

**Summary:** Assessing the existing (in)formal recycling market helps to define what kind of waste material can be recovered outside the school. Depending on the situation, the recyclables can be either given to informal waste workers for free to improve their living condition, or sold to (in)formal waste recyclers to generate income for the school.

### Description

In most cases, when some waste materials have a value on the local recycling market, a recycling system is already in place, being formal or informal. In order to not re-invent the wheel, whenever possible, it is important to link the recyclables waste produced at the school with the existing (in)formal recycling system.

To do so, we recommend to:

1. Identify formal and informal individuals, companies and/or organizations involved in waste recycling – This can be done by asking people involved in waste management outside the school (e.g. drivers of waste collection truck, street sweepers, waste pickers, etc.) if they know any (in)formal recyclers active in the area.
2. Evaluate the quantities and type of recyclables produced at the school by checking on the results of the waste audit – This helps to better define the exact type of recyclables to be handled and can prepare the ground for further negotiation once the most suitable waste recyclers has been identified.
3. Conduct interviews with the (in)formal waste recyclers to know what type of recyclables they collect, at what price, what kind of pre-processing is needed (e.g. cleaned, dried, compressed, sorted by colors, etc.), and under which condition (e.g. amounts required, if a contract is needed, etc.).
4. Compare the different options gathered and determined which one(s) would be most suitable in your case – For that, considers:
  - a. The objective of the school (e.g. to improve living conditions of informal waste pickers, improve recycling rate of the school, reduce the amount of waste to be managed by the school, generate income through recyclables selling, etc.)
  - a. The potential income generated
  - a. Level of efforts to be done by the school (e.g. is the recycler coming to pick up the recyclables or does the school need to deliver it to them, does the school need to clean/dry/sort the recyclables/ compress the recyclables or do any other type of pre-treatment, is a storage system required to gather enough recyclables for selling, can the recycler take most of the recyclables, etc.)

The key steps to be undertaken are summarized in the table below.

### Steps

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| <p><b>Step 1.</b> Identify individuals, companies and/or organizations involved in waste recycling (formal and informal) (2 days)</p> <p><b>Step 2.</b> Check on waste audit results to see the quantities and types of recyclables produced at the school (1/2 day)</p> <p><b>Step 3.</b> Revise the recycling assessment questionnaire (Tool 4.A2) (1/2 day)</p> <p><b>Step 4.</b> Conduct interviews with individuals, companies and/or organizations involved in waste recycling (3-4 days)</p> <p><b>Step 5.</b> Compare the different options and determine the most suitable ones (1/2 day)</p> <p><b>Step 6.</b> Discuss with school officials on which recycler(s) should the school work with*</p> |
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- Note that you may need to consider different recyclers for different waste materials. Also, depending on the situation, you might consider to give the recyclables for free to waste pickers to improve their living conditions.

### Resources

Technical resources – Waste recovery

Tool 4.A2 Recycling assessment questionnaire