

Internal Recycling Competition

Effort and Resources

Substantial effort. Moderate to high cost.

Objective & Overview

The objective of this activity is to up the excitement around Recycling at Work using competition as a motivator within your company or branch. Create teams based on departments, seating arrangements, or office floors, then have them face off for a prize! The rivalry should help rally your whole office to recycle more.

Step 1: Break into Teams

Decide how you will divide your office into teams, and designate a leader for each. Work with your building management, janitorial staff, or recycling hauler to organize a system for measuring recycling per team.

Step 2: Set the Rules

Determine the length of your competition, and plan to weigh and track material for your different teams. You can choose to base your competition on who has the highest recycling per capita rate, or which team's recycling increases the most over the contest period. Finally, decide on a prize for the winning team. For example, a takeout lunch or recycled-content company "swag."

Step 3: Plan Outreach and Let the Games Begin!

Plan to communicate standings widely and repeatedly at each stage. Also create a scoreboard that you can place in a high-traffic location and update as needed. If the teams don't know whether they're winning or losing, they might lose interest! Develop consistent messaging for use on flyers or weekly office-wide emails. Once you have a plan and team in place, start competing!