



PE5 Action: Recycling Program for Public Places & Events

1 Points

2 Points

3 Points

A. Why is this action important?

Having a program to guide the kinds of recycling opportunities in public spaces and at public events reduces waste and disposal costs, and it has the added benefit of encouraging citizens to do the same at home. Public places to set up recycling programs 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.

Below are some general steps that the US EPA recommends for setting up effective public recycling programs. These 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 should track the quantity of waste in the public recycling bins, and calculate the effect of the program in terms of GHG emissions reductions. For tracking emissions, local governments can refer to the guidance under [PE10 Action: GHG Tracking System](#).

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	1

F. What to submit

Submit documentation describing the program and confirming that it is active. For a recycling program in public places, details should include when (i.e., the pickup schedule), where (i.e., pickup locations), and what is collected. For a recycling program for large public events, details should include the venues served, the company/service used, protocol for securing and distributing necessary receptacles, and what recycling is collected.

For both types of programs, 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.

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

- [Franklin County Waste Management District Special Events Waste Reduction Guide](#)
- [US EPA Benefits-of-Recycling](#)

H. Recertification requirements

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