



Charles County
Public Schools

Working together to achieve excellence for every student.

iRECYCLE SMART

September 12, 2023

*A joint initiative between Charles County Public
Schools and Charles County Government.*






*An exciting new partnership
between Charles County
Public Schools and Charles
County Government.*

Why bother?

- *3.4.4.1 In July 2009, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1290, Environmental- Recycling – Public School Plans requiring recycling in all publicly-funded schools, with the exception of State Universities. The law took effect on October 1, 2009 (amending 9-1703 of Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland). **This bill requires each county’s recycling plan to implement a strategy for collecting, processing, marketing, and disposing of recyclable materials from county public schools.***

-Charles County, Maryland Ten-Year Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (2022-2031)



A photograph showing a recycling bin overflowing with plastic bottles and cans. A metal shelving unit next to it is also cluttered with trash, including a green bottle and a white jug. The scene is outdoors, with sunlight filtering through the background.

Recycling isn't a broken system. It's just a little disjointed.

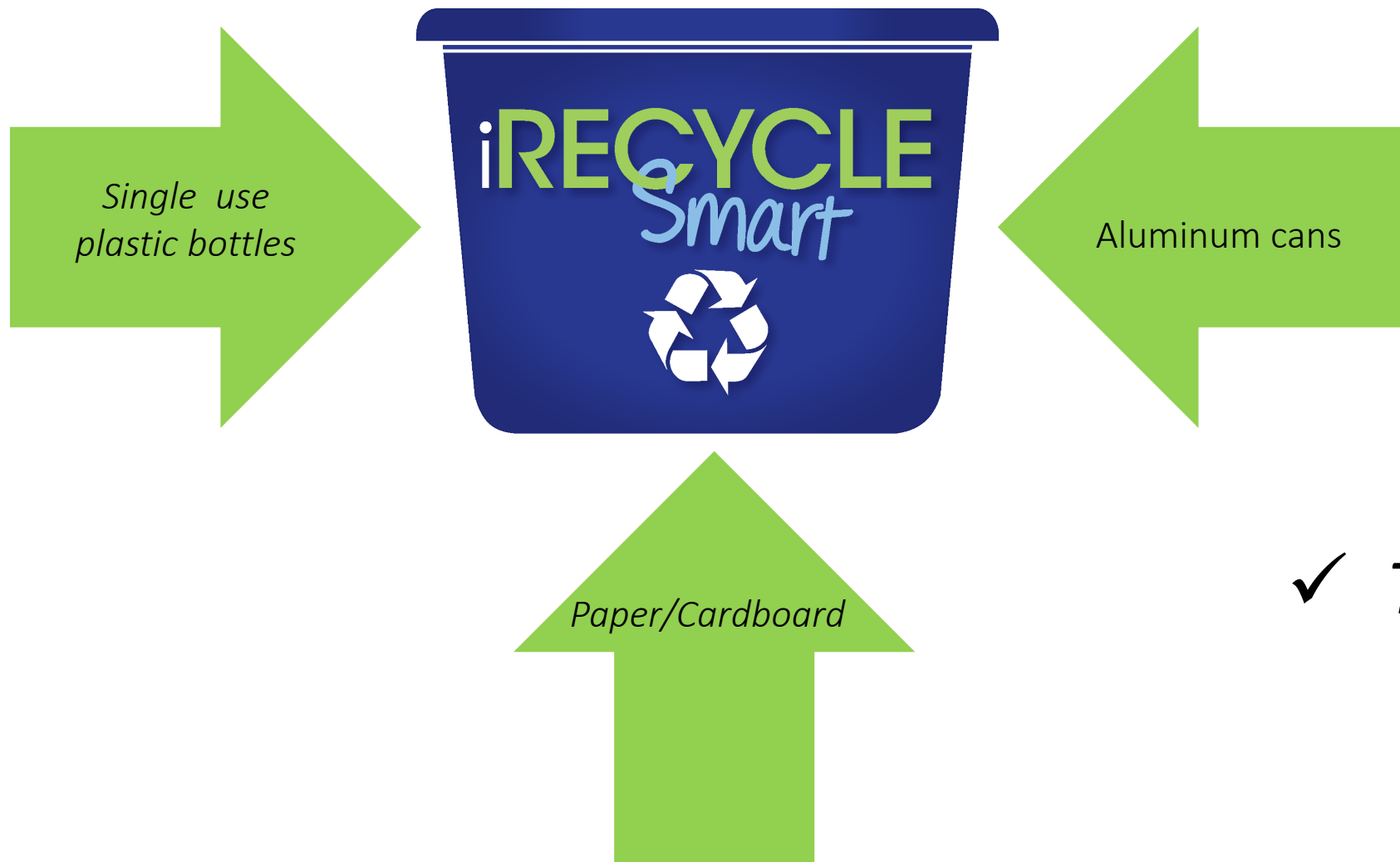
Why? What happened to such a great idea?



People happened.

- ***Wishcycling.*** The idea that if an item goes in the recycle bin, then it gets recycled. It won't, when in doubt, throw it out. Wishcycling costs workers time by having to hand pick items that don't belong and in turn, costs the facility money.
- ***Recycling the wrong types of plastics.*** Plastic bags, plastic silverware, Ziplocs, plastic films, and straws will cause significant damage to the machinery, hold contaminates and will have to be manually removed. If plastic film gets tangled in valuable materials, the entire bail goes in the trash. Perfectly bagged recycling will go in the trash.
- ***Un-rinsed containers.*** Significant food residue, such as peanut butter and pizza boxes, degrades the value of the material you are recycling and causes bail contamination. If contamination percentage rates are too high, 100% of the bail will be discarded.





✓ *The Big Three*

iRECYCLE Smart



Keep
Charles County
Beautiful

Charles County Environmental Resources Division • 1001 Radio Station Road, La Plata, MD
301-932-3599 • MD Relay: 7-1-1 • www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/Environmental-Resources

WHAT GOES
IN



PAPER



ALUMINUM CANS



PLASTIC BOTTLES

WHAT STAYS
OUT



BAGS + WRAPPERS



LIQUIDS



FOOD



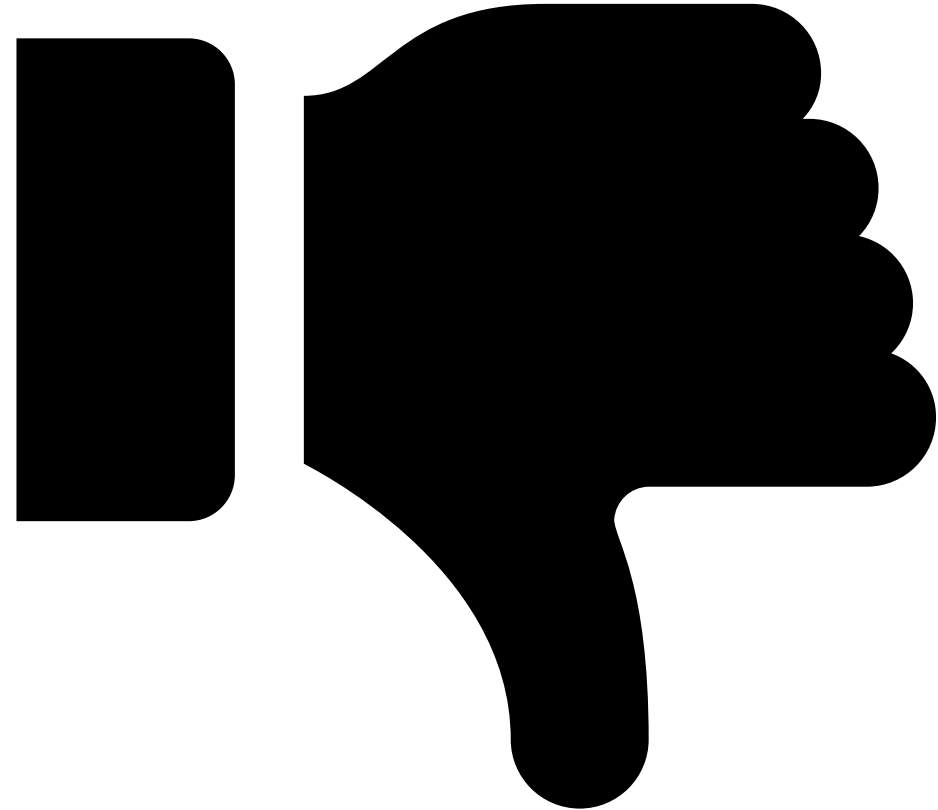
*What about
this stuff?*



No Food/Food Residue

No Liquids

No wrappers or plastic bags



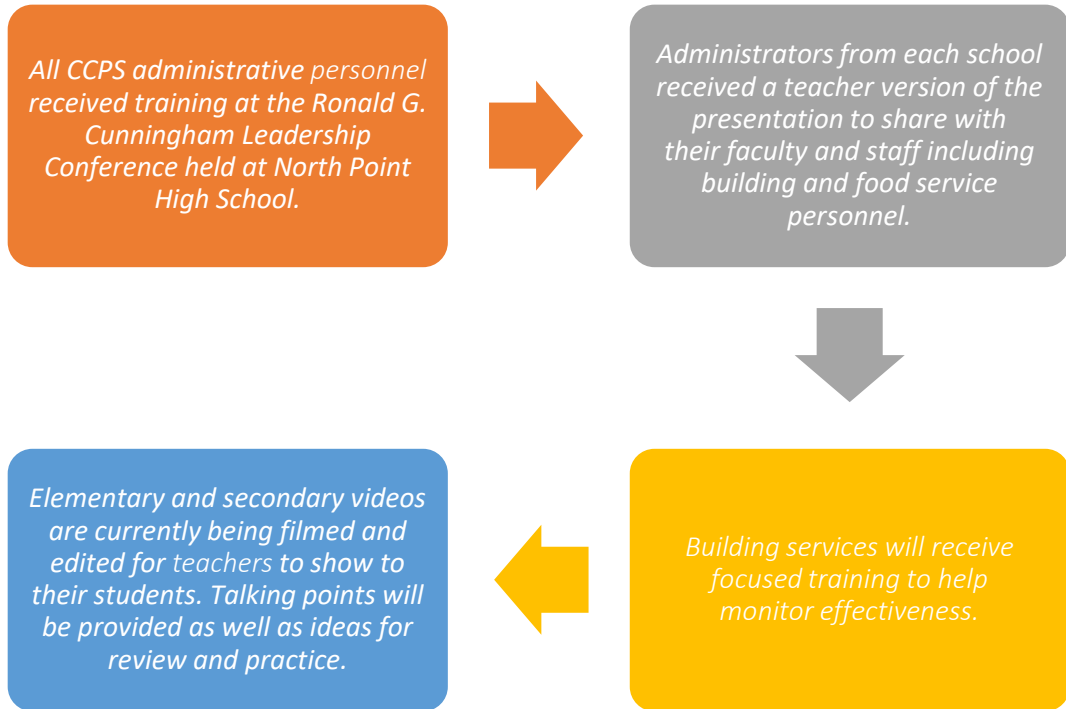


- *iRecycle Smart has been developed to reduce contamination of recycled materials. A contaminated bail is when 100% of the load goes to waste because it's mixed with too many of the wrong things. The most problematic recycling issue is food contamination.*
- *Cafeterias, food courts, and picnic areas are the worlds of wishcycling. We all hope that items aren't THAT dirty. The percent contamination acceptance rates are typically very low, and it depends on the end source.*
- *For example: If a company is buying cardboard and sets the contamination rate at 10% and we have 11%, 100% goes in the trash. It doesn't matter that 89% could have been recycled because it exceeded the contamination acceptance percentage.*
- *For this reason, we will not collect recycling from any meals or the cafeteria at this time.*
- *The goal is to keep the materials as clean as possible to make sure what we collect can actually be recycled.*





Training: Who, What, Where?



This approach of using administrators training teachers and teachers training students provides support for the program and ensures everyone has received proper training.

Logistics. What you need to know.

- Every classroom will have a recycle bin that is to be placed NEXT to the trashcan. The two receptacles are to remain together.
- There will be videos for elementary and secondary students that will introduce the iRecycle Smart program. The videos are currently being produced and will be sent to Principals when completed.
- Each classroom will receive signage that is to be placed above the recycle bin.
- Building service staff will empty the bins **once** a week unless a student group assumes the responsibility. (Grade level, Green Team, Honor Society, ROTC, etc.) Ideally, we can relieve the building service staff of the collection responsibility. Training will be provided to the group of individuals responsible for the collection recyclable materials.
- Recycling can **NEVER** be bagged. If it's in a trash bag, it becomes trash.
- **ALL** clean paper should go in recycling.



Where we are and where we are going..

During the 2022-23 school year CCPS facilities produced approximately 3785 tons of trash and recycled 207 tons of material. Our recycling rate was 5.2%.

- Our goal during the 2023-24 school year is to increase our recycling rate to 10%.*

Pilot cafeteria recycling at one elementary school, one middle school and one high school starting in January 2024.

- Our goal is to add cafeteria recycling to all CCPS facilities starting in school year 2024-25.*

Request an Extra Duty Position at each School for a Green School Sponsor. Recycling is a portion of the responsibilities of this individual. Currently this is a voluntary role with no compensation.

- Our goal is to provide compensation to the individual (teacher, IA, etc.) with a stipend.*



Let's get the word out!

The official iRecycle Smart Mascot!

Mr. Chuck Itin

Look for him at the Charles County Fair and other school & community events.

Appearance requests can be sent to akmurphy@ccboe.com.



Success means being able to say...

- *I reduce my use.*
- *I reuse what I can.*
- *I rethink my choices.*
- *I recycle smart!*



iRecycle Smart Team

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