

Zero Waste Schools



What is the Zero Waste Schools Initiative (ZWSI)?

The Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Sanitation (DSNY) are collaborating, along with their partner, Recycling Champions Program (RCP), to launch the Zero Waste Schools Initiative. ZWSI is one of eight Zero Waste Initiatives announced by Mayor de Blasio in his April 2015 *One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City*.

Over 100 schools in Brooklyn and Manhattan will participate in the ZWSI along two school truck routes. These Zero Waste Schools will be set up as models for recycling and organics collection. The goal is to identify best practices for diverting waste from landfills that can be expanded citywide.

What is the goal of the Zero Waste Schools Initiative?

- Provide concentrated outreach and operational attention to Zero Waste Schools with the goal of diverting all recyclable and compostable waste within five years.
- Systematically change recycling behaviors within schools to reduce contamination of recycling and organics bins.
- Document best practices of Zero Waste Schools to use as models for schools throughout New York City.
- Advance a culture of recycling and sustainability throughout the school system.

What is Zero Waste?

For the purpose of the ZWSI, zero waste is achieved when all recyclable and compostable waste is diverted from landfill for recycling. Schools can further decrease their waste through thoughtful purchasing and waste reduction practices.

How will the ZWSI be implemented?

DOE and DSNY will provide all of the bins and educational materials needed to participate in this initiative. DOE Zero Waste Coordinators and GrowNYC Recycling Champions Program Coordinators will provide outreach, education, and support to schools, including:

- Sharing best practices and lessons learned across NYC schools.
- Collaborating with key stakeholders to troubleshoot issues throughout the building.
- Making recommendations to schools about sorting station setups.
- Conducting school assemblies and in-class activities to educate students about environmental stewardship and recycling.
- Providing professional development for teachers, custodial teams, SchoolFood, and administrative staff.
- Working with after-school programs to help them comply with recycling requirements.

When will the ZWSI begin?

Spring 2016: Strategy development and information-gathering.

DOE Zero Waste Coordinators and Recycling Champions Program Coordinators will visit all ZWSI schools to gather information and develop stakeholder relationships. DSNY will also conduct baseline waste audits of ZWSI schools so that waste reduction can be evaluated throughout the program.

Fall 2016: Program implementation.

Schools will receive targeted outreach to students and adults, as well as technical support for classroom, hallway, and cafeteria bin setups.

How long will this program last?

The Zero Waste School Initiative will last for five years. During this time Zero Waste Schools will receive targeted outreach and material support to help develop strong, sustainable habits.

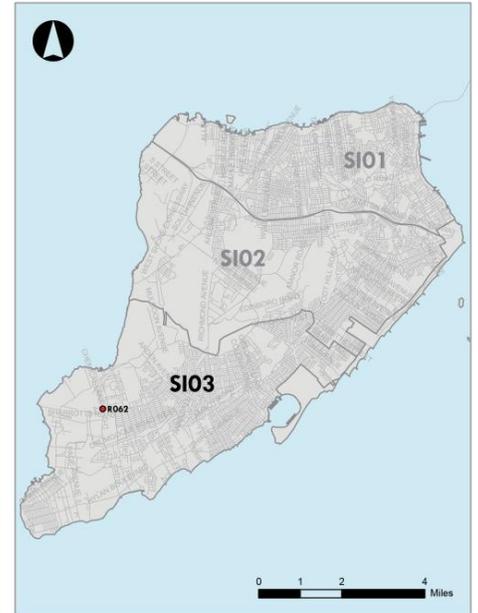
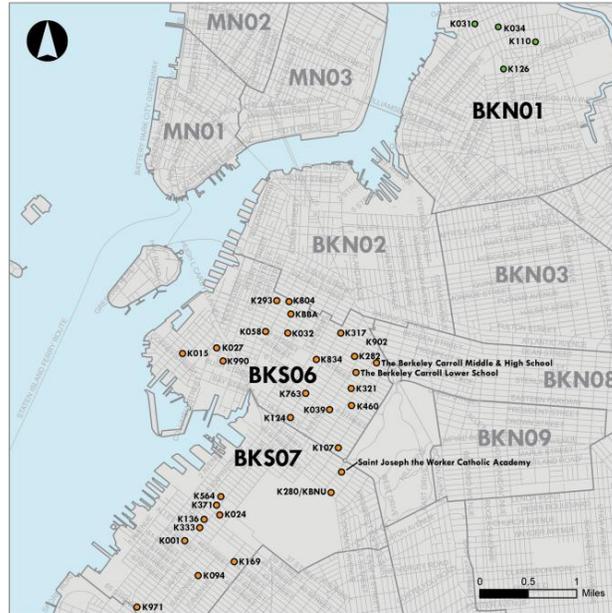
Where will the ZWSI be implemented first?

100+ schools in 75 buildings, focused on two truck routes:

- Brooklyn: Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill, Red Hook, Gowanus, Park Slope, and Sunset Park.
- Manhattan: Upper West Side, Morningside Heights, West Harlem, Hamilton Heights, and Washington Heights.

Additional “incubators for innovation”:

- Four Eco-Schools in Greenpoint, Brooklyn
- Kathleen Grimm School for Leadership and Sustainability, Staten Island



Zero Waste Schools

- Zero Waste School with Building Code OR Private School Name
- Eco School
- Net Zero School

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Contact:

ZeroWasteSchools@schools.nyc.gov for more information about assistance and free education programming.

