

Youth Impact: The Three R's

Reduce = Reuse = Recycle!

Reduce!

A key to achieving sustainability is to reduce the amount of stuff we consume and the waste we produce. What are some projects you can take on at your school?

- Talk to your cafeteria staff about switching to reusable dishes.
- Ask the administration about setting printers and photocopiers to print double-sided as a default.
- Print your assignments double-sided.
- Show 'The Story of Stuff' video in a class or assembly to encourage other students.
- Organize a 'litterless lunch' campaign to get students avoiding disposables.

Reuse!

The next best thing to *Reducing* is reusing materials so fewer things go to the landfill. This sometimes takes some creativity and thinking outside the box.

Into Arts and Crafts?

As a fundraiser, your group could paint cloth bags or get reusable water bottles and coffee mugs and sell them as a fundraiser.

Do you have bins of **one-sided paper** lying around? Make notebooks out of this paper by taking stacks of paper to a binding shop to be hole-punched and bound. Turn cereal and cracker boxes into covers for your notebooks! Most boxes are eye-catching and bright already

Avid knitter? Cut **plastic bags** into thin strips, knot together, and use as yarn!

Egg cartons as earring holders - Paint, decorate, and otherwise jazz up egg cartons into attractive jewellery organizers.

Recycle!

Lots of schools have recycling programs in response to a 'green' trend in society. Want to start a recycling program in your school? Want to increase the quantity of stuff that your school recycles?



Here is a list of things to take into consideration before you start your own recycling project.

1. What kind of waste does your school produce the most of?
2. How is garbage collected from classrooms? From the cafeteria? From the school for processing?
3. Who is responsible for making sure the garbage gets collected?
4. If a recycling program exists, how are the different types of materials separated?
5. Does the school have a contract with a waste management company to take garbage to the dump? How will this contract be affected by a change in recycling management?
6. If you are putting out new recycling bins, where are you going to empty the bins? Who is responsible for making sure these bins get emptied? Who is responsible for making sure the recycling gets collected from the school?
7. If there is a redemption centre in your town, will they collect your recycling? Will you get the bottle deposits back to help offset costs?
8. Does your school use recycled paper? If not, why not come up with a campaign to get the school to buy only recycled paper?

