

- Collection materials (e.g. recycling bins)
- Waste reduction supplies (e.g. reusable dishware)
- Prizes for waste reduction and recycling competitions and activities (max. \$300)
- Books and teacher resources (max. \$300)
- Other purchases which improve recycling or reduce waste

## Ineligible Purchases

Grant money may **not** be used for:

- Conference costs
- Travel costs
- Garbage disposal fees
- Compostable bags

# FAQs

## When is the deadline for an application?

Applications are accepted and reviewed each year in October. Applications will be competitively ranked.

## Is there a deadline for using the grant money?

Yes, you must use your grant money within 6 months of the grant agreement or by the last day of the school year, whichever occurs first.

## Can I apply for multiple grants if I have two schools in one building?

No, you may only apply for one grant per campus.

## What is a Green Team?

A Green Team is a group of school faculty, parents/guardians, and students who are responsible for making sure the program is successful. These people collaborate on ideas to help improve the program with assistance from Carlton County Zoning and Environmental Services staff.

## Do we have to apply for the grant to receive technical support?

No, you may receive technical support even if you don't apply for the grant. This might be in the form of presentations, meetings, activities, or competitions. Contact us for more information.



# The Green Schools Project

Carlton County School  
Recycling and Waste  
Reduction Grant



Carlton County Zoning and  
Environmental Services

## How to apply

### Eligibility

All educational institutions in Carlton County are eligible.

### Submit an Application

Green Schools Project applications can be found on the website or contact:

**Karola Dalen**  
**Resource & Recycling Coordinator**  
**Zoning and Environmental Services**  
**PO Box 220**  
**Carlton, MN 55718**  
**karola.dalen@co.carlton.mn.us**  
**218-384-9178**

### Project Criteria

Once the application is approved, here are the next required steps:

- Start a Green Team.
- Complete a legal grant agreement with Carlton County to release funds.
- Develop and implement a Recycling & Waste Reduction Guide.
- Submit a Final Report detailing purchases.

*Review the grant application and requirements document for more information on program criteria.*

## School Checklist

Use the checklist to find out what your school can do to improve waste reduction and recycling.

- Does your school have a waste reduction and recycling policy?
- Does your school have a recycling guide?
- Do you have proper recycling bins in all classrooms and offices?
- Do you have recycling substations at entrances and in hallways?
- Do you have concise and informative signage on all your recycling bins?
- Are you collecting your organics (food waste) for composting?
- Do you have a double sided printing policy at your school?
- Do you do any activities about waste reduction and recycling at your school?
- Do you have water bottle filling stations?
- Does your school have a reuse area setup for school materials that can be reused?
- Are you using reusable silverware and dishware in the cafeteria?
- Is food served directly on trays, or prepped into disposable containers?
- Are condiments served in dispensers instead of individual packaging?
- Are you using high-speed, non-heat hand dryers in your bathrooms?

## Why It's Important

### Why Reduce?

It's simple — reducing your waste saves raw materials, energy, and money! Recycling is definitely part of the solution, but it is only part. Production and excessive consumption pose far greater environmental, social, and health risks than the residential waste, itself. So first Reduce, then Recycle.

### Why Recycle?

**Recycling is the law!** As per Minnesota Statute §115A.151, all public entities (including schools!) are mandated to recycle at least three types of materials.

**Recycling is good for the environment!** Recycling recovers natural resources such as timber (paper), petroleum (plastics), and minerals (tin/aluminum)/glass) to be remanufactured into a new products.

**Recycling saves energy!** Creating new materials from recycled Materials requires much less energy than getting them from raw resources. For example, making new aluminum cans from recycled cans takes 90% less energy!

