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CARTON COUNCIL SCHOOL RECYCLING GRANT PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the Carton Council?

The Carton Council is a group of food and beverage carton manufacturers united to deliver long-term collaborative solutions to increase the recycling of cartons.

What is this grant opportunity?

The Carton Council School Recycling Grant Program is designed specifically to help schools in the U.S. and Canada establish, expand, or enhance school milk and juice carton recycling as part of schools' overall recycling programs, with the objective of increasing awareness of school carton recycling and ultimately the number of cartons recovered in a community. Through this program, the Carton Council provides grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible and selected school recycling programs.

Who can apply?

Carton Council grants are open to any U.S. and Canadian public or private school ready to implement, expand, or enhance a school milk and juice carton recycling program and are located in a community where food and beverage cartons are accepted in the community recycling program. Schools must confirm they have access to carton recycling by contacting their local waste services provider and receive administrative approval for the initiative before applying. U.S. applicants can use our Carton Recycling Locator at www.RecycleCartons.com to verify if cartons are accepted locally.

If we do not have access to milk and juice carton recycling in our area, can our school still apply?

No, only schools that have existing access to carton recycling through their recycling services provider are eligible to apply.

What if our school does not recycle but would like to start?

If your school does not have any type of recycling program and wishes to be considered, you will be asked to provide information on the existing recycling services provided by your hauler to confirm your schools' ability to begin a recycling program.



Is there a match requirement?

While matching funds are not required, preference will be given to those applications that show the ability to match Carton Council funds, extending the impact of the project beyond Carton Council support. Acceptable matching "dollars" include in-kind donations and staff time, expenditures from existing budgets, as well as monetary donations from other sources.

What are acceptable uses of grant monies?

Funds may be used towards a variety of activities to support carton recycling in schools. Examples include purchasing sorting equipment or collection bins (equipment purchases must be a one-time investment), creating communications, printing signage, establishing a "Green Team," offering contests, or other activities that support school carton recycling.

What is the timing for the application and grants?

Applications for the 2025 School Carton grants are accepted from April 1 to May 31st.

Winners will be notified by June 30th, and funds will be dispersed soon after. Activities outlined in the grant application should be completed before the end of the upcoming school year.

How will grant applications be evaluated?

As funds are limited, not all proposals may be accepted. The Carton Council will evaluate complete applications, with priority given to:

- Programs targeting grades K-6 since more milk and juice cartons are generated in elementary schools than other educational institutions.
- Applicants that have existing recycling systems and want to add and/or grow the collection of cartons.
- Creativity, efficiency, and effectiveness of the proposed program to highlight and promote school carton recycling.
- Quality of the deliverables that the program will produce and the ability to share those deliverables with other school districts/boards.
- Demonstration of available matching funds.
- The number of students impacted versus the dollar amount requested.

Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

Is there a reporting requirement with this grant?

Grant recipients are required to complete a progress report one year after receiving grant funds. A form with questions on how funds were applied will be sent to grant recipients by the Carton Council.

Who should I reach out to with questions?

If you have questions on the application process, please contact us at info@recyclecartons.com.

Where can I find more information about recycling cartons at schools?

- For U.S. schools: www.RecycleCartons.com/schools.
- For Canadian schools: RecycleCartons.ca/project/2025-carton-recycling-grant-program-for-schools