



Broward County Public Schools Update

November 2025

SWA Executive Committee Education and Outreach Subcommittee

1. Student Ambassador Sign Ups

TOTAL: 47 students

Multi-lingual volunteers:

19 Spanish

2 Creole

1 Chinese

1 Bengali

1 French

1 Tamil

2. 2026 BCPS Summit Sponsorship Request

\$5k budget allocation breakdown for the summit sponsorship

- Transportation for 7 schools to attend the event: 7 schools = \$4,500.00
- Prizes for winning recycling poster contest:
 - Gift cards from Home Depot for their environmental initiatives in their schools
(they usually ask for gardening or recycling supplies – soil, mulch, garden signs, etc.)
- a. Elementary - \$100
- b. Middle - \$200
- c. High - \$200



3. Brief synopsis of recycling and composting programs

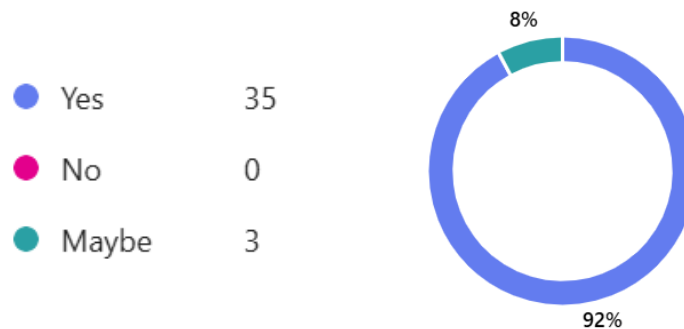
- BCPS has a contract with Coastal Waste and Recycling to pick up recycling at all schools
- Currently only 1 school has composting (South Plantation High), and they currently only recycle food scraps from their culinary program and agriscience program. Their contract with the compost company was supposed to end on November 3, however the Principal is hopeful she will have funds to continue the program, and even possibly expand it. The compost gets picked up on a weekly basis and fertilized soil is given back to the school.
- We currently have an internal committee that is creating a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for composting
- The internal composting committee is looking to pilot composting in a few schools, starting in the back of the cafeteria.

4. Recycling Curriculum Teacher Survey Results

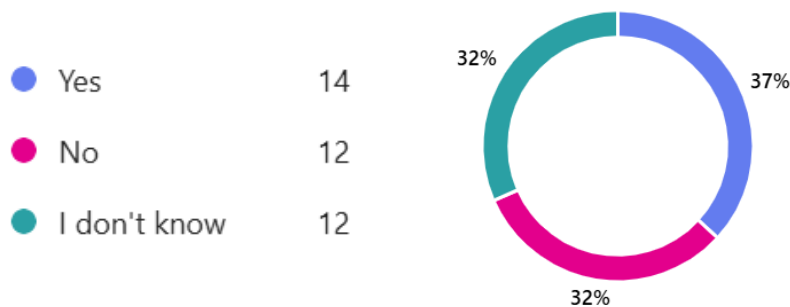
Survey summary results

This survey was part of a larger survey for teachers applying to attend the Youth Climate Summit. This is 38 schools of 239 schools, and all 38 schools have some sort of investment in environmental education if they are applying to the Youth Climate Summit. In this survey 5 elementary schools (grade 5 only), 20 middle schools, and 13 high schools are represented.

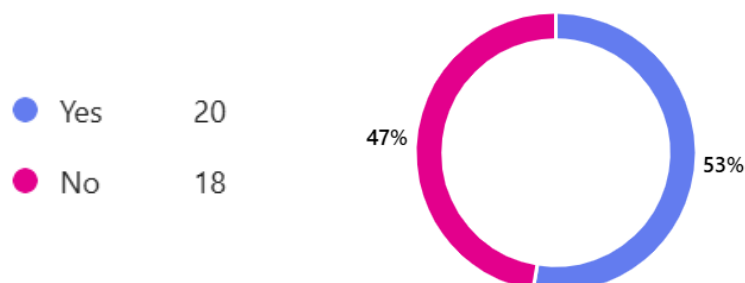
The recycling rate in Broward County is approximately 39%. It falls short of the state's goal of 75%. If materials were provided, would you be willing to incorporate recycling education in your class curriculum?



Does your school recycle?

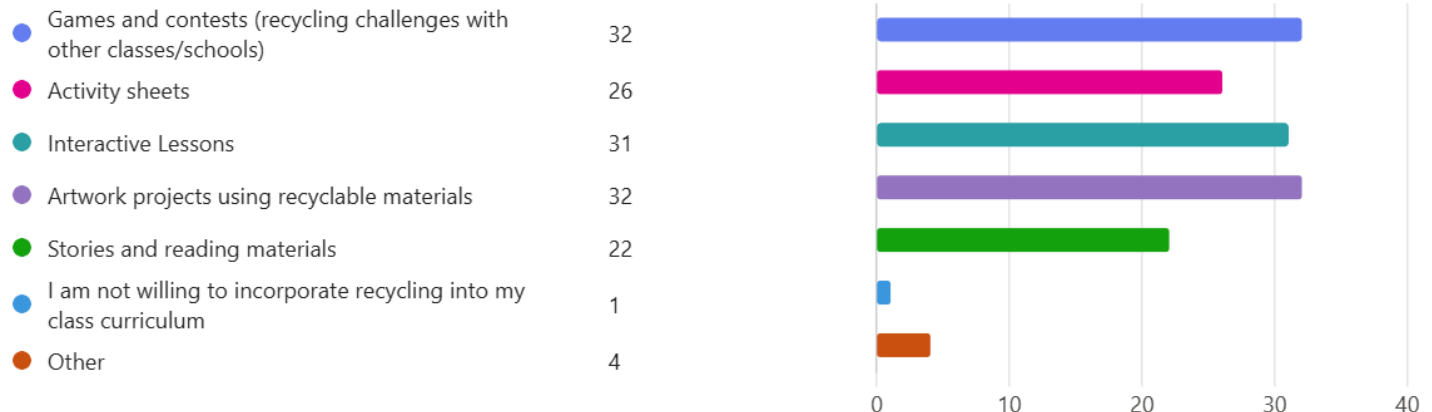


Do you have an environmental club in your school?





What recycling curriculum materials would be helpful to you (select all that apply)?



Main Challenges of Recycling as noted are:

- I am willing to incorporate recycling education into my class curriculum. The main challenges include finding sufficient time within the already packed AP curriculum and ensuring access to appropriate resources or materials for hands-on recycling activities. However, I believe it's a valuable topic that helps students make real-world connections and promotes environmental responsibility.
- We absolutely can incorporate into our environmental curriculum. My science classes, or other science classes, are strapped for time sometimes.
- The collection of the materials is a challenge. I set one up at Rickards Middle almost 20 years ago. We got the blue bins and had students collect/dump the paper from the classrooms a couple times a week. It is difficult to get the custodians to take on extra tasks such as dumping the bins separately from the trash can. In addition, collection of food waste for the cafeteria needs someone to monitor the collection table and compostable items.
- Our recycling dumpster is only for cardboard boxes and the mixed recycling dumpster is no longer on our campus
- The layout of both campuses present a challenge in making the program work as well as having the time during the school day where students will be out of the classroom to do the collection of bins
- The scope and sequence pacing would present challenges

What are some of the key messages or common themes you'd like to see included in recycling curriculum materials? Teachers noted...

How to recycle correctly (what type of plastics can be recycled, whether you need to remove labels from aluminum cans etc.)

Respect the Earth so that it can continue to sustain life.

What works and what does not as it applies to plastics.

What can and cannot be recycled and city contacts or guidelines.

How to work within and potentially outside of the existing systems to get things done.

Ways that students can make a difference, even though they are "just kids."

I would like to have included the: Reduce, reuse, and recycle theme with a connection to the real world. For example, show it impacts the environment and saves energy. Make civic connections and show the importance for doing our part to make a difference.

Changing people perceptions about recycling.

How to reuse materials headed for the landfill.

Waste reduction, innovation, creativity, and environmental protection.

not sure

The importance of recycling and how to make the process sustainable.

Plastic free! Reduce single use plastic.

N/A

Real world examples of the impacts of recycling and the impacts that occur when people don't recycle.

Update our bulletin board with new info - do's and don'ts of recycling currently.

The importance of recycling, what things can or cannot be recycled.

Recycling for change; Renew, reuse, recycle.

Rethink and refuse/reduce should be applied first to limit the amount of recycling and manufacturing.

Ways to recycle at home.

I think that additional field trips, projects that incorporate waste management trips or workshops or webinars. Opportunities that authentically involve the community.

'I can make a difference in saving my planet' 'Crafty Trash' 'Advocating for a cleaner future'

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The products created from recycling.

The benefit and importance of recycling.

All content surrounding.

The importance of recycling.

I think the reasons we should be recycling and that it actually is easy to do.

Recycling saves money, protects our environment while strengthening the local economy.

Solutions for reducing waste

Making products from recycled materials uses far less energy than making them from new materials.

How to be effective and impact stories.

It does matter to reduce, reuse, recycle and refuse. It does matter when you unplug things when they aren't needed.



Some key messages and themes I'd like to see included in recycling curriculum materials are: The importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling to conserve resources and energy. Understanding the full life cycle of materials and the environmental impact of waste. How contamination affects the recycling process and what can be recycled locally. The connection between recycling, climate change, and sustainability. Encouraging personal and community responsibility through real-world actions and problem-solving projects.

Easy and applicable ways to recycle on a daily basis.

Composting.

Do you have any further thoughts or recommendations you would like to share regarding recycling education? Teachers noted....

- I personally believe it's important; however, the county and 29-some odd cities, its message is not clear. Streamlining the process would certainly be a great help
- Find a central point of contact for recycling as a function of BCPS instead of differing directly to the municipalities
- Posters around the school, going on morning announcements once a week to educate students on recycling practices
- Creating a recycling committee with teachers, students and the community at school.
- The local surfrider foundation has members and volunteers that are willing to do short presentations on plastic pollution and its impact on our local environment/beaches
- Our city has, in the past, halted recycling in our neighboring communities. It would be critical to reinforce how important our efforts are to recycle to protect our land to ensure sustainability
- I found that when the lessons just had reading and then a quiz at the end, students were less engaged. Incorporate games and fun activities.
- I think we need additional programs that are similar Climate Summit, but on a smaller scale. Interactive and involves the community
- Connect recycling to climate action. Tie recycling into math (data analysis), art (upcycled projects), and language arts (persuasive writing).
- Put a recycle bin in everyone's teachers and class. Some kind of Caught Doing Good recognition program
- Recycling education should be hands-on and connected to students' everyday lives. Incorporating school-wide recycling initiatives, data collection, and community partnerships can make learning more meaningful. Providing clear, up-to-date information about what can and cannot be recycled locally would also help students develop realistic and sustainable habits that extend beyond the classroom. Visiting a recycling facility and learning about the recycling process firsthand may also help students better understand its importance.
- I would like to get in touch with someone who can supply us with recycling bins and arrange for the collection of recyclable materials from our campus. The city of Coconut Creek no longer has a public recycling pickup program.