



# Recycle Across America Labels



*“Through such initiatives as the Green Ribbon Schools program and through our school-construction regulations that require dedicated space within new school buildings for recycling, Rhode Island schools have been environmental leaders. Many Rhode Island educators work with their students on a variety of recycling projects to help their schools and their communities. Our students and educators are proud to lead the way toward recycling right.” - Dr. Ken Wagner*

**We have a vision.** We think every child growing up in Rhode Island, from kindergarten through college, no matter the school district, should see the same, simple, consistent message on recycling bins at school, home, the park, the mall, and eventually... at work!

**We have a plan.** Through a partnership with Recycle Across America (RAA), we have developed standardized labels for recycling containers in RI. Part of a national movement, they have been proven to decrease confusion, and increase proper recycling. They’ve been adopted by companies like Sony, Disney, Bank of America, NBC Universal, and more, and RAA is launching a national campaign starring celebrities who have endorsed the labels.

**We simplified the recycling message.** The labels provide the most basic information required to produce good quality recycling. They don’t drill down into every detail you need to be a perfect recycler, rather they focus on using pictures, and providing essential rules that anyone can follow, starting in elementary school.

**We have FREE labels for your school.** We are providing 100 free labels for every public school in Rhode Island. In addition, we will also be providing free labels to every state agency and municipality, as well as to business and institutions (including private schools) who participate in Rhode Island’s recycling program.

**We are here to help!** RIRRC also offers additional free assistance to make your school recycling program successful. We have a limited number of 9-gallon classroom recycling bins available, free of charge, and offer low-cost bins in other sizes (contact **Kristin Littlefield**: [klittlefield@rirrc.org](mailto:klittlefield@rirrc.org) or 942-1430 x252). We offer free waste assessments and technical assistance (**David Bordieri**: [david@rirrc.org](mailto:david@rirrc.org) or 942-1430 x110), and free educational presentations and fieldtrips to educate staff and students (**Krystal Noiseux**: [knoiseux@rirrc.org](mailto:knoiseux@rirrc.org) or 942-1430 x109.)

## Now, we’re asking for your help.

Resource Recovery has provided labels to your district, or to individual schools. With your help, we can make this vision a reality, have consistent labels across RI, save our schools money and preserve landfill space for the next generation of Rhode Islanders. Once labels are in place at your school, please email or call Kristin ([klittlefield@rirrc.org](mailto:klittlefield@rirrc.org) or 942-1430 x252) to let her know.

**We would LOVE pictures of the labeled bins in your school!**

# Applying the Labels

Below are some examples of bins RIRRC has distributed. We understand there are bins that may not be covered in this guide. For bins not pictured, use your best judgement to cover any designations such as “paper only” or “bottles and cans” while also making the label visible to the bin user.



### 9-gallon classroom bin:

Place the label over the “paper only” while keeping the RIRRC logo completely visible.



### 6-gallon desk bin:

Place the label over “paper only” and RIRRC logo.



### 22-gallon blue or 18-gallon green curbside bin:

Place the label over either “maximize recycling” or “Recycle Together RI” logos.



### 13-quart desk side bins (left):

Place the label as pictured above, and if there is one, cover the existing chasing arrows symbol.



### Carts (right):

Cover existing “cans and bottles” or “paper only” designations. If possible, label the top and sides, or whichever side faces bin users.

