

Million

The Plastic Recycling Revolution



SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAMME

How to get started



Polyco 

www.millionplusrecyclers.co.za

Pick n Pay 
School Club

Who is Polyco?

Polyco PRO NPC is a registered Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) that invests in plastic recycling initiatives in order to grow the collection and recycling of plastic packaging in South Africa. In addition, Polyco promotes the responsible use and reuse of this plastic packaging in an attempt to end plastic waste in the environment.

In order to achieve these aims, Polyco has provided your school with four bin units, each consisting of two dustbins: one for plastic, and the second for all other waste items that can be recycled. In this way, your learners will begin to understand which items can be recycled, as well as the valuable life skill of sorting and categorising.

The best way to encourage learners to recycle and make use of the dustbins is to start a sustainable recycling programme at your school. This brochure will guide you through the steps of starting the programme, as well as give you valuable information on the recycling process which you may use to generate excitement for the programme.

You don't have to be an expert in waste reduction and recycling to lead a recycling programme.

What is recycling?

Recycling is the third 'R' in the three Rs of waste management: reduce, reuse and recycle. The 3Rs all help to cut down the amount of waste that we throw away every day.

Reducing means choosing to use things with care to reduce the amount of waste generated. For example, encouraging learners to use fewer disposable items such as paper plates, cups and plastic straws.

Reusing involves the repeated use of items or parts of items which still have usable aspects. For example, encouraging learners to pack their lunch in a lunchbox which can be used every day (rather than a plastic bag). You can also reuse old tyres to plant flowers and vegetables around your school!

Recycling means taking something old and turning it into something new through a mechanical process.

In order for products to be recycled, they must be collected – which is where the Polyco dustbins, and your school's recycling programme, fit in.

Because so much waste is produced at schools, your learners are an integral part of the recycling process. The more excitement and passion you demonstrate for the initiative, the more excited your learners will be to become planet protectors!

Recycling must be part of a bigger green vision

There are many ways to ensure that the recycling programme becomes an integral part of your school's culture:

- Include "green days" in the school's planning and celebrate it with the learners (e.g. Earth Day, World Environmental Day, Recycling Week).
- Select one environmental day a term to support. For example, create a "Recycling Club Day" to create awareness and support. This will also encourage the younger learners and, ultimately, attract them as future Recycling Club prefects, thereby helping you to create a more sustainable programme for the future.
- Plant indigenous trees.
- Encourage a culture of water and electricity efficiency (e.g. switch off classroom lights when they are not necessary or you are outside, switch off taps properly and report leaks).

**Start a sustainable
recycling programme
at your school.**



Why should your school start a recycling programme?

In addition to helping to protect our planet, there are many benefits to teaching your learners to collect and sort waste so that it can be recycled. A school recycling programme:

- reduces litter and pollution;
- helps to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfills; and
- shows learners how to care for the natural environment.

Additionally, used packaging has value when it is recycled. Collectors, who sort and gather items for recycling, are able to earn money meaning that your recycling programme also contributes to job creation in the economy.

Most importantly, it teaches learners to become responsible citizens so that they can play a role in leaving the planet a better place for future generations.

We have included 10 copies of this double-sided poster in your Polyco kit.



Side 1



Side 2

Circulate (and display) these posters throughout your school as part of publicising the recycling programme. Encourage teachers to use the posters to promote the programme, as part of their Life Skills/Orientation lessons. These posters are also available for download on Pick n Pay School Club's website (www.schoolclub.co.za)



Hello educators!
It is my mission to encourage learners to become planet protectors!
If every person that recycles encourages one other person to recycle, we will have a cleaner environment for all!

HERE IS A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO RUNNING YOUR SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAMME:

STEP 1: Establish a waste committee

The passion for your school's recycling programme will spread quickly. However, its sustainability will require three to five teachers to champion the programme.

The teachers' first task is to establish a waste committee to support them, and work as a team. The team should be made up of additional teachers, and representatives from the governing body, the administration, and cleaning staff. Learners only get involved in Step 2.

This committee will drive the project, give input and ensure that best practices are followed.

It is imperative that the principal, school management team, and teachers buy into, are involved in, and support the waste committee and programme.

STEP 2: Create a recycling club (the 'Green Team')

The teachers who are championing the programme, in partnership with the waste committee, will set up a 'recycling club' (or 'Green Team') made up of learners who show interest in participating. The recycling club's primary function is to keep the programme on track, and to champion initiatives such as beach and river clean-ups as well as specific recycling days at school.

The number of learners in the club will depend on the size of your school. 10 – 20 learners is a manageable number, particularly when a clean-up outing is arranged, which should always be under adult supervision.

Consider setting the club up as an extramural activity in the timetable. If this is not possible, set up regular meetings of the club at a time that is convenient. Clear responsibilities, as well as a duty roster, must be set up by the teachers and Green Team leaders.

Let the club elect sub-committees and assign roles and responsibilities (e.g. marketing, education, bin responsibility, clean-ups etc).

Educate the learners in the Green Team so that they can become peer educators and spread the recycling message throughout the school. Recognition of leadership and participation in the programme will contribute tremendously to its success.

**When learners bring recycling material to school,
you can post photos on Facebook
(provided parents/legal guardians
have given permission for this),
showcase it at parent's evenings and even enter
learners in the Pick n Pay Hero Awards.**



If appropriate, select/elect senior students as recycling prefects and recognise them, along with other student leaders, in assemblies and end-of-year ceremonies. Consider announcing a Green Team Prefect of the Year.

In your Polyco kit, you will find 20 x Polyco Million+ Planet Protector recognition certificates that can be handed out at assemblies to members of your Green Team who excel in their roles. *These recognition certificates are also available for download on Pick n Pay School Club's website (www.schoolclub.co.za)*



STEP 3: Set up collection stations

Your school has received four recycling bin units (eight bins in total). A unit consists of one bin marked 'Plastic Recycling' and one bin marked 'Other recycling'.

Let the Green Team decide where the bins will be best located. The sites should be large, easily accessible to the collectors, staff, learners and, possibly, parents.

Have the Green Team introduce the programme at assemblies or class visits and let them use the posters to explain the recycling process to other learners.

STEP 4: Choose a focus for your school's recycling journey

A sustainable recycling programme should focus on one type of item at a time e.g. plastic, glass, tops and tags, paper etc. Ideally, and as a result of the bins we have provided, we would like you to start by focusing on plastic.

See the poster for more information on the types of plastic and their recycling symbols. Use the poster as part of a Life Skills/Orientation or English lesson to promote awareness of plastic recycling and the recycling programme.

Establish class recycling monitors (who may, or may not be, on the Green Team) to coordinate your class's recycling activities.

STEP 5: Partner with local recycling collectors/collection services

Recycling material (waste) that is collected and sorted must be removed timeously as storage can become problematic. We, therefore, recommend that you find a recycling collection service and get advice on implementation of the recycling programme at your school.

Recycling collection companies will be able to tell you what they will collect from you and what kind of recycling infrastructure (bins, etc.) you should set up.

Look up <https://sst.org.za/maps/recycling-and-waste-locations/> and <https://mywaste> and choose a service that supplies large receptacles for the recyclable material.

If other schools in your area are recycling, you can find out from them who collects their recycling.

Let learners on the Green Team do a research project on local collectors and let them reach out to them to see if they would like to support your school.

BECOME A MILLION PLUS RECYCLING HERO

What is the Million Plus?

The Million Plus is a Polyco initiative that aims to get at least one million people in South Africa to commit to recycling their plastic packaging to put an end to plastic pollution in the environment. We believe that recycling is something that every person can do to make a positive impact on the earth.

How can we achieve this?

The Million Plus draws on the power of networks. If every person that recycles encourages one more person to start recycling, the commitment to recycling in South Africa will spread from a small minority of people to mass action, and result in a cleaner environment for all. We want to see a South Africa where recycling is standard and where we no longer find plastic litter in the environment. This is going to take everyone in South Africa to be responsible for the plastic packaging that they buy and to recycle it after use.

To find out more about the Million Plus, learn about recycling and show your commitment by signing up, visit www.millionplusrecyclers.co.za. Encourage your peers, colleagues, friends and family to join too.

Message of thanks

Thank you to Kabega Park Primary School for sharing their insights as to how they run their incredible school recycling initiatives!



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