



Take our school recycling challenge

We are challenging schools to Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, and then Recycle:

- Rethink behaviors that negatively affect the environment and change them into positive, environmentally conscious actions;
- Reduce the amount of waste produced;
- Reuse what is still useful in other creative ways; and then...
- Recycle as much as possible.

In order to help schools take part in the challenge, we offer teacher training in the environmental education curriculum Project Learning Tree. After teachers have completed the training, they can qualify to apply for \$50 to \$1,000 in GreenWorks! Grants for their schools.

During the challenge, schools will do schoolyard habitat projects, and energy and trash audits, as well as establish and maintain a successful recycling program. At the end of the year, one school from each level will be recognized for these efforts.

Psst! Recycling is easy! Pass it on...

Does your family know how easy it is to recycle? If not, maybe it's time that you tell them. Here's everything they'll need to know to get started.

At the curb, you can recycle metal food and beverage cans, newspaper, white and mixed paper, magazines and catalogs, #1 and #2 narrow-necked plastic containers, glass bottles and jars, and corrugated cardboard.

The District is piloting a new single-stream recycling program in Wards 7 and 8. As a part of this program, residents will receive a large, 32-gallon blue cart for all of their recyclables. You will still have to separate recyclables from trash. The only difference is that you'll be placing all of your recyclables mixed together into this larger bin. Recycling will still be collected on the same day as trash collection. In areas with twice-per-week trash collection, recyclables will be collected on the second day as they have been in the past. The blue cart, single-stream system will go citywide within the coming year.

Even though recyclables will be mixed together, it is still important to prepare them properly. All containers should be rinsed, and caps and lids should be removed and discarded. Flatten plastic containers and boxes to save space in your bin or cart. Make sure all of your paper products are clean and dry.

Only put recyclable products in the recycling bin. Please don't put trash into your recycling bin or cart!

For more information, call our office or visit our website.



These schools are doing a great job recycling and caring for the environment:

- Janney Elementary School (See photo on the back page.)
- John Burroughs Elementary School
- Savoy Elementary School
- Anacostia Senior High School
- HD Woodson Senior High School
- Deal Junior High School

Extending the classroom

Thanks to Yvette Judge in the DPW Office of Recycling, General Motors Company brought an environmentally friendly fuel-cell vehicle to

Anacostia High School in May.

The DPW Office of Recycling has provided Project Learning Tree training to several

Anacostia High

School teachers, helped establish the Planet Protectors after-school program, and supplied resources for the Environmental Science Club. The GM vehicle gave students a chance to see how something they are learning about in the classroom operates in the real world.



A ROTTIN' GARBAGE GARDEN



In a compost pile, air, water, and heat cause materials to biodegrade, or rot. However, some materials will not rot—or at least not quickly. Biodegradable items will rot when exposed to air, water, and light or heat, although for some of these items it will take a long time. Non-biodegradable items will never rot, although they may break into smaller and smaller pieces.

To learn what will rot and what may not, plant a garbage garden. Be sure to keep a “log book” that contains all of your methods and observations.

1. Fill a shallow pan (such as a dishpan) with moist soil.
2. Plant several different types of garbage in the soil. You might include dead leaves, food waste (an apple core or an orange peel—no meat or dairy products), a piece of fabric, a can, a scrap of newspaper, a plastic bag, and a plastic foam cup or tray.
3. In your log book, record exactly what was planted in your garbage garden, diagram the location of each item, and write predictions about what will happen to the items.
4. Sprinkle water onto your garbage garden every other day.
5. After one week, gently dig up the garbage. What, if anything, has happened to the items? Which items have changed? Which have not? Write down your observations.
6. Replant the garden and keep watering it every other day.
7. After two more weeks, uncover the garbage again. Have any items begun to rot? Have any items stayed exactly the same? Write down your observations in your log.
8. Continue replanting, sprinkling, and checking your garbage garden every two weeks for as long as you like. Keep your log up to date!

At the end of this project, review your log. What did you learn about rotting (biodegradation)? Draw conclusions based on your research.

Discuss these questions: What does your garbage garden tell you about what belongs in a backyard compost pile or vermicompost (worm composting) bin? In modern landfills, waste isn't exposed to very much air or water—would this speed up or slow down biodegradation?

DECIMALS

For each group of numbers and letters, write the decimal numbers in order from greatest to least on the top lines. Then below the numbers, write the letter found next to each decimal. What is the secret message?

B 0.36 E 0.02 E 0.53 T 0.09 ~~C 0.96~~
 A 0.14 L 0.78 E 0.87 R 0.23
 .96 _____
 C _____

M 0.0984 A 0.1021 R 0.0122
 E 0.0725 C 0.0076 A 0.0054
 I 0.0095 _____

C 0.213 R 0.511 E 0.109 Y 0.377
 S 0.099 C 0.381 E 0.456 L 0.112

Y 0.0426 D 0.1100 A 0.0712

 _____!

PUZZLING PROBLEMS

Over the past four weeks, Jose's family has recycled 28 aluminum cans, 32 aluminum cans, 17 aluminum cans, and 39 aluminum cans. What is the average number of cans they recycled each week?

If Jose's family recycled this average number of aluminum cans every week for one year, how many cans would they recycle?

RECYCLED RIDDLES

There are at least four words hidden in each puzzle, but only one is the correct solution to the riddle. In each puzzle, circle all the words you find. The words are hidden across and down only (not backwards or diagonally). Then choose the one that solves the riddle and write it on the blank provided. (Hint: Each solution will be the recyclable used to make the recycled-content product that is being described.)

j l s i h o r t x
 n e w s p a p e r
 q v w r l z a k e
 l c b n a u o r d
 e c a n s o b t u
 p u m y t e w b c
 t b s r i p i d e
 n y f o c m g l h

1. Today, I am a cereal box. I'm one of the lucky ones. There are puzzles on my back, and kids smile when parents bring me home. It wasn't always that way though. Before, kids weren't too interested in me—even though they often had to go outside and pick me up. However, their parents would spend lots of time with me, gathering news and reading ads. Only my movie listings and comics got the kids' attention. What was I?



n m i r v r t
 q e s t e e l
 x i w i l u p
 e t s r u s n
 d b i e m e r
 g l a s s v b

2. Today, kids love to play on me. I'm soft and cushiony. No one's going to get hurt while I'm covering this playground. But I used to get around more. Oh, the stories I could tell—the trips, the vacations, the errands, the baseball games. Let's just say that I had been a “round.” What was I?



q w e r t y u c
 c o m p o s t a
 i o p a s d f r
 h j k v z x c p
 v r e c y c l e
 b n m a l h f t
 d a o n i y r w
 e t u s k m b z

3. Today, I'm lighter than ever. This time around, I got a sleek new top, too. However, I still get to provide kids with their favorite soft drinks. When it comes to providing beverages, I shout, “I can!” Before this, things were pretty much the same, although I was a little heavier, but I still had a pop top. What was I?



z c b m r k h
 f p a p e r s
 p o u t c r w
 q e b u y t u
 o l j g c d a
 b o t t l e s
 a x v n e k u
 w f c s d o v

4. Today, I keep kids warm on cool fall and winter days. My fleecy fabric makes warm sweatshirts and cozy blankets. Before, I also spent a lot of time with kids—on the sidelines at soccer games and at summer parties. Then, I held the stuff that kept kids cool and refreshed. What was I?



Catch the spirit

Do you have the recycling spirit? Do you look for recyclable containers and packaging when you shop? Do you collect your recyclables at home? Do you seek recycled-content products? If so, keep up the good work. If not, maybe this America Recycles Day is the time for you to catch the recycling spirit.

For the sixth year in a row, communities across the country will celebrate America Recycles Day on or around November 15. Last year, more than 850 local and statewide events reminded Americans that recycling conserves resources, saves energy, reduces air and water pollution, and helps create jobs.

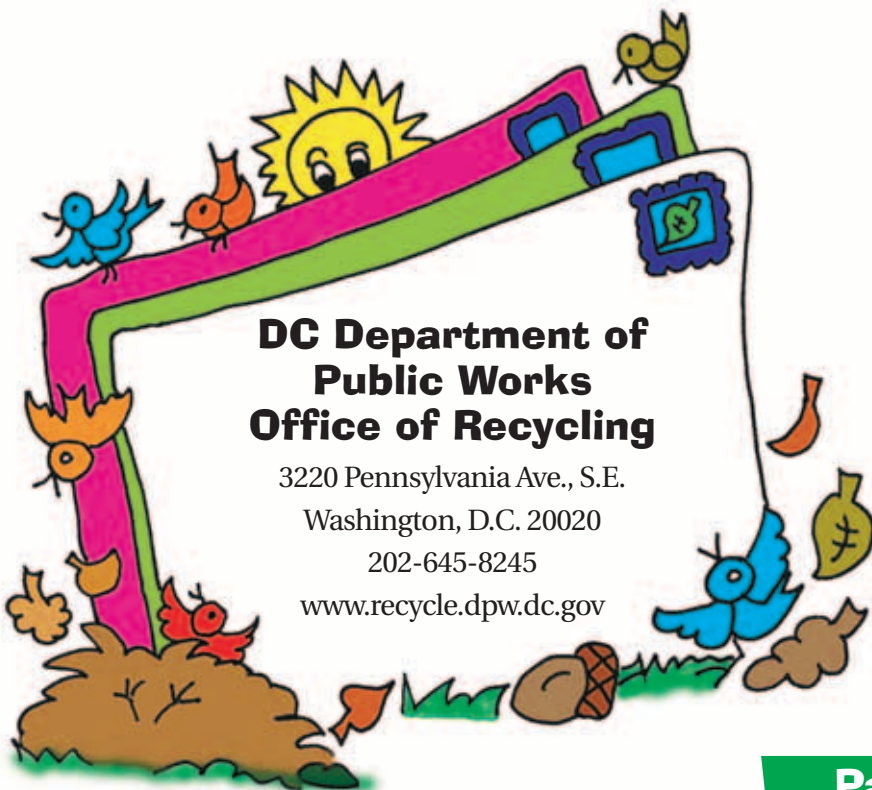
Each year in DC, the Office of Recycling celebrates America Recycles Day with a special event. Last year, the Office co-sponsored a two-day electronics recycling event, collecting 33 tons of electronics. For details on this year's events, please visit our website at www.recycle.dpw.dc.gov or call (202) 645-8245.

The results are in

On April 3, the DC Office of Recycling held a Household Hazardous Waste Collection for District residents. During this one-day event, 820 cars delivered thousands of gallons of hazardous waste to the two collection sites, keeping hazardous materials from our landfills and waterways. Another Household Hazardous Waste Collection is planned for this fall. Please call (202) 727-1000 or visit www.recycle.dpw.dc.gov for specific dates, times, and locations.

To celebrate Earth Day, the DC Office of Recycling, in cooperation with several government and private partners, sponsored an electronics recycling collection event. Over 75 volunteers helped us as we received 33.5 tons of electronics, more than 200 pounds of recyclable batteries, 375 pounds of cell phones and accessories, and 3,000 pounds of tennis shoes. (No, tennis shoes aren't electronic, but we happened to be collecting them that day!) Our thanks to these organizations that

Funded by DC Department of Public Works Office of Recycling



assisted by providing volunteers to the event: the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, General Services Administration, National Park Service, UNICOR, DC Divas Women's Tackle Football Team, HD Woodson Senior High School, and Eastern Branch Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington.



Student tours include trips to a recycling facility. Here, a student learns how various recyclables are baled in order to ship and sell them to a manufacturer.

Classy presentations for you

Did you miss us over the summer? We sure missed you—and we especially missed getting to visit classrooms and club meetings to talk about starting or improving a school recycling program, reducing the amount of solid waste (trash) produced, increasing energy conservation, and changing everyday behaviors that negatively affect the environment.

However, while you and your friends were enjoying the beautiful summer weather at a pool or park, we were coming up with great new ideas for classroom and club activities for this school year. We've got hands-on activities, mind-bending puzzles, great games, and interesting presentations to share with you this year. We also lead field trips and tours to recycling and other solid waste facilities.

To schedule any of these activities, have your teacher or club leader call the DC Office of Recycling at (202) 645-8245 and ask to speak to an educator. Schools are on a first-come, first-served basis, so it is best to plan ahead and ask early.



Students at Janney Elementary School received awards from the DC Office of Recycling for doing an outstanding job recycling at their school.