

Recycling Education

Below the City of Buffalo Recycling department has organized a list of resources for educators and even parents to teach and inform about recycling. We have included materials according to grade level, recycling topic, children's games, and are offering the services of City of Buffalo Recycling to give recycling presentations and tours of facilities to groups based on ability and request.

WHY IS RECYCLING EDUCATION IMPORTANT?

Recycling is a great way to have a positive impact on our environment. It reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills, the amount of trash on the ground, and the amount in our oceans. Therefore, recycling prevents animal deaths due to human produced materials. Harmful chemicals and greenhouse gasses release from decomposing recyclable materials in landfills into the air, which takes a toll on human health. Recycling those materials will prevent certain types of air pollution. Recycling also reduces the need for raw materials, therefore reducing habitat destruction due to deforestation and increased oil drilling. It is also a cost effective use of resources and keeps our neighborhoods clean. Recycling education for children and adults is vital to living a socially responsible life.

Please contact sattridge@city-buffalo.com with questions, comments, and concerns.

RESOURCES BY GRADE LEVEL

There are many different recycling education resources provided by public and private organizations. Most are organized according to grade level, and specifically targeted to curriculum guidelines for grades K-5. Below you'll find links to multiple sources with small descriptions and whether or not they align with NY common core.

Kindergarten-5th grade

[Planet Protector's Club Teacher Resources](#)

[Planet Protector Club Kid's Activities](#)

EPA's Planet Protector Activities are a great way to get students interested in reducing, reusing and recycling. Use the activities to launch an ongoing club with our club factsheet, membership badge, activity calendar, and certificate of completion.

[Activity and Coloring Books about Recycling](#)

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's publications for kids to learn about recycling. Includes coloring books, activity books, puzzles, and fact sheets.

1st-5th grade

[Start Recycling Today Lesson Plan](#)

Program done by ReCommunity, based in Charlotte, North Carolina. Thorough lesson plan for recycling including videos, in-class activities, printout resources to help with lessons, links to helpful children's books about recycling, and homework materials.

2nd -6th Grade

[Recycle City Teacher Information](#)

A sustainable community called "Recycle City" allows children to explore what it means to see people in a community reducing waste, using less energy, and saving money by doing simple things at home, at work, and in their neighborhoods. Recycle City was designed with the classroom in mind. All of the games and locations have been designed to make it easy for a teacher to set different goals that can match up with lessons being taught in class. You can also check out "Things To Do In Recycle City" for some more ideas.

[Trash and Climate Change Activity Book](#)

This publication is designed to educate children about the effects of product reuse and recycling on global climate change. Through a series of word games, the publication describes how children can prevent climate change by reducing solid waste.

3rd-5th Grade

[OCCRA Education Program](#)

Browse our collection of educational games and videos that teach students about recycling, waste reduction, composting, waste-to-energy and other ways to save the world a little each day. These activities also fit into NYS curriculum requirements for grades 3 – 5, so teachers can easily integrate them into lesson plans.

6th-12th grade

[Start Recycling Today Lesson Plan](#)

Program done by ReCommunity, based in Charlotte, North Carolina. Thorough lesson plan for recycling including videos, in-class activities, printout resources to help with lessons, homework materials, the link to an interactive Materials Recovery Facility, and links to helpful books for this age level about recycling.

6th-8th Grade

[Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Science Projects](#)

This booklet is a step-by-step guide to help you design an exciting science fair project that focuses on the 3Rs of waste management—reduce, reuse, and recycle. Use your science fair project to show how the 3Rs lead to resource conservation. Check out the sample projects in this booklet, which also contains a list of useful resources to help make your project a winner!

9-12th grade

[Tools to Reduce Waste in Schools](#)

EPA's Tools to Reduce Waste in Schools helps your school and school district reduce the amount of waste you generate. You'll learn how to start a waste reduction program or expand an existing one. The guide will show you how your program can benefit your school, your community, and the environment by reducing, reusing, and recycling your waste. Type of Resource: Curriculum guide

[Solid Waste Activities](#)

CURRICULUMS, RESOURCE BOOKS, AND RECYCLING PROJECT INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS & CLASSROOMS

Below you will find general links for educators for overall environmental education for all grade levels. Most links are resource books to use in the classroom, ideas to start up recycling clubs, programs, or projects in schools, and general information on how to recycle to share to students and adults alike.

- [EPA Online Resources for Teachers](#)
- [School Recycling Resource Book](#)
 - Done by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling. The purpose of this Resource Book is to provide you with basic information and ideas on a waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and buying recycled products and packaging programs for your school.
- [College Recycling Resource Book](#)
 - Done by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling. The purpose of this Resource Book is to provide you with basic information and ideas on a waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and buying recycled products and packaging programs for your college.
- [The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste](#)
- [Waste Reduction,. Reuse, and Recycling Informational Material](#)
- [School Paper Recycling Program](#)
- [Recycling Lessons and Activities Answers for Teachers](#)
 - Includes a wide range of activities for students (with skill level necessary listed for each activity), Reference Materials like vocabulary words, facts, and stories about recycling, a pledge card, and a certificate of appreciation for students who learned about recycling.
- [Recycling Lessons and Activities for Students](#)
 - Same thing as above, but the version to be printed and given to students. Contains activities, vocabulary words, and information. The version above is the teacher manual to show how to teach the material.

- [Recycling Activity Book](#)
 - Resource book created by the California Department of Conservation. Includes tips, education, activities, games, and information. Meant for all grade levels.
 - [Environmental Education for Kids: Recycling and Beyond](#)
 - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources guide to environmental education. Includes teacher pages, cool stuff, activities, games, and videos for kids on recycling and other environmental education.
 - [Kids Recycle: Tools for Zero Waste Schools \(K-12\)](#)
 - Compilation of links to resources to achieve zero waste in their K-12 school systems. Sections for both kids and teachers.
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FACT SHEETS, ACTIVITIES, AND EXTRA MATERIALS

- [DEC Gee Whiz Recycling Facts paper for kids](#)
 - Double-sided flyer with various recycling facts printed on it. Fun graphics and good information.
- [50 ways to help our environment](#)
 - Double-sided fact sheet with different methods (including recycling) to help the environment. Meant for both kids and adults. Includes graphics.
- [Life Cycle of a Soccer Ball](#)
 - Using EPA's "Life Cycle of a Soccer Ball," you can view the life cycle of a soccer ball — from obtaining raw materials through manufacture, packaging, distribution, useful life, and disposal. Learn what life cycle management is and why it is important. A Spanish language version of this activity is also available.
- [Pack a Waste Free Lunch](#)
- [Recycling Lessons and Activities for Students](#)
 - Same thing as above, but the version to be printed and given to students. Contains activities, vocabulary words, and information. The version above is the teacher manual to show how to teach the material.
- [Recycle Rex PDFs of Recycling Activities](#)
 - A list of links to different printables of recycling activities from the California government. Includes coloring pages, crafts, and games.
- [Art projects to make with recyclables](#)
- [Nature's Recyclers Coloring Book](#)
- [K & 1st grade recycling activity packet](#)
 - Baltimore County Maryland Recycling activity packet for Kindergarten and First grade
- [2nd and 3rd Grade Recycling Activity Sheet](#)
 - Baltimore County Maryland Recycling activity packet for second and third grade
- [4th and 5th Grade Recycling Activities](#)
 - Baltimore County Maryland Recycling activity packet for fourth and fifth grade

- [Kids Recycling and Waste Prevention Activities](#)
 - Baltimore County Maryland Recycling and Waste prevention list of links to activities and games
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ONLINE RECYCLING GAMES FOR KIDS

- [Otis Otter's Underwater Recycle Game](#)
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- [Recycle Roundup with Gus Gorilla](#)
 - Help clean up the park! Your job is to sort the stuff people throw away and put it in the proper bin. Is it recycling, compost, or trash?
- [Thrifty Threads: Green Games](#)
 - Recycle old clothes into cool new threads!
- [Cat in the Hat Super Cleaner Upper](#)
 - PBS Kids game to find what you can recycle or compost
- [My Garbology: Where should my waste go?](#)
 - Play to see if you can correctly guess where this waste should go!
- [Schoolyard Recycling](#)
 - Prove you are “green” by sorting recyclables, compostables, and trash as fast as you can!
- [Sid the Science Kid: Sid Cleans Up](#)
 - Can you sort paper, plastic, and metal like Sid the Science Kid?
- [Garbage Dreams](#)
 - Get the citywide recycling as high as you can within 8 months. Complex and interactive game to run a city recycling program.
- [Waste Avengers](#)
 - Do you have what it takes to be a Waste Avenger? This game will teach you how organic, plastic, and paper waste can be recycled or composted as you try your hand at being an environmental superhero. Requires a free membership.
- [Zero Waste Game](#)
- [Recycle THIS!](#)
 - Use a tool to guide the recyclables into the proper bins before they fall into the trash
- [Earth Rangers Compost Crunch](#)
 - Help Eddie the worm munch up all the delicious organic matter—but watch out for the bugs!
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VIDEOS

- [Virtual guided tour through a Materials Recovery Facility](#)
- [Various videos about recycling different materials, for kids](#)