



**Montana SMART Schools**  
**SMART Recycling Challenge Ideas**  
 Saving **M**oney and **R**esources Today in Montana’s Schools

Are you interested in implementing an effective recycling/waste reduction program at your school? It doesn’t take much to get a recycling program started or to enhance existing programs. Here are some ideas for SMART Recycling Projects:

✓	List what gets recycled, composted, reused, and land-filled to get a better idea of how much your school could be recycling
✓	Implement a reusable cup programs at sporting events by purchasing BPA Free Tumblers, like Red Lodge High School did last year
✓	Start a new—or enhance an existing—recycling program with containers and recycle bins at the school, and aim to divert as much trash as possible (you can apply on the SMART Schools website for scholarships to cover the costs of new recycling bins)
✓	Implement a double-sided printing policy at you school
✓	Determine what types of material your school wants to recycle
✓	Implement a recycling educational component in the classroom, such as: playing recycling games during free time, having students shop for items and place them in the appropriate recycling or trash bin to see get the most correct, putting together a field trip to visit a local recycling plant, inviting guest speakers to come talk to students about recycling practices, and/or teaching students statistics about waste and waste management
✓	Form student recycling committees to set up recycling bins, promote a recycling program, help other students learn which items to recycle, sift through bins to remove misplaced waste, or put items in proper bins
✓	Have students collect old objects from home and school to construct recycled art pieces
✓	Put recycling bins in convenient locations to increase their use. Locations should include the cafeteria, next to soda machines, in classrooms, or near computer room printers
✓	Get involved in the Keep America Beautiful campaign



✓	Post “please recycle” signs near recycling bins
✓	Implement a solid waste management policy- list what gets recycled, composted, reused, land-filled
✓	Compost biodegradable materials onsite of offsite
✓	Donate leftover/unwrapped food and used goods or equipment
✓	Keep track of how much trash each occupant generates, and implement a program to reduce waste