

Schools in Dakota County are required to collect food scraps

Most schools are required to collect organics from back-of-house areas, effective Jan. 1, 2023. Back-of-house collection includes food scraps from kitchen prep areas, dishwashing and storage areas but not food that has been served to students or the public.



This requirement applies to schools that:

- Have on-site dining services, and
- Contract to collect at least eight cubic yards (one ton) of trash per week, and
- Generate food scraps in back-of-house operations.

County ordinance requires these schools to:

1 Have food scraps collection service

Contract with a waste hauler or permitted livestock animal feeder/manufacturer for organics collection services. Work with your service provider to increase service levels if organics carts or dumpsters are overflowing.

2 Collect food scraps from back-of-house, nonpublic areas

Provide containers in back-of-house areas that are large enough to collect all food scraps without overflowing or resulting in food scraps being placed in recycling or trash containers. Only incidental amounts of food scraps may be disposed of in a garbage disposal.

Keep the Designated List of Contaminants out of organics including: recyclables (glass, paper, metal, cartons), plastic items, milk cartons and trash.

3 Label containers

Label each organics container with standardized labels. All labels must meet county label requirements:

- ✓ Use the standardized term “Organics.”
- ✓ Be color-coded: Green for organics.
- ✓ Include county-standardized images of the designated organics materials to collect.

Order or download free labels from Dakota County that meet these requirements.

Replace labels if they are damaged, unreadable or if text or images conflict with county label requirements.

Organics service providers are responsible for labeling all carts and dumpsters they provide.

4 Provide organics education

Provide standardized organics education at least once a year to each student, employee, food service staff, custodial and housekeeping staff, and any other contractor or volunteer that is responsible for sorting, collecting or managing organics. Education must also occur within 30 days of a new hire or new student, and within 30 days of a substantial change to the organics collection program.

Education must cover what to collect and how to properly sort organics in accordance with education requirements listed on the county’s website.

Get free educational resources from Dakota County that meet these requirements.

5 Submit annual report

Report effectiveness of the organics program, including education activities, to Dakota County each year. The county will provide the report form.

Donated food

Edible food can be donated to organizations that help people in need but must be used in combination with back-of-house organics collection services (e.g., hauler services for composting or animal feed) to capture all food scraps.

School Requirements for Recycling and Organics Collection



Environmental Resources

www.dakotacounty.us
search *school recycling*

952-891-7557



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Schools in Dakota County are required to recycle

Dakota County Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management, requires all public and non-public schools to recycle.



County ordinance requires all schools to:

1 Have recycling service

Contract with a waste hauler for recycling collection services, or self-haul recyclables to a recycling facility. Work with your hauler to increase service levels if carts or dumpsters are overflowing.

2 Recycle designated materials

Provide recycling containers in buildings and on grounds to collect the Designated List of Recyclables from employees, students and visitors. These designated materials must be collected and recycled:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Cartons like milk & juice cartons
- Metal cans
- Glass bottles & jars
- Plastic bottles, containers and jugs numbered 1 2 5



Keep the Designated List of Contaminants out of the recycling such as trash, food and liquids, plastic bags and film, plastic utensils and straws, chip bags, candy wrappers, and Styrofoam.



3 Pair recycling with trash containers

Wherever there is a trash container, there must be a recycling container within 10 feet. Recycling containers in the building and on grounds must be large enough to collect all recyclables so they don't overflow or result in recyclables being placed on the ground or in the trash.

4 Label containers

Label each indoor and outdoor recycling and trash container with standardized labels. All labels must meet county label requirements:

- ✓ Use standardized terms: "Recycle" or "Recycling" and "Trash" to indicate the type of waste collected.
- ✓ Be color-coded: Blue for recycling, gray or black for trash.
- ✓ Have standardized images: Recycling labels must use county-standardized images that show designated recyclable materials and include preparation instructions where applicable, such as "empty liquids, no food, flatten boxes." Trash labels do not need images.

Order or download free recycling and trash labels from Dakota County that meet these requirements.



Replace labels if they are damaged, unreadable or if text or images conflict with county label requirements.

Waste and recycling haulers are responsible for labeling all carts and dumpsters they provide.

5 Provide recycling education

Provide standardized recycling education at least once a year to each student, employee, food service staff, housekeeping and custodial staff, and any other contractor or volunteer that is responsible for sorting, collecting or managing recycling. Education must also occur within 30 days of a new hire or new student, and within 30 days of a substantial change to the waste and recycling program.

Education must cover what to recycle and how to properly recycle in accordance with recycling education requirements listed on the county's website.

Get free educational resources from Dakota County that meet these requirements.



6 Submit annual report

Report effectiveness of the recycling program, including education activities, to Dakota County each year. The county will provide the report form.