
Recommendation: Proposed Efficient Processes and Procedures for the Collection and Processing of Textbooks for Recycling

As mentioned, there is significant fragmentation and diversity in the ways that educational institutions collect and process textbooks for recycling. Not only does this make it more difficult for haulers and recyclers to engage with them, it also makes it difficult for a school district or college campus to aggregate books from a number of participating schools and/or buildings. Most schools are used to recycling paper, but they are not necessarily versed in the best practices related to recycling books. Depending on the municipality, soft-cover workbooks and textbooks can most likely be recycled with other paper products at the school; hard-cover books are a different story however. Some basic guidelines might be useful tools for K-12 schools and higher education campuses that want to recycle textbooks.

Proposed Next Steps for Basic Guidelines and Tips for Schools on Textbook Recycling



NWF's Eco-Schools USA program can develop a basic handbook for K-12 schools that combines the research, case studies, and best practices that we have learned on the most efficient and effective ways to promote a textbook recycling event at the school and/or district; best practices on collection and packing; and options for whom to contact about recycling the gathered books. This guide would be available for download on the [Eco-Schools USA website](#) and would be promoted through our listservs and partners.



[NWF's Campus Ecology program](#) can produce a similar handbook for higher education institutions that would be available on its website and promoted through its listservs and partners.



NWF will reach out to the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) to see if they can provide input on basic best practices and guidelines for educational institutions, as well as helping to disseminate the information to its affiliate organizations and partners.
