



# Disposing of Waste

The method by which schools dispose of waste varies from school to school. Some schools in Minnesota use the 3-2-1 organics waste collection system for sorting lunchroom waste.

## What schools are doing

### Bayview Elementary School - Waconia

Bayview Elementary, (shown below) uses the “3-2-1 You're Done” organic waste collectionsystem for all lunchroom waste. This process sorts out organic, recyclable, and non-recyclable waste into three separate



containers. The organic waste (four cubic yards) is picked up once a week by a commercial vendor that takes it to an industrial composter. Recyclable paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum, glass, and tin are picked up once a week. Non-recyclable waste is picked up three times a week.



### Scenic Heights Elementary - Minnetonka

Scenic Heights has participated in the Hennepin County Organics program for ten years. Recently, Tonka Green (a program of Minnetonka Public Schools-see YouTube video) created and instituted the “3-2-1 You're Done!” program in all six of the Minnetonka elementary schools. They have two areas using the “3-2-1 You're Done!” method. “3” is for trash, “2” is for recycling and “1” is for

compostables. Students are are done when they turn in their trays. Individual cans are labeled. Signs with examples hang on the wall to help students properly dispose of their waste. This program is used district wide so the students learn it once, and do it the same way as they progress through middle and high schools. A lunchroom helper helps them deposit their waste into the proper bins. The lunchroom waste is then taken and dumped into the proper bin outside (organics, mixed recycling or trash) for pickup by waste haulers.

Staff and families also receive tips listed in their bi-weekly newsletter as well as periodic reminders via announcements and supplemental signage, especially when there are changes to the program. For example, when the district switched to a different recycling hauler, this enabled plastics #1-7 to be collected in the recycling. In the past, only narrow neck bottles #1 and #2 were accepted. This change was so significant that it resulted



in a dramatic reduction of the amount of trash going to landfill. Tonka Green created a campaign to inform users of the additional materials accepted.

### Minnewashta School - Minnetonka

Minnewashta School is one of several schools using the 3-2-1 system for bin placement.  
Bin 3 -Trash (any plastic bottles, styrofoam, foil)  
Bin 2 -Recycling (mixed recycling - bottles, cans)

Bin 1 - Compost (any food soiled paper - boats, napkins, milk cartons, waxed boxes and paper, paper bags and all food scraps and liquids)  
You're Done! – place all reusable items in their appropriate place – trays, silverware, and reusable lunchbox items.

## Resources

### ***Bayview Elementary's 3-2-1 You're Done Program***

<http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/nationalgreenweeksub/green-in-action-contest/spotlight-schools/1054-bayview-elementary>

### ***See WRAP web page Information Library-PowerPoints:***

Bayview 3-2-1 You're Done

Bayview Composting and Recycling