



PE5 Action: Recycling Program for Public Places & Events

2 Points

4 Points

6 Points

A. Why is this action important?

Having a program to guide and promote recycling opportunities in public spaces and at public events reduces waste and disposal costs, has the potential to decrease community litter. It also has the added benefit of encouraging citizens to do the same at home. Public places may include including parks, downtown centers, public buildings, recreation facilities, and sports complexes. Some local governments sponsor or act as host for seasonal events like summer concerts or farmers' markets. According to the [Franklin County Waste Management District's Special Events Waste Reduction Guide](#), an attendee at a special event can generate as much as three pounds of waste. Even if recycling bins are placed temporarily at large events, the environmental and economic benefits can still be realized.

B. How to implement this action

Local governments should determine which public areas and events have the highest foot traffic and waste volumes and prioritize locations for recycling bins based on these criteria. For public events, local governments should collaborate closely with concessionaires, staff, and volunteers to ensure they are aware of the recycling program and that they help to promote it. Local governments should identify what type of waste can be recycled, the locations for recycling bins, and the plans for waste collection. To help reduce recycling stream contamination, trash bins should be placed next to recycling bins for both recycling programs in public places and recycling programs for large events. Recycling programs for large events may benefit from "bin monitors" to help further reduce recycling contamination.

The US EPA recommends some general steps for setting up effective public recycling programs. The following steps may be helpful in implementing this Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action.

Step 1: Select a recycling coordinator.

Step 2: Determine the waste stream.

Step 3: Practice waste prevention.

Step 4: Include concessionaires, staff, and volunteers.

Step 5: Select a contractor/hauler.

Step 6: Set up the collection program.

Step 7: Facilitate outreach and education.

Step 8: Monitor and evaluate the program.

Local governments are also encouraged to track the quantity of waste in the public recycling bins and estimate the effect of the program in terms of reducing GHG emissions. For estimating the reduction in emissions, local governments can use the [US EPA's Waste Reduction Model](#), known as WARM.

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

The time frame to implement a public recycling program depends on whether a government, residential, or commercial recycling program already exists. Assuming some recycling program already exists, adding collection from public recycling bins is a minimal additional effort.

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

Any local government that manages solid waste collection can implement this program. Departments of public works or sanitation are the most likely departments to implement this action.

E. How to obtain points for this action

Tiered points are available for two types of programs that are consistent with the guidelines above.

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Establish a recycling program in public places	2
Establish a recycling program for large events	2
Estimate GHG emissions reductions for this action	2

F. What to submit

Recycling Program in Public Places:

- Submit documentation describing the program and confirming that it has been active within the last two years. For a recycling program in public places, details should include when (i.e., the pickup schedule), where (i.e., pickup locations), what is collected, and who (i.e., hauling service or municipal) is picking up the recyclables.
- Submit educational materials (e.g., signage, brochures) and photographs of a sample of the receptacles to demonstrate any differences in the styles and placement of bins by location should also be submitted.

Recycling Program or Policy for Large Events:

- Submit documentation describing the program and confirming that it has been active within the last two years. Submit details regarding the venues served, the company/service used, protocol for securing and distributing necessary receptacles, and what recyclables are collected.
- Alternatively, submit a copy of the government policy and supporting materials which outline the requirements for waste and recycling management practices at events. Show that the policy has been implemented within the last two years.
- Submit documentation showing that municipal staff worked with concessionaires, staff, and volunteers to ensure they were aware of the recycling program and that they helped to promote it.
- Documentation can also be submitted to highlight the use of bin monitors.
- Submit educational materials (e.g., signage, brochures) and photographs of a sample of the receptacles to demonstrate any differences in the styles and placement of bins by location should also be submitted.

GHG Emissions Reductions:

- For at least one of the above types of programs, submit the quantity of recyclables collected, when they were collected, and an estimate of the emissions reductions (in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) that were achieved through implementation of the program. Show how the calculations were done using the [US EPA's Waste Reduction Model](#).

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- [Central Contra Costa County – Recycling at Community Events](#)
- [Franklin County Waste Management District Special Events Waste Reduction Guide](#)
- [Hennepin County MN Event Recycling](#)
- [Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority Special Event Recycling Containers & Tips for Success at Recycling Events](#)
- [San Francisco CA Event Resources](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Recycling and Waste Reduction at Your Special Event](#)
- [US EPA Benefits-of-Recycling](#)

H. Recertification requirements

The requirements for recertification are the same as the requirements for the initial certification.