



Kids & Recycling . . . Perfect Together!

In case you didn't know this, here in New Jersey, recycling is the law. That means that everyone has to recycle. Why? Because we make a lot of garbage, much of which really ISN'T garbage—it's stuff that can be used again or turned into new things. That's what recycling is—using things again to make new things that WE will use again.

Recycling is good for us and our environment. It helps us conserve (save) our natural resources. Natural resources are used to make every single thing that we have. Things like computers, TVs, iPods, game systems, toys, books, clothes...all started out as some kind of natural resource. And while some people say that we have plenty of natural resources to go around, no one knows for sure just exactly how long they will last.

So, it's up to each one of us to help make sure that our resources last for a long, long time. Recycling things is one way that we can make that happen. Reducing and reusing are two more ways. Reducing, reusing, and recycling use resources better and longer, PLUS they create less garbage. That's what adults call a "win-win"—we win and so does the environment!

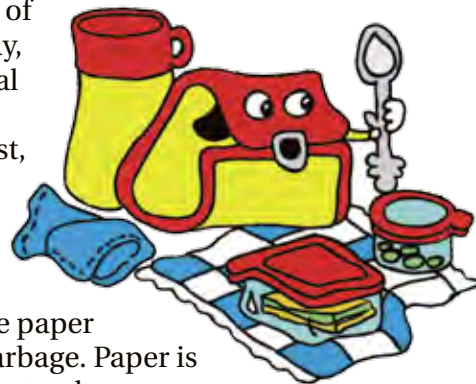


What can kids do to help?

There are many things kids can do to help the environment. Kids can use the 3R's every day. Do you know what the "3R's" are? Why, reduce, reuse and recycle, of course!

In a typical day, there are many ways you can use the 3R's:

- In the morning, when you brush your teeth, you can turn off the water while you are brushing instead of letting it run. That way you are **reducing** the amount of water you use, or, we could say, saving water. Water is a natural resource.
- When you are having breakfast, instead of using a paper cup for your juice or milk, use a regular glass. Since you won't be throwing the glass away, but you would throw away the paper cup, you are **reducing** your garbage. Paper is made from trees. Trees are a natural resource.



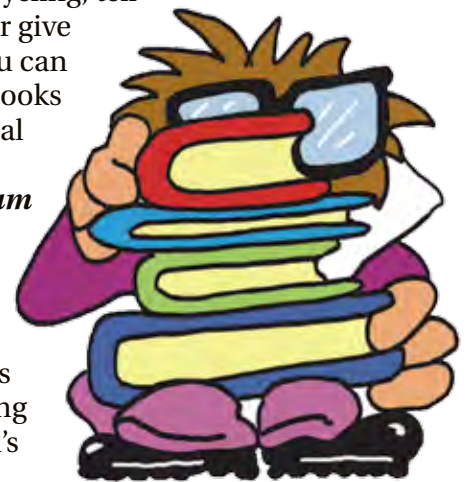
- If you bring your lunch to school, use a reusable lunch bag or box instead of a paper bag. Use washable containers for your sandwich and snacks and a thermos for your drink. If you can do that, you will **reduce** the amount of garbage that you make at lunchtime. You might even make **NO** garbage at lunchtime. How cool would that be?!
- Don't throw outgrown or gently used things away! Give away old clothes, toys, games, movies, and books to friends or charities. That's the way things get **reused**.
- Try to fix broken things before you decide to throw them away. It doesn't take much at all to fix a toy or a game, and you'll find that it is perfectly usable again! That's **reducing AND reusing!**
- Know what is recycled in your town and then make sure that you and your family **recycle** everything that you can.

Now, if you are thinking that what you do (or don't do) doesn't really matter or won't make a difference for the Earth, just remember what Dr. Seuss wrote in *The Lorax*: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Fun Books to Read

In addition to *The Lorax*, we also recommend these books that will help you learn more about recycling, tell you a great environmental story, or give you lots of ideas for other ways you can help our planet. You'll find these books in your school media center or local library.

- *The Adventures of an Aluminum Can* and *The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle* by Alison Inches — Each of these is a "diary" of an aluminum can or plastic bottle as it goes on its journey from the manufacturing line to the store shelf to a child's home to a garbage can and, finally, to a recycling plant.
- *The Wartville Wizard* by Don Madden — Learn how one man realizes he has the power to get rid of all the trash that is burying his town, Wartville.
- *50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save the Earth* by The Earthworks Group — 50 great ideas for kids, including experiments and exciting things to do to help keep the Earth a safe, healthy place for you, other kids, and even grown-ups!
- *The Everything Kids' Environment Book* by Sheri Amsel — Filled with facts, puzzles, word games, and experiments to show you what you can do every day to help the planet.
- *Earth Book for Kids* by Linda Schwartz — This book offers kids and families creative ways to learn about the environment while having fun.



SUM IT UP

Instructions: Read the questions. Then follow the instructions to create number sentences and find the correct answers.

What percentage of aluminum is recycled content in a new soft drink can?

Add the numbers from this list that are evenly divisible by 4 to get the answer: 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26

What percentage of energy is saved when new cans are made from recycled aluminum?

Add the two numbers from this list that are evenly divisible by 5 to get the answer: 32, 40, 48, 55, 63

GET A CLUE!

Malik is writing a report about the recycling program at his school. The program started several years ago, but no one remembers the year. Malik has gathered several facts that are clues he can use to figure out the correct year. Using the clues below, help Malik eliminate all but the correct year.

Clues	Possible Years	Year Eliminated
1. The principal is sure it was not an even-numbered year.	1977 1985 1989 1993 1997 2000	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The custodian said it wasn't during the 1970s.		<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Mrs. Bass said it was after she started teaching in 1988.		<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The recycling company started offering school programs in 1990.		<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Mr. Ray, who helped the Green Team kick off the program, was working at a different school from 1992 to 1994.		<input type="checkbox"/>
What year did the school recycling program begin?		<input type="text"/>
Bonus: What other important recycling event started that year?		<input type="text"/>

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Instructions: Read each problem and then select the two best suggestions. Label one "good" and the other "better." (Hint: One idea on each list is not a very good idea, so leave that one blank.)

1. Rafael didn't remember to take all of his supplies on the first day of school. Today, he realized that he must have #2 pencils and loose leaf paper by next week. What should he do?

- A. Get off the bus and insist that his mom or dad drive him to the store.
- B. Make a list of what he needs, and ask one of his parents to pick up these items the next time the family makes a trip to the store.
- C. Look through old supplies at home. These might be found in a drawer or closet. Maybe he will find some or all of the items he needs there.

2. Rafael and his family have three slices of leftover pizza at a restaurant. What should they do?

- A. Ask the waiter or waitress for a piece of foil to wrap the pizza and take it home to eat tomorrow.
- B. Plan ahead by putting a washable container or foil into a bag and taking it to the restaurant.
- C. Leave the pizza behind. Leftovers are gross!

3. Rafael is headed to soccer. He knows he is going to get hot and thirsty. What should he do?

- A. Fill a washable, reusable water bottle at home and bring it home after the game.
- B. Buy a bottle of water to drink, and then leave the empty bottle on the sidelines.
- C. Take the bottle of water his coach offers, but recycle it in a bin at the field or at home after the game.

ANSWERED & ASKED

Instructions: Read the answer given and then put a checkmark by the correct question.

Answer: "Rot" is another name for this.

Questions:

- 1. What is life cycle?
- 2. What is photosynthesis?
- 3. What is biodegradation?

TURN BACK TIME

In 1997, people across the country celebrated the first America Recycles Day on November 15.

Circle the letter of the item that doesn't belong:

- A. In Major League Baseball, the Florida Marlins won the World Series.
- B. The U.S. recycling rate was 27.4%.
- C. The first Harry Potter book was published in England.
- D. In November, America Recycles Day topped the Twitter Trend list.

Instructions: Read each group of sentences below and then put the sentences in the correct order by numbering them 1, 2, or 3 on the blank. When you are done, follow the directions at the bottom to find the title of Mike and Sofia's project.

- A: Later, Mike's mom dropped him off at Sofia's house.
- Mike and his mom left home to take their recyclables to the drop-off center.
- Before they got to the recycling center, Mike's mom stopped for a cup of coffee.
- B: Then Sofia and Mike started their science project.
- After Mike arrived, Sofia showed him her backyard composting bin.
- Sofia's sister answered the door when Mike knocked.
- C: Meanwhile, Mike used a library book to research the types of organisms that thrive in decomposing materials.
- Sofia turned on the computer and began searching for information about types of composting bins.
- Before they started to draw on their posterboard, they talked about what they had learned in their research.
- D: While Mike was sketching bugs and microorganisms, Sofia was cutting out pictures of composting bins.
- They had just gotten done when Mike's mom returned to pick him up.
- After Mike was done sketching, he typed a list of organisms that live in composting bins.

To find out what Mike and Sofia titled their project, look back at the sentences. Select the underlined word from the correctly numbered sentence in the group indicated and write it on the line below. (For instance, A2 would come from Group A and would be the underlined word in the sentence you numbered 2.)

A2 D1 B3 C1

Comma Confusion

Instructions:

Look carefully at the placement of commas in each of the sentences below. If commas are in the correct locations, write C for Correct next to the sentence. If they are not, write N for Not Correct.

- 1. Hannah and her sister put grass some leaves and apple cores into their backyard compost pile.
- 2. Hannah said, "Yes, we can also add the wilting lettuce."
- 3. "Whatever you do" said Hannah "don't put any cheese or meat into the pile!"
- 4. Hannah's sister replied, "I know, Hannah! I learned about composting in school, too!"

Wonderful Working Worms!

The Bergen County Utilities Authority's (BCUA) vermicomposting program, *Wonderful Working Worms!*, is a 45-minute classroom lesson that includes learning about the value



of worms, as well as why composting is such an important part of waste reduction. At the conclusion of the lesson, students are invited to get "up close and personal" with some red wiggler worms. The program is appropriate for all ages and grade levels.

To schedule a visit with our *Wonderful Working Worms!*, ask your teacher to contact Lori Russo, Solid Waste Education/Technical Advisor, at 201-807-8692 or lrusso@bcua.org.

Lunchtime Recycling

Have you ever thought about the amount of garbage you make during lunchtime at school? Is it a lot? Are there plastic bags and drink boxes and chip bags and napkins? Is there anything to recycle in your lunchtime garbage? Would you like to learn how to make less garbage at lunchtime AND get a free lunch bag? If you answered yes to the last question, then keep reading!

The **Lunchtime Recycling Program**, sponsored by the BCUA, is a two-week "waste reduction" program for students in third through sixth grades. This program challenges kids to figure out how to bring a "garbage-free" lunch to school every day for a week. If participating students make less garbage in week two than they did in week one, each student will receive a free, reusable lunch bag from the BCUA.

For more details, have your teacher contact Lori Russo, Solid Waste Education/Technical Advisor, at 201-807-8692 or lrusso@bcua.org.

Special drop-offs for problem wastes



Some things that we no longer want or need don't belong in our garbage and can't be recycled with our paper, cans, glass, and plastic. Things like computers, old TVs, old paint, and lawn chemicals or bug killers are some examples. The

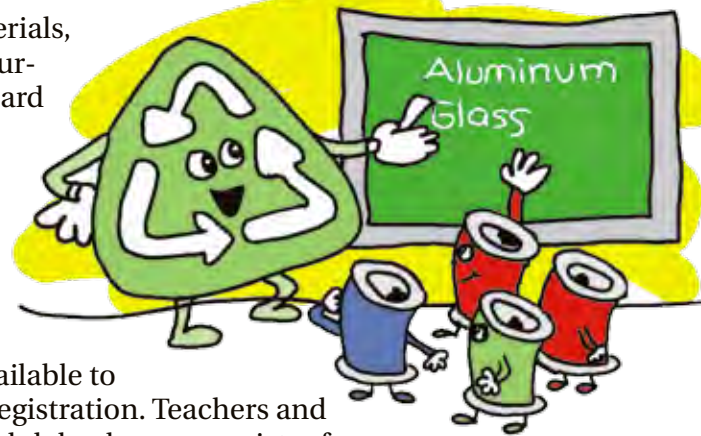
BCUA has special collection days during the year for all of these things. They are always at special locations and on different dates. Tell your family to look in the newspaper, check with your local recycling department, or go online to www.bcua.org for information on *Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events*, *Computer & Electronics Recycling Days*, *Paper Shredding Events*, and *Backyard Composter Sales*. You can also call our Hotline number at 201-807-5825 for information.



Discover recycling in your classroom!

The **Recycling Discovery Box & Curriculum Supplement** is the BCUA's newest environmental education tool for students in second through fifth grades. The Discovery Box includes nine environmental lessons, as well as extra materials, such as books, a DVD, samples

of recycled materials, and a "make-your-own" display board for a Recycling Discovery Center. All materials are free, may be kept for reuse year after



year, and are available to teachers upon registration. Teachers and environmental club leaders can register for a Recycling Discovery Box with Lori Russo, Solid Waste Education/Technical Advisor, at 201-807-8692 or lrusso@bcua.org.

The BCUA also offers a number of classroom education programs on recycling, waste reduction, worm composting, and backyard composting. All programs are held in your classroom. For details, ask your teacher to contact Lori Russo, Solid Waste Education/Technical Advisor at 201-807-8692 or lrusso@bcua.org.



Want to learn about backyard composting?

The Recycling Department of the BCUA offers information and demonstrations on backyard composting all year long. Composting programs and information are always available to schools, municipalities, and other organizations upon request. Call the BCUA's Environmental Programs Hotline at 201-807-5825, select the backyard composting menu, and leave a message. A staff member will get back to you promptly.

Bergen County Utilities Authority Recycling Dept.

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM U