

Recycling

Resource: Fact Sheet

Topic Area: Administration

Subtopic Area: Business Practices

Introduction

In the United States, there are over 300,000 tons of waste in landfills, and the average person contributes a ton of trash each year. One of the most efficient ways to cut down on waste is through recycling. Not only does it reduce the amount of waste buried in landfills, but it is also good for the environment. Recycling helps conserve fresh water, prevent waste from contaminating the oceans, and reduce the cost of waste disposal. Above all, recycling helps to create a healthier environment for the future.

Application

How to get started

- Locate recycling centers or programs in your community. Check out Earth 911 at www.earth911.org for a convenient collection site.
- Identify which of the four primary methods of collecting recyclables is available in your area:
 - o Buy-back centers
 - o Drop-off centers
 - o Curbside pickup
 - o Deposit/refund programs
- Identify what you would like to recycle, such as:
 - o Glass
 - o Paper
 - o Metal cans
 - o Plastic containers
 - o Corrugated cardboard
- Designate a container and a location for each recyclable within the child care setting.

Tips for Success

- Locate a local recycling coordinator for questions, tips, and strategies.
- Purchase washable plastic bins, trash cans, or cardboard boxes if your local recycling agency does not provide containers.
- Label all containers for each material.
- Inform staff on how to use the containers for recycled items.
- Combine trips to the recycling center with other errands to conserve energy.

References

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