



Greening Your Child Care:

Green cleaning, energy efficiency, and recycling

Kristin Brier

Office of Pollution Prevention and
Technical Assistance



About OPPTA

- Provide confidential compliance and technical assistance to regulated entities
- Promote pollution prevention in industry and communities
- Support source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste programs through technical and financial assistance



5-Star Program for Child Care



- On-site Assistance
- Self Assessment
- Recognition
- Lead Risk Assessment
- Placemats, Posters, Materials, etc.



Greening Your Child Care

- Reduce use of toxic products
- Save energy
- Make less trash by reducing, reusing, and recycling



Reduce Use of Toxic Products





Reduce Use of Toxics – Pest Control

- Eliminate entrances
 - Screens in place and in good repair
 - Holes sealed / caulked
- Get rid of food and water sources
 - Leaks fixed
 - Food stored properly
 - Crumbs / spills cleaned up promptly





Reduce Toxics – Cleaners

- Choose carefully
 - Best product to solve the problem
 - Least-toxic product needed
- Buy only what you need
- Use it the right way
- Dispose of leftovers properly
 - Call your local SWMD, find contact info online:
www.recycle.in.gov/5758.htm



Save Energy





Save Energy – General



- The typical household spends more than \$2,000 a year on energy bills. With ENERGY STAR, you can save over one-third or about \$700 per year.
- The least efficient schools use three times more energy than the best energy performers.



Save Energy – Water Heater

- The average household spends \$400–\$600 per year on water heating — making it the second largest energy expenditure behind heating and cooling.
- **Insulate the water heater**
- **Can reduce standby heat losses by 25%–45%**



Save Energy – HVAC

- Heating and cooling account for about 56% of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most homes.
- **Change the air filter regularly (at least every 3 mo)**
- **Tune up HVAC equipment yearly**
- **Install a programmable thermostat**
 - a programmable thermostat can save you about \$180 every year in energy costs.
- **Seal heating and cooling ducts**



Make Less Trash by Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling

The Evolution of the waste can





Solid Waste Hierarchy

- Source reduction – make less trash in the first place
- Reuse – use items again before reprocessing
- Recycling – reclaim materials and reprocess into new products
- Proper disposal – in a permitted facility



Save Natural Resources

- Conserved by reducing, reusing, and recycling:
 - 1 ton aluminum = 8 tons bauxite + 14mwh electricity
 - 1 ton steel = 2500 lbs iron ore + 1400 lbs coal + 120 lbs limestone
 - 1 ton glass = 1300 lbs sand + 410 lbs soda ash + 380 pounds limestone + 160 lbs feldspar + energy
 - 1 ton paper = 17 trees worth of lumber + 7,000 gallons water + 462 gallons oil



Source Reduction

- Make less trash in the first place
 - Washable dishes instead of disposable
 - Bulk containers instead of single-serving
 - Do without
- Save money by not buying stuff to throw away



Example: Dishes





Reuse

- Use items over again, for the same purpose or for a new purpose
 - Craft projects
 - Safe toys from parents
 - Storage containers



Reuse it!



Why recycle at your facility?

- May reduce the amount paid for trash hauling
- Instills sound environmental habits
- Provides numerous educational opportunities
- Conserves natural resources



How to Start

- Start by doing a waste audit
 - Help from solid waste management district
 - Do it yourself
- Determine biggest portions of waste stream – biggest impact for effort
- Explore source reduction and reuse options first
- Discuss recycling options with haulers



Hauler Offers Recycling

- What materials are accepted?
- How do they need to be prepared?
- Will containers be provided?
- What costs will be involved?



Hauler Doesn't Recycle

- Explore alternatives
 - Get second hauler to service recycling program
 - Self-haul to nearby recycling center
 - Work with SWMD or municipal program
- During next contract / bidding process:
 - Make recycling services part of the bid
 - Request charges based on volume / number of pulls instead of flat fee



Setting Up Your Program – Materials

- Results from waste audit
- Accepted by recycler
- Easy to collect and store
- Safe for students and staff to handle



Setting Up Your Program – Logistics

- Work with staff – what system will work best for them?
 - Labor to empty bins
 - Storage for collected recyclables
- Number and placement of recycling bins
 - Near point of generation
 - Always next to a trash can
 - Appropriate to material



Recycling Bins

- Classroom bins – consider size, weight when full
- **CLEARLY LABELED** with what goes in
 - Classroom bins for paper
 - Can/bottle bins for staff room, kitchen
- Larger bins or toters for consolidation sites
- Check with recycler – what can they provide?



EDUCATE – Recycle Right!

- Students, staff, and administration
- Contamination makes recyclables trash
 - Contamination = anything that goes in a recycling bin that shouldn't, even if it is technically recyclable
- Clearly labeled bins
- Frequent reminders to recycle and recycle the right way



Recycling Right?





Recycling Right?





Buy Recycled





Incorporate environmental activities in lessons

- Math
 - Counting, percentages, weight – volume conversions
- Science
 - Properties of materials, chemistry, transformation
- Art
 - Materials reuse, color, shape



Questions?





Call OPPTA
(800)988-7901
www.recycle.IN.gov

Kristin Brier
kbrier@idem.IN.gov