

## Appendix B: Common Recyclable Materials

Many materials that are generated in schools can be recycled—your school or school district may want to consider collecting some of the common recyclable materials listed below. Keep in mind that recyclers in your area may accept only some of these materials. Additionally, you will also want to consider other factors that could influence cost-effectiveness of recycling a material including: how the recyclables are to be sorted; the rate of contamination in the materials that the recycler will accept; and current market value.

### Paper

- High-grade paper
  - White copy and computer paper
  - Letterhead
  - White notebook paper
  - White envelopes
- Mixed office paper
  - Colored paper
  - File folders
  - Sticky notes
  - Boxboard (such as cereal boxes)
  - Junk mail
  - Catalogues
  - Paper bags
  - Packing/wrapping papers
  - Greeting cards
- Newspaper
- Coated paper
  - Magazines
  - Glossy paper
- Corrugated cardboard

### Plastics

- #1 – PET (Polyethylene terephthalate)
  - Soda bottles
  - Bottles for liquor, liquid cleaners, detergents, and antacids.
- #2 – HDPE (High-density polyethylene)
  - Water, juice, and milk jugs
  - Bottles for laundry detergent, fabric softener, lotion, motor oil, and antifreeze.
- #3 – PVC or vinyl (Polyvinyl chloride)
  - Bottles for cooking oil, salad dressing, floor polish, mouthwash, and liquor
  - “Blister packs” used for batteries and other hardware and toys
- #4 – LDPE (Low-density polyethylene)

- Grocery bags
- Trash bags
- Film products
- #5 – Polypropylene
  - Packaging such as yogurt containers, shampoo bottles, and margarine tubs
  - Cereal box liners, rope and strapping, combs, and battery cases
- #6 – Polystyrene
  - Styrofoam coffee cups, food trays, and “clamshell” packaging
  - Some yogurt tubs, clear carry-out containers, and plastic cutlery
  - Foam applications [Note: Polystyrene used for foam applications is sometimes called EP or expanded polystyrene.]
- #7 – Other
  - Applications that use some of the above six resins in combination
  - Collection of individual resins as mixed plastics

### **Glass**

- Clear glass
- Green glass
- Brown glass

### **Metals**

- Aluminum
  - Cans
  - Foil
- Tin-Coated Steel Containers
  - Food packaging (e.g., canned food)
- Bimetal Containers
  - Example includes tin-plated steel cans with an aluminum “pop top”
- Non-Ferrous Metals
  - Scrap metal that does not contain iron (e.g., copper and brass)
- Ferrous Metals
  - Iron
  - Iron containing metal scrap
  - Steel

### **Organic Materials**

- Food scraps
- Yard trimmings
- Wood waste
- Paper that cannot be recycled

### **Miscellaneous Recyclables**

- Lead-acid batteries
- Household batteries