

# Start Recycling!

**Purpose of your article:** Convince students to begin recycling programs in their schools.

**Who:** Elementary school students.

**What:** Begin recycling projects in your school.

**How:** Form teams in your class to come up with recycling projects.

## **Why recycling is important:**

**Saves natural resources:** By making products from recycled materials instead of new materials, we save trees and reduce the need to dig for minerals.

**Saves energy:** It takes less energy to make products from recycled materials than from new materials.

**Saves clean air and water:** Making containers and products from recycled materials reduces acid rain, air pollution and global warming.

**Saves landfill space:** When recycled materials go into new products, they don't go into landfills, so landfill space is saved. Also, it reduces fees that companies have to pay to dump trash in the landfill.

**Saves money and creates jobs:** Recycling is often the cheapest way for cities to get rid of their waste. And the recycling process creates far more jobs than operating landfills or incinerators.

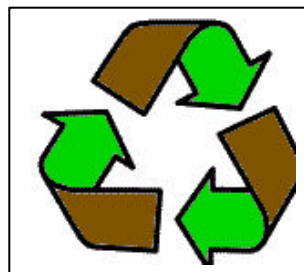
## **Research Web Sites:**

America Recycles Day: <http://www.americarecyclesday.org/>

Recycling guides: <http://www.obviously.com/recycle>

School recycling programs in King County, Washington:

<http://dnr.metroke.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpr.htm>



## **Suggested school recycling projects:**

1. Make and decorate recycling bins for your school. Have a contest for the coolest bin!
2. Create posters, newsletters and skits to teach others about recycling.
3. Start buying more reusable items e classroom — and for yourself!
4. Have a waste-free lunch day. Bring your food in reusable containers instead of throw-away bags, paper and plastic.

## **Statements:**

Statement by recycling expert Buckley "Buck" Knox:

"When you recycle, you make the air cleaner and the water fresher for everyone on the planet."