

Republic Services and Newspapers In Education present:

# RECYCLING 101 HELP KEEP THE EVERGREEN STATE GREEN

*Be A Star Recycler!*  
Tips for school and home

## What is Recycling?

Recycling is the process of turning what could have been waste into a resource, whether it is a new water bottle, a fleece jacket, or materials to build a new home. Recycling involves collecting recyclables like paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum and plastic, then taking them to a recycling center where they are processed. These materials are sorted at the recycling center and then purchased by manufacturers who use them to make new products.

Recycling helps protect the planet, conserve energy and natural resources, and helps make our communities cleaner and healthier.

Help conserve water! Don't let the faucet run too long.

Be energy efficient! Turn off the lights when you leave the room.

## Recycling Facts

By recycling one ton of paper, we save 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 463 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space and enough energy to heat an average home for six months.

One extra-large T-shirt can be made out of just five recycled plastic soda bottles. Do you know how many bottles it takes to make a sleeping bag? 35.

Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy it takes to make aluminum cans from scratch.

It only takes up to 90 days for an aluminum can to go from being picked up in the curbside recycling cart to a new can on the shelf ready for purchase.

We save one tree for every 42 notebooks made with 100 percent recycled paper.

30 percent of waste comes from packaging. Buying recycled items that come in little or no packaging is best for protecting the planet.

A 6-foot-long plastic park bench can be made from about 1,000 plastic milk jugs.

## Test Your Recycling I.Q.

Circle the items that can be recycled in your recycle bin. Check your answers at [www.republicservicesnw.com](http://www.republicservicesnw.com).

- Cardboard
- Glass jars and bottles
- Paper
- Newspapers
- Aluminum cans
- Clothing
- Steel food cans
- Candy wrappers and chip bags
- Plastic soda bottles
- Plastic milk containers
- Tape and ribbons
- Full soda cans

## Back-to-school checklist: How to be a Star Recycler all year long!

- Shop smart! Take reusable shopping bags with you to the store.
- Purchase supplies made from recycled material.
- Purchase items with little or no packaging.
- Reuse as many items from last year as you can: backpack, book bag, clothes and school supplies.
- Purchase refillable pens and rechargeable batteries for electronics.
- Take a reusable lunchbox or tote instead of using paper and plastic bags.

Recycling is *good* for the planet!



Republic Services started recycling in Washington over 25 years ago. With its giant recycling center located in Seattle, Republic recycles over 200,000 tons of material each year. That's the weight of nearly 500 fully loaded Boeing 747 airplanes! This state-of-the-art center sorts material down to the molecular level with high-tech optical scanners. Yes, this equipment actually "sees" what goes where! How cool is that?

But even with the best recycling center in the Northwest, we need your help to reduce waste and recycle more at home and at school. Learn more at [www.republicservices.com](http://www.republicservices.com).



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