

T32i Recycling System: A Guide to Sustainable Waste Management

Welcome to the T32i Recycling System from Polly Products, your comprehensive guide to establishing an effective, sustainable waste management program for any organization. This free resource outlines a flexible, multi-stream recycling system designed to reduce landfill waste, increase recycling rates, and promote environmental responsibility. Whether you're setting up a program from scratch or enhancing an existing one, this guide provides clear steps to sort recyclables, manage composting, maintain hygiene, train staff, and coordinate storage and pickup—all tailored to fit your local regulations and facility needs.

This system is designed to be adaptable, user-friendly, and impactful. By implementing a multi-stream recycling program, your organization can:

- Reduce landfill waste and lower disposal costs.
- Foster a culture of sustainability among employees, students, and/or community members.
- Comply with local recycling regulations while contributing to a greener future.

For additional support earth911.com is a spectacular resource for local information. To explore eco-friendly furnishings that enhance your recycling efforts such as tables, and benches made from 100% recycled plastic, contact us at 877-609-2243, or visit pollyproducts.com.

1. Setting Up Your Recycling Streams

A multi-stream recycling system ensures materials are properly sorted to minimize contamination and maximize diversion. Below are six common streams, but you can adapt these based on local recycling capabilities. Your recycling system should be located near a rinsing/cleaning station to reduce contamination:

- **Paper/Cardboard:** Clean, dry paper (e.g., office paper, newspapers) and flattened cardboard. Exclude greasy or food-soiled items (e.g., used pizza boxes).
- **Plastic:** Clean plastic bottles, containers, and packaging (typically #1-7, check local guidelines). Remove food residue and non-recyclable lids.
- **Metal:** Clean aluminum cans, tins, foil, and other recyclable metals. Rinse to remove residue and remove labels if required.
- **Glass:** Clean glass bottles and jars. Separate metal lids (recycle with metals) and avoid non-recyclable glass (e.g., window glass, ceramics).
- **Styrofoam (Polystyrene):** Clean, dry polystyrene foam (e.g., packing materials). Remove tape, labels, or residue. Check if locally accepted.

- **Plastic Bags/Film:** Clean, dry plastic bags and film (e.g., grocery bags, shrink wrap). Bundle loosely and confirm local recycling options, as these often require specialized handling.

Tips for Success:

- Use clearly labeled bins with signage to guide users. Visual aids reduce sorting errors.
 - Provide small recycling bins (7-10 gallons) in offices or workstations for paper and other common recyclables.
 - Check with your local recycling authority or earth911.com to confirm accepted materials and specific preparation requirements.
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2. Implementing Composting

Composting organic waste reduces landfill contributions and supports a circular economy. Here's how to set it up effectively:

- **What to Compost:** Food scraps (e.g., fruit peels, vegetable trimmings, coffee grounds), yard waste, and certified compostable items (e.g., compostable utensils or plates). 20–32-gallon lighter aluminum bins are recommended for mobility.
- **Setup Options:**
 - **Pickup Service:** Partner with a local composting service for regular collection. Verify accepted materials and use a secure, outdoor bin for hauler pickup.
 - **On-Site Composting:** Use a pest-proof outdoor composting bin or tumbler. Maintain it by turning regularly, monitoring moisture, and ensuring proper aeration. This option can support community gardens or landscaping.
- **Labeling:** Label compost bins clearly (e.g., “Compost Only”) and post a sign listing accepted items to prevent contamination.
- **Enhance Impact:** Use compostable cups, utensils, and paper products to streamline your program.

Tips for Success:

- Train staff to distinguish compostable from non-compostable items.
 - Place compost bins in high-traffic areas like cafeterias but separate from recycling streams to avoid confusion.
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3. Maintaining Clean and Hygienic Bins

Clean bins ensure a pleasant environment and prevent contamination:

- **Daily:** Empty bins to avoid overflow. Spot-clean spills with a damp cloth and eco-friendly cleaner (e.g., vinegar-based solution).
- **Weekly:** Wash bins with warm water, mild soap, and a soft brush. Rinse thoroughly and dry to prevent residue buildup.
- **Monthly:** Disinfect with a biodegradable sanitizer. Ensure labels remain clear and legible.
- **Rinsing Recyclables:** Rinse plastics, metals, glass, Styrofoam, and plastic bags before sorting to remove food or residue. Designate a sink or rinsing station for this purpose.

Tips for Success:

- Equip maintenance staff with gloves, cleaning supplies, and rinsing tools (e.g., handheld sprayer).
 - Schedule regular cleaning to maintain a professional appearance and encourage user participation.
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4. Training Your Team

A well-trained team is key to a successful recycling program:

- **Education:** Conduct training sessions to explain each stream, composting rules, and cleaning protocols. Use visual aids and hands-on demonstrations.
- **Leadership:** Appoint a recycling coordinator to oversee the program, answer questions, and liaise with waste haulers.
- **Resources:** Provide gloves, cleaning supplies, and tools to support staff tasks.
- **Feedback:** Encourage staff to report sorting errors, bin issues, or suggestions to improve the system.

Tips for Success:

- Host a kickoff meeting to introduce the program and highlight its benefits, such as reduced landfill waste and cost savings.
 - Reinforce training with periodic refreshers and signage updates to maintain engagement.
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5. Storage and Pickup Coordination

Proper storage and pickup logistics keep your program running smoothly:

- **Storage:** Designate a secure, dry area for sorted recyclables and compost. Use labeled bins or bags to keep streams separate.
- **Space Planning:** Place recycling and compost bins in high-traffic areas (e.g., break rooms, lobbies) for easy access. Ensure sufficient space for all streams—typically 10-12 feet for a six-stream setup.
- **Pickup Coordination:** Arrange regular pickups with local haulers or identify drop-off locations for specialized materials like Styrofoam or plastic bags. Confirm schedules and requirements with your local recycling authority.

Tips for Success:

- Monitor bin capacity to avoid overflow, especially for compost and plastic bags.
 - Partner with haulers who specialize in specific streams to maximize recycling efficiency.
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Customizing Your Program

Every region has unique recycling regulations and facility needs. To tailor the T32i Recycling System:

- **Research Local Guidelines:** Contact your local recycling authority to verify accepted materials, preparation requirements, and pickup options.
 - **Scale to Fit:** Adjust the number of streams or system locations based on your organization's waste volume and space constraints.
 - **Engage Your Community:** Promote your program through newsletters, social media, or events to build enthusiasm, participation, and sponsorship.
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Why Partner with Polly Products?

Polly Products is committed to sustainability through high-quality, hand-made recycled plastic furnishings designed to support your recycling efforts. Our durable, customizable receptacles make sorting intuitive and stylish, enhancing your environment. Visit pollyproducts.com or call 877-609-2243 to explore our eco-friendly solutions.

By implementing the T32i Recycling System, your organization can lead the way in sustainable waste management. Start today and watch your recycling rates soar while contributing to a greener future!

Proudly crafted by Polly Products in Mulliken, MI—Premium Recycled Plastic Furnishings.