



Tomorrow's Planet

A NEWSLETTER FOR KIDS WHO WANT TO
HELP MAKE OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Issue #5

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



Did you know each and every day most Americans produce just over four pounds of garbage? In one week, that's over 28 pounds of garbage per person. In one year, that's around 209 million tons of garbage created by people in the United States alone!

Does that sound like a lot? Well it is!

And do you know what happens to that soda can, newspaper or pickle jar when it gets thrown away? Just because the garbage truck picks it up doesn't mean it simply disappears.

Throwing away everyday items such as cans, bottles and newspapers can contribute to many environmental problems. The garbage we all produce (sometimes called 'solid waste') and then throw away has to go somewhere, and finding ways to deal with all of this trash without harming our environment is not easy!

Solid waste is usually stored in a landfill or burned in an incinerator and space in landfills is rapidly being used up due to the incredible rate at which we produce trash. Incineration, or burning trash to dispose of it, produces air pollution by emitting hazardous gas and toxic ash.

These aren't the only problems. Failing to recycle is wasting precious energy.

It takes more energy to produce paper from a tree than it does to make recycled paper from paper that already exists. Because recycled paper has already been processed and bleached, turning it into new paper requires 58% less water and 64% less energy per ton than making paper from trees. Making recycled paper also uses fewer chemicals and produces far less pollution than making virgin paper.

The same is true of soda cans and most goods that are

made from recycled materials. Not only does the production of recycled items use less energy, it also reduces the demand for raw materials.

How can you help spare the earth from all of that trash by reducing, reusing and recycling the products you use every day?

You can **REDUCE** the amount of disposable products and items that you use, ultimately creating less trash for the garbage can.

For example, instead of using a paper lunch bag every day, you could use a lunch box or cloth lunch bag.

You can also **REUSE** items that you use everyday too. Doing this can be as easy as saving the shoebox that your new sneakers came in and using it to store your Pokemon or baseball cards.

Then, once the shoebox is no longer useful, you can **RECYCLE** it. The shoebox and your collectable cards can be used to make new cardboard, newspapers and even comic books.

Reducing the amount of resources that we consume while reusing and recycling the resources that we already have consumed, not only saves energy, it also saves trees, prevents air pollution, keeps less garbage from going into landfills and is good for the health of the planet.

Helping to preserve the earth's resources can be as simple as reusing or recycling materials. See what you can do to make sure that fewer things end up in your garbage can! If we all do our part to reduce, reuse and recycle, we can help save resources and make the earth a safer and healthier place!

More on RECYCLING

Lots of different things are recyclable, such as paper, plastic, metal and glass. In many cities, recyclable materials can go out with the garbage, just in separate containers. You may want to ask your parents what types of materials your garbage service will recycle for you. But there is more to recycling than just sorting your trash! You can also help by buying things made of recycled materials. Recycled glass can be used to make roads. Plastic bottles can become park benches and this issue of Tomorrow's Planet can become an egg carton or a roll of paper towels some day! How do you know if something has already been recycled? It will have a little recycle symbol located on it, just like this one: ♻️ Even Tomorrow's Planet is printed on 100% recycled paper!

WEBSITES

www.epa.gov/kids/garbage
EPA's Explorer's Club

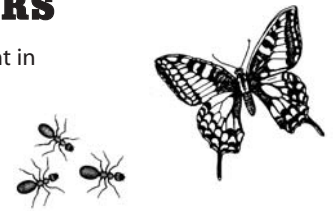
www.1800cleanup.org
Kids F.A.C.E
Kids for a Clean Environment

www.earth2kids.org
The Nature School



NATURE'S RECYCLERS

- Many butterfly species are important in rainforests because of their ability to carry minerals from the forest floor up to the tree canopy.
- Ants, centipedes, millipedes and worms recycle huge amounts of organic material like fallen leaves, trees, fruit and even dead animals. Their hard work at recycling produces rich soil and nutrients that can be used for new trees and plants to grow in.



RECYCLING ACTIVITY

Instructions:

- Cut out the box below.
- With the printed side down, fold each corner to the center point.
- Turn the folded paper over so the loose flaps are facing down.
- Once again, fold each corner to the center point.
- Fold in half and crease to make a rectangle (so that the words are showing), then unfold and fold in half in the opposite direction, still making a rectangle, and crease again.
- Using both hands, place thumb and index fingers under the flaps with the words on them.
- Push toward the center until a pyramid shape forms.
- This game is for two players. Put the game on your hands and ask your friend to pick one of the solid squares, for example "REUSE". Open and close the game in an altering direction for each letter of the word R-E-U-S-E.
- Have your friend pick a number and learn an interesting fact about recycling.



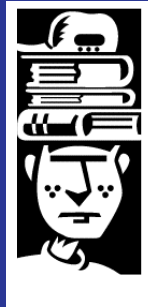
- Yellow jackets, wasps and hornets recycle fibers from plants and chew them in order to make paper for their nests. The color and texture of their nest depends on what type of plant is used.

BOOKS

Here Comes The Recycling Truck
 By Meyer Seltzer & Judith Mathews (ages 5-7)

Follow That Trash (ages 6-8)
 By Francine Jacobs

Bottle Cap Activities (ages 9-12)
 By Kathy Cisneros



WASTE	5	6	REDUCE
4	Every hour the United States uses 2.5 million plastic bottles.	Glass takes one million years to breakdown in a landfill.	7
The United States has 6% of the world's people, but produces half of the world's garbage.	You can recycle clothing by donating it to a local charity.	Aluminum takes 500 years to break down in a landfill.	8
3	Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees.	57,000 tons of material are already being recycled each year in the United States.	1
RECYCLE	2	Paper is the most commonly recycled material.	REUSE

Tomorrow's Planet

Editor: Chris Modell
 Contributors: Kate Rakus, Jesse Johnson, Yolanda Andersen

Sierra Club Statement of Purpose
 To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Are you curious about how you can help save the planet?

Career Path

While many jobs involve some sort of recycling, certain types of **artists** focus solely on the recycling of materials to create their masterpieces. Through incorporating objects and materials that would otherwise have been thrown away, artists are some of the more creative recyclers.

Collage is one artistic style that uses all sorts of different materials, from car parts to old stamps and magazine pages, bringing them all together into one piece of artwork. **Mosaic** is another style of artistic creativity that recycles ceramic and glass fragments by piecing them together to create larger images.

Did You Know?

Composting is something you can do on a daily basis to reduce the amount of garbage that you produce.

Composting involves separating all food scraps and organic material from the garbage and placing it in a bin or in a pile in the yard where it can be broken down by worms and other small organisms.

These tiny creatures will convert food waste into nutrient rich soil that can be used in the garden or for your plants. Setting aside all of that unwanted matter will also keep your garbage from smelling bad.

5 things you can do to help

1

Cut Back

Reducing the amount of waste that you produce is a great way to help the environment.



2

Donate

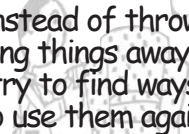
Donating unwanted books, clothes and goods to second hand shops is another way to recycle, too.



3

Reuse

Instead of throwing things away, try to find ways to use them again.



4

Read

Learn what items can be recycled and why not all items are recyclable.



5

Fix It

Repair broken items instead of tossing them and buying new ones.

