



NEWS RELEASE

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INDEPENDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT HELPING COMMUNITY TO GO GREEN

Independence, MO--

The Independence School District is adding a huge new initiative which could prompt those in Independence to recycle more than 700 tons of paper, plastic, and aluminum.

The district has contracted with Deffenbaugh Recycling Company to add recycling bins at every school and building in the district, which will also be available for community use.

The project began as a way to encourage more recycling in the schools, and to ensure consistency in the district's recycling efforts. Soon, though, it became evident that what was good for the schools, could be good for the community as well.

“Currently, the city of Independence does not offer curbside recycling, so having these containers available at schools will dramatically increase the amount of trash being recycled in the city,” said Superintendent Jim Hinson. “Having to drive only a matter of blocks to turn in recycling will encourage those who are not currently recycling to do so, and will also make things much easier for those who already recycle.”

Examples of the types of plastic, aluminum, and paper that will be accepted can be found under school recycling on the district's website, www.indep.k12.mo.us. No separation of recyclables is necessary.

“I am convinced that a district of more than 13,000 students, nearly 3,300 employees, and approximately 110,000 residents spread across 42 square miles can make a tremendous

difference both through their individual actions and their collective example to the region,” said Deffenbaugh spokesperson Tom Coffman.

This is just the latest step in the school district’s drive to GO GREEN. The district has invested in making all schools more energy efficient, including cutting back on heating and air conditioning after school is released, controlling HVAC equipment to use more outside air, and installing motion sensors in classrooms that turn on and off lights. Schools now use recycled toilet tissue, hand towels, and fluorescent tubes. Brush and limbs on school grounds are now turned into mulch, and most cleaning chemicals are “green seal certified.”

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