

## USE LESS STUFF WEEK/AMERICA RECYCLES DAY ACTIVITIES for SCHOOLS

1. Collect eyeglasses for reuse—Contact: Local Lions Club
2. Collect fronts of greeting cards; they will be made into new cards by the children and sold for their benefit—Contact: St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 100 St. Jude's St., Boulder City, NV 89905-1618, 1-800-492-3562
3. Collect plastic six-pack rings for recycling—Contact: Ring Leader Recycling Program, (630) 773-9300 or <[itw@ringleader.com](mailto:itw@ringleader.com)>, ITW Hi-Cone Recycling Department, 1140 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Itasca, IL 60143. Company provides special recycling "trees" on whose branches children can hang plastic six-pack rings that they have collected. Also available are several activities to supplement your environmental education curriculum. Collect bundles from tree and return to Hi-Cone for recycling into new six-pack rings with postage-paid mailing labels provided.  
<<http://www.ringleader.com>>
4. Collect plastic bags for recycling—Contact: Plastic Bag Clearinghouse, 1-800-438-5856 or [pbainfo@aol.com](mailto:pbainfo@aol.com), for database of collection sites or information on plastic bags.
5. Collect foam packaging peanuts for reuse—Contact: National Plastic Association Loosefill Collection Program, 1-800-828-2214, for nearest location.
6. Start "radio station" KWTR (Kids Want to Recycle) or KULS (Kids Use Less Stuff) at your school. Make announcements on school intercoms promoting your projects and at the same time transmitting important facts to stimulate awareness and interest. Announcement ideas are available from Susie Shields, ODEQ, [Susie.shields@deq.state.ok.us](mailto:Susie.shields@deq.state.ok.us) or 405-702-5166.
7. Plan a special school event for America Recycles Day, Use Less Stuff Week, Earth Day or anytime. An event planning guide is available at: [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org). The ODEQ has promotional materials including Use Less Stuff decals, buttons, posters, banners and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle decals available (See #6 contact info). Some possibilities include:
  - Recycling fair (exhibits, entertainment, recycled art, etc.)
  - Recyclable scavenger hunt (search for recyclables thrown away)
  - Milk jug bowl (half-time of sports event/school vs. school)
  - Aluminum recycling challenge (which class can bring the most; can raise a little money; could do it on a regular basis and give a "golden can" award or something like that)
  - Recycling Olympics (can crushing, newspaper baling contests; bottle ring toss, smash mash relay race)
  - Holiday recyclathon (collect toys, clothing, etc. for reuse)
  - Recycling day (students wear sandwich boards or pass out fliers all day)
  - Recycling invention convention

8. Keep graph in hall showing how many trees are saved each month by each classroom. (You could make it a contest, but students might throw away paper that could still be used just to win.)
9. Have a "trash rap", poem, poster, slogan or recycled art show.
10. Develop a program for the elementary students about recycling and/or using less stuff; put it on a video.
11. Make murals for hallways showing ways recycling helps the environment.
12. Look for ways to reuse materials that are being thrown away by the school.
13. Organize a "waste-free" lunch day (Info available from DEQ).
14. Organize a book exchange program (get coupon to purchase another book when bringing one in.)
15. Create a mascot and make a costume (R.E. Cycle wears superman type costume; Rosie Recycle has a costume made out of recyclable items attached to a trash can, has lid for hat; Rex and Regina robot are recycled cans.)
16. Make an exhibit showing all the trash in one panel; recyclable items in the second panel and what is left in the third panel. (You have to have two sets of all items, with one complete set going in the first panel.)
17. Make an exhibit of products made with recycled material (leave in library).
18. Set up a speakers bureau, with one (or more) student(s) becoming an expert on a certain type of recyclable item—talk to classrooms in your school (or other schools, group meetings, etc.) on a regular basis.
19. Design a recycling and/or "use less stuff" coloring book for elementary students.
20. Provide a "swap board" where students can exchange unwanted materials for something they need (i.e., leftover paint, books, clothing, canned goods, bicycle, lawn mower, etc.).
21. Develop a take-home survey to find out how many students already recycle; send home information about your school's recycling program.
22. Have "hands-on" sessions for students showing how materials need to be prepared and why (discuss contamination). Make a video or a permanent display of materials.
23. Make up a cheer for the cheerleaders about recycling.
24. Have a Paperless School Day. (The hardest part is getting the administration and faculty on board.)