



Incentives to encourage proper waste sorting

Schools around King County have used a variety of incentives to decrease contamination and make proper waste sorting a positive activity. Contact your King County Green Schools Program representative for help setting up or adapting one of the incentives described below.

1. Lunch competitions

- For one week or longer, the lunch group with the fewest sorting errors can earn a point. Points can be awarded by the student Green Team, custodian, or other team member. Groups can be different lunch periods, right and left sides of the lunchroom, or different classroom pods depending on the design of your school.
To maintain a visual tracking system of points earned by each group, use colorful marbles in clear plastic jars or a paper thermometer showing rising points.
- The student Green Team, custodian, or other team member sets a goal for the entire student body. Examples: "Five days with less than 10 sorting mistakes" or "Two weeks showing respect to Green Team monitors and sorting well." The student body works together to meet a common goal.
- Alternatively, every day during a five-day week, each lunch period can earn one point for sorting correctly and showing respect to Green Team monitors. If a lunch period receives at least four of the possible five points, that lunch period earns a reward.

2. "Caught ya' doing something right" coupons

Coupons are given to students "caught" sorting waste properly. Coupons are handed out at random times over one week or more, and can include rewarding students for proper sorting in classrooms, cafeteria, or other common school spaces, as well as for waste reduction efforts. Coupons can be redeemed for rewards.

3. Fun bells or buzzers

Green Team waste station monitors use bells to applaud proper sorting or buzzers to discourage incorrect sorting or contamination.

Rewards

- Bragging rights
- Popcorn
- Music or videos played during lunch
- Extended Friday lunch period
- Trophies
- An administrator agreeing to wear a clown costume or take a pie in the face