



Your School is Legally Required to ... Recycle, Compost and more.

Your School is Legally Required to:

- [Recycle](#) designated materials.
- [Collect food scraps for composting](#), if your public or private school building is within 20 miles of an authorized composting facility and generates 26 tons of food scraps a year.
- [Recycle rechargeable and lithium ion batteries](#) – these batteries are banned from regular trash disposal due to their toxicity and flammability. Learn how your school can properly manage these materials.
- [Chemicals](#) generated at school labs – Learn how to evaluate best to manage chemicals from your schools and comply with hazardous waste regulations.
- Paint – if you're facilities generate [Latex and Oil-Based](#) paint, learn more about free paint recycling in Connecticut. For large quantities of paint, contact [PaintCare](#) and ask about their Large Volume Pickup Service
- [Pesticides and Organic Land Care](#) – Learn about the Connecticut law that bans use of pesticides on grounds of schools and how to transition to organic land care on playing fields.
- [Green Cleaning](#) – Learn about the law requiring green cleaning programs in schools.
- [Mattresses](#) – If you are a boarding school, learn more about free mattress recycling in Connecticut.



Recycling

Recycling has been mandatory in Connecticut for a number of items in effect since January 1, 1991 and additional materials were added in 2012. Schools are not exempt from these laws and schools are not exempt.

Review [CT Mandatory Recycling](#) in accordance to Section 22am-208v and 22a-256a of the Connecticut General Statutes to learn more about items required to be collecting for recycling in Connecticut.

Learn more about materials that might be generated at your school, how to set up a recycling program, tips for contracting with your hauler, and resources to promote your program and educate students and others at your school. It will also provide ideas for other recycling programs, beyond mandatory items, which could be a fundraiser and/or engage your community. Check out the [School Recycling Tool Kit](#).

Collect Food Scraps for Composting

In 2024, Sec. 5 of [Public Act 24-45](#) added schools to Connecticut's Commercial Organics Recycling Law, (CGS Section 22a-226), which requires certain businesses and facilities to collect food scraps for composting, which includes anaerobic digestion.

Public Act 23.45 requires each K-12 public or non-public school building or educational facility to collect Source Separated Organic Materials (SSOM) such as food scraps for composting if they generate 26 tons per year and are within 20 miles of an authorized SSOM composting facility, which includes aerobic composting and anaerobic digestion that composts the digestate. **These provisions will go into effect January 1, 2026.**

How do you know if your school triggers that law? Learn more about how to create an effective Cafeteria Waste Program, which includes how to calculate if you trigger the law, how to set up food sharing tables, donate surplus food and collect food scraps for composting. Check out the [School Recycling Tool Kit](#).

