



# Reducing and Recycling at Your School



# Why should we recycle in the first place?

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A question you may be asked...

# We Recycle to Save the Wilderness

Recycling reduces the destruction of natural resources.

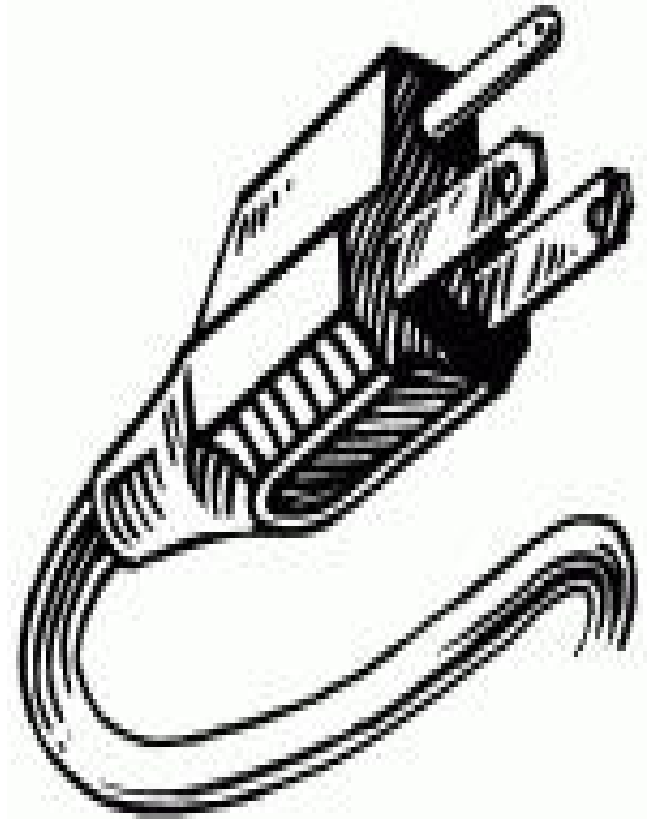
- Recycling paper reduces the need to cut down trees for new raw materials.
- Recycling aluminum minimizes the need for mining new minerals.



## We Recycle to Save Energy

Making recycled products takes less energy than creating products from raw materials.

The recycling process of collecting, processing, and transporting secondary materials is more efficient than harvesting, transporting, replanting, and creating from raw materials.



# Let's start with the basics:

## What Is Recycling?

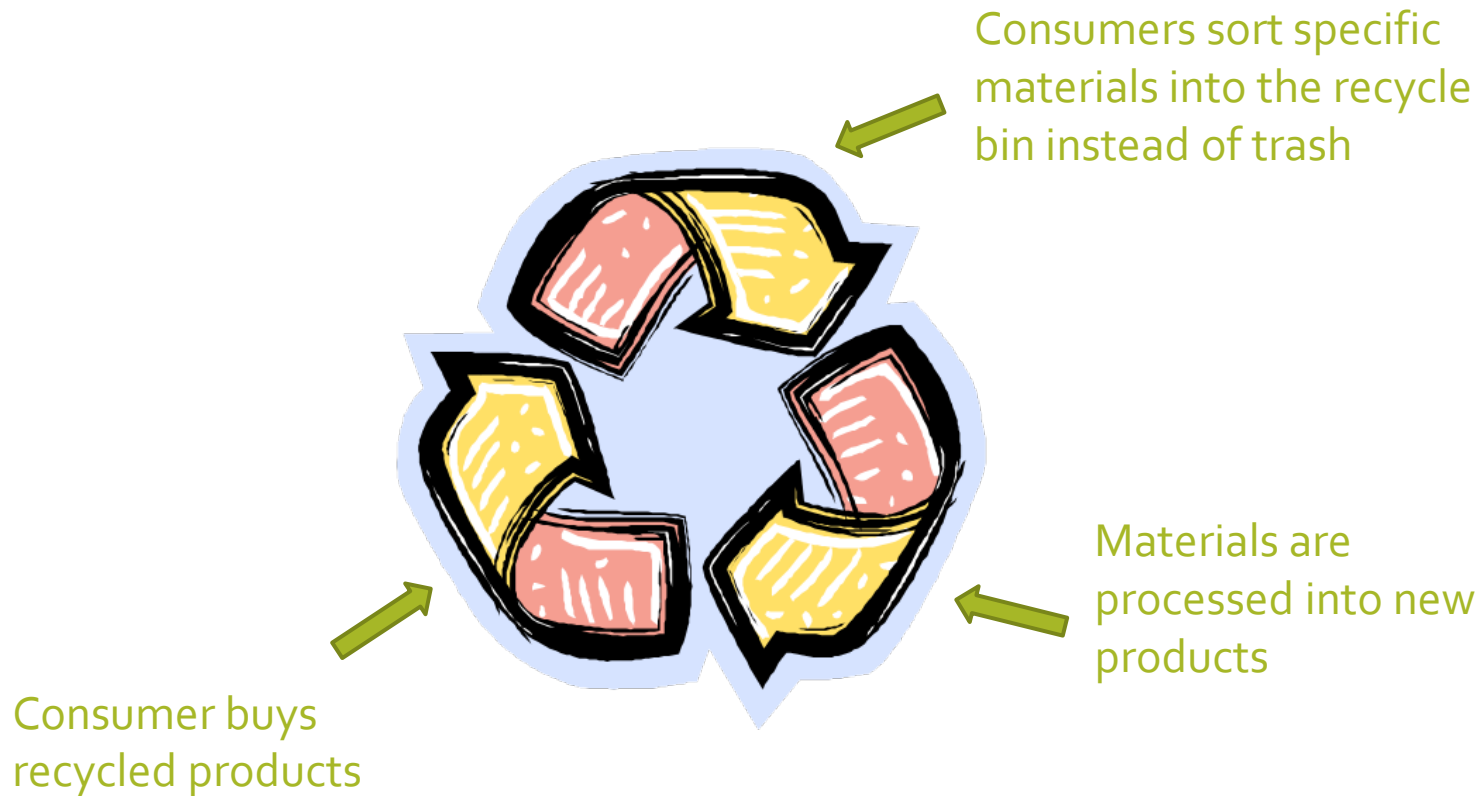




# What Is Recycling?

Recycling turns materials that would otherwise be considered waste into new usable products. It is a process of collecting, sorting, breaking down, and remaking.

# What Does the Recycle Symbol Mean?



# What are the three R's of Environmental Stewardship?



*1. Reduce*

*2. Reuse*

*3. Recycle*

These actions work together to preserve the health of the environment.





***Reduce*** – Make choices to use or consume fewer resources.

Examples:

1. Use a washable, reusable cotton rag when cleaning spills or wiping hands instead of paper towels
2. Fill reusable sports bottles with tap water instead of buying bottled water
3. Use the front and back of papers
4. Buy only what you will eat or use to reduce what you throw away
5. Use fewer plastic bags from the mall and the grocery store – no bags or bring your own
6. Say no to single-use plastics

**Reuse** – Make choices to use items again instead of throwing away after one use.



Examples:

1. Save wrapping paper and gift bags to use again
2. Use plastic containers for leftovers and use again and again instead of plastic wrap
3. Save school supplies for next year's class
4. Donate gently used clothes and books
5. Keep cloth bags handy for groceries
6. Turn well-used items into crafts and useful new items

# Recycle – Change used materials by taking apart and remaking into something new – put again into service by bringing to a local recycle plant

1. Newspaper, mail, and cardboard can be remade into recycled paper and products.
2. Glass bottles and jars can be crushed and made into new glass bottles
3. Metal cans are crushed and melted and reformed into new products.
4. Batteries have many chemical components that can be reused and remade.
5. Plastic can be broken down and remade into clothing and building materials.
6. Computers can be taken apart and the parts used in new products.



# What are some items that CANNOT be recycled?

1. Ceramics
2. Windows
3. Light Bulbs
4. Mirrors
5. Spray Cans



# Start a Recycling Program at School

Start one just because it's the right thing to do, or as part of one of the following clubs and events:



1. National Honor Society
2. Civics Project
3. Capstone Project
4. Robotics or Olympiad Project
5. Earth Day Initiative
6. Project Green School
7. Art Project
8. Environmental Club

# Guiding Questions:

1. Who is involved in planning and maintaining the program?
2. What permission is needed?
3. What recyclables does the school produce and what bins will be needed?
4. How will the recyclables get to the local recycle center?



# Sample Tasks for Participants

1. Empty the classroom and office bins
2. Oversee the collection in an area and regularly check to confirm what is placed in the bins is recyclable
3. Inform new students of the recycling program
4. Remind students of what can be recycled
5. Encourage participation from classmates and teachers

