



School
Recycling
CLUB

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ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING IN SCHOOLS



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In 1995, aluminum can recycling in the United States resulted in conserving the equivalent of over 20.6 million barrels of oil -- or 12.3 billion kilowatt hours of energy, -- or enough energy to fulfill the City of Pittsburgh's electrical needs for about six years. Aluminum is the "Buried Treasure" in the world of recycling. By collecting aluminum cans for recycling, a school not only helps the environment conserve energy and "reuse" resources, but it can also raise money to fund other recycling activities (i.e., paper), class trips, scholarship, school equipment, etc.

WHY RECYCLE ALUMINUM?

The mining of bauxite ore, the mineral from which virgin aluminum is produced, is both environmentally and economically costly. Producing "new" aluminum products from recycled aluminum rather than bauxite ore not only saves money, but it also . . .

- . . . produces 95% less air pollution;
- . . . produces 95% less water pollution;
- . . . uses 95% less energy.

These savings allow manufacturers to pay top dollar for recycled aluminum and process it into many different items, including new aluminum cans, siding, and construction materials (i.e., beams and pipes).

HOW TO RECYCLE ALUMINUM CANS

There are several options available for schools wanting to recycle aluminum cans:

- ⊕ Sell collected cans to an aluminum recycling facility;
- ⊕ Deliver collected cans to the municipal recycling facility (call the Northeast Resource Recovery Association at 736-4401 for contact information and a list of acceptable materials); or
- ⊕ Transport cans commingled with other containers (i.e., plastic and glass) to a recycling facility.

COLLECTION CONTAINERS

One usually pictures a curbside recycling bin when thinking of collection containers for recycling, but within schools, that's not always the case! Examples of aluminum can collection containers within schools include large cardboard boxes (with a hole in the top), 30 gallon buckets (with a hole in the lid), or 96 gallon toters.

The school's recycling market may provide collection containers, but not always. To help fill this void, the School Recycling Club has published an informative bulletin called *School Recycling Collection Containers*. This bulletin lists the basic characteristics of common recycling collection containers, companies or organizations that sell recycling collection containers, as well as some creative, low to no-cost alternatives. For a FREE copy of this bulletin please contact THE CLUB at the number above.

CLUB EXCLUSIVE GRANT

THE CLUB has received funding from New Hampshire the Beautiful and the New Hampshire Soft Drink Association to promote school recycling by offering New Hampshire CLUB members the opportunity to purchase the following recycling bins at a drastically reduced rate:

⊕ **Clear Stream Recycling Bins** -- The strong wire frame, see through bag, bold graphics and raised 4-hole lid dramatically increase recycling participation and reduce the chance of contamination. The Clear Stream Bin is available to New Hampshire members of THE CLUB for only \$11 and can be used to collect any type of container, such as aluminum cans or plastic bottles.

⊕ **Classroom Recycling Bins** -- This dark green bin (16" wide x 22" long x 13" high) is available for only \$3 each! The bin comes printed with the New Hampshire the Beautiful logo and the phrase "Our School Recycles."

Contact THE CLUB at 603-736-4401 (or e-mail theclub@nrra.net) for more information.

FUND OTHER RECYCLING ACTIVITY

Aluminum cans are the "buried treasure" within the waste stream. Manufacturers will pay top dollar for these cans because the raw material is so costly (both environmentally and economically). Depending on the school's location, there may be a minimal fee for the recycling of other items. If this is the case, allow the revenue generated from the sales of the aluminum cans to help fund the recycling of other materials! Remember, even if there is a cost, recycling is still better than throwing the material away!

QUESTIONS FOR MARKETS

When seeking a market for aluminum cans, consider asking these questions of prospective buyers:

- ⊕ Do you provide indoor containers for the collection of aluminum cans?
- ⊕ Do you pick up collected cans? If yes, what is the minimum weight you will collect?
- ⊕ Will you provide copies of weight slips from registered sales?
- ⊕ What are you presently paying per pound for aluminum cans?
- ⊕ How long has your company been in business?
- ⊕ Please give the names of two or three current schools or businesses marketing aluminum cans through your company.

For more information on where to recycle aluminum cans collected from the school, contact THE CLUB at 736-4401 (or e-mail theclub@nrra.net.)

THE CLUB is a project of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA), a proactive, non-profit working to make recycling programs strong, efficient and financially successful.