



**PUT WASTE
IN ITS PLACE**

**Franklin County
School Recycling Club**



2025-2026

Introduction

Welcome to the Frankfort/Franklin County Schools Recycling Club Handbook! This guide is packed with information to help you and your fellow club members become recycling superstars in your school.

Here at Franklin County Solid Waste, we're passionate about protecting our planet by reducing waste and promoting sustainability.

We believe that everyone, regardless of age, can make a difference! This handbook will equip you with the knowledge and resources to launch successful recycling initiatives within your school and inspire others to join the green movement.

Objectives

1. Organize a team

Your school's recycling club should consist of:

- A teacher sponsor of the club
- At least 2 parent volunteers
- At least 1 student leader
- 10+ student members
- A partnership with your school's cafeteria
- A partnership with your school's custodial staff

2. Host monthly meetings

Some considerations for monthly meetings:

- When/where are these meetings taking place?
- Student leader(s) need to plan a topic for each meeting

3. Form goals as a group

Examples: Start classroom recycling pickup, increase recycling awareness, start other eco-initiatives. Decide on a few goals of your group and work toward them throughout the year.

4. Conduct a waste audit

A waste audit is an exercise to evaluate what types of trash your school is producing.

The Setup: You'll need gloves, bags, sorting piles (labeled for recyclables, food scraps, and trash), and a recording sheet.

The Investigation: During lunch or another designated time, you'll carefully examine the trash from the cafeteria or classrooms.

The Analysis: Once you've sorted everything, you'll count how much of each type of material there is. This will help you see patterns and answer questions like:

- How much food gets thrown away uneaten?
- Is there more paper waste or plastic waste?
- Are there recyclable items ending up in the trash?

The Report: Your group will share your findings with your classmates and teachers. This report will show what kind of trash your school generates the most and what could be recycled or composted instead.

Before the end of the school year (May 2026), email your waste audit report to the Solid Waste Coordinator: ally.hall@franklincounty.ky.gov

If your group is comfortable sharing the results of your waste audit report on social media, email photos of the audit activity to the Solid Waste Coordinator.

Franklin County Aluminum Recycling Drive: Campaign (February 2026)

Get ready to crush the competition (and some cans!) with our aluminum recycling drive, kicking off in February 2025. This is a fantastic opportunity to put your recycling knowledge into action and show your school spirit. Here's a breakdown of the timeline:

- **August-December:**
 - Ensure you have an active recycling club at your school. Work towards your group's goals.
- **Mid-January:**
 - Club members will brainstorm creative ways to promote the drive throughout the school.
 - Example: create posters, flyers, and announcements to get everyone excited.
 - Brainstorm ways to encourage participation!
 - January 30: Recycling containers will be delivered by Franklin County staff. (you may already have a bin from last year, please let us know!)
- **Early February:**
 - February 2nd: Official recycling drive start date
 - Club members will be available to answer questions and ensure proper sorting of aluminum cans.
- **Throughout February:**
 - School-wide promotion to maintain momentum and celebrate progress!
- **Early March:**
 - Franklin County Solid Waste will announce the winning school by March 6, 2025. The winning school will receive a check for a school-wide incentive!

This timeline is a guide, and specific details might be adjusted as needed. The most important part is to have fun, work together, and make a positive impact on our environment!

Aluminum Can Recycling Drive: Additional Info

1. In late January, each school will receive one aluminum can collection container and a roll of clear bags: (Please let Christine know if you already have a bin).



2. Place this container in a visible, high-traffic area in the school.
3. Designate a spot to store the full bags of aluminum cans.
4. Recycling Club students are responsible for creating posters/ any promotional items for the recycling drive.
5. Recycling Club students are responsible for counting the number of cans each week by Friday at 2pm.
6. The weekly number of cans should be emailed to our EELCorps member: christine.argus@franklincounty.ky.gov (student or parent volunteer).
7. The Solid Waste Coordinator will post weekly can collection updates on Facebook and the Franklin County website.
8. Students should monitor progress of can collection in a visible way to all students.
9. The Solid Waste Coordinator will announce the winner of the recycling contest by March 6, 2025 via Facebook, Franklin County website, and email list of recycling club volunteers.
10. The Solid Waste Coordinator will deliver the check to the winning school's front office for the school-wide incentive in March 2025.