



King County Green Schools Program

Have a “Zero Waste” Locker Cleanout!

Don't let your students throw away old homework, projects or materials at the end of the year. Think of all the work your school has put into waste reduction and recycling this year! Think zero waste! Can these materials be reused, recycled, or donated? Follow this simple step-by-step plan for cutting down on end of the year student waste.

Does your school have a Green Team or environmental club? If so, perhaps they would like to organize this clean-out as an end-of-the-year project. Have them follow these five steps to environmental stewardship.

Five Steps to “Zero Waste” Cleanout

1. Gather a variety of boxes and label them 'donation,' 'swap or reuse' and 'recycle.' Ask the kitchen for its spare cardboard boxes. Label the swap boxes for easy use – e.g., 'teacher supplies,' 'books,' 'notebooks,' 'pens, pencils,' etc.
 - **Swap items:** Materials that can be reused by the school next year and that should be included in an end-of-the-year school supply swap.
 - **Donation items:** Materials that will not be useful to your school's teachers or students next year, but that someone might be able to use.
 - **Recyclable items:** Used paper, cardboard, bottles and cans that can be placed in school recycling containers.
2. Identify a teacher, staff member, or parent who would be willing to take donated materials to a nearby donation center. To find a donation center near you, look up Goodwill (<http://www.seattlegoodwill.org/>) or Creation Station (<http://www.creationstationinc.com/>).

Make sure they wait until the supply swap is over because there may be unwanted materials from the swap that could be donated.
3. Let the custodian know of your plans so that he or she can arrange for an extra recycling pickup from the hauler.
4. Assign a student from each group to take recyclable materials to the outdoor recycling dumpster – or a central hallway recycling container – after the cleanout.
5. Plan a school supply swap day with other teachers for the following day.