

Get Caught Green-Handed

Effort and Resources

Easy to moderate. Low to no cost.

Objective & Overview

Encourage recycling by rewarding employees caught “green-handed.”

A team of spotters will wait near recycling bins and recognize employees “caught” in the act of recycling. This is a fun way for a green team to interact with a larger office or for a small group of volunteers or management staff to encourage recycling behavior at work.

Step 1: Pick a Time, Location, and Strategy

This activity can be conducted anywhere with a recycling bin. It works best in areas with ample recycling opportunities, like the cafeteria, break room, or copy room. If your office has desk-side bins, another option is to have volunteers walk around awarding prizes to those who have recyclables in their personal bins.

Step 2: Plan a Prize

Decide how you will reward your recyclers. Consider taking photos for a “Recycling Heroes” bulletin board or intranet feature, giving out Starburst candy for “Recycling Stars,” or entering each recycler to win a larger, eco-friendly prize (e.g. reusable mug or water bottle, gift certificate to a local farmer’s market, or recycled-content t-shirt).

Step 3: Prep Your Team

Outfit your team of spotters in matching company t-shirts or just the color green, and charge them with identifying and rewarding employees who recycle.

Step 4: Catch Recyclers Green-Handed!

Assign one to two individuals to each recycling bin or have the green team, volunteers, or a group of managers walk around the office looking for recyclers. When the team “catches” someone, they can applaud and give them a prize.