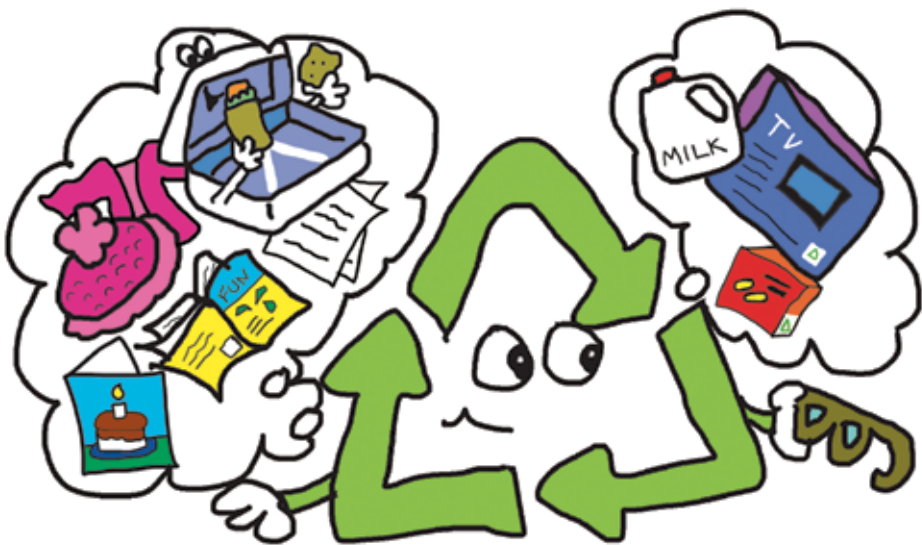




Recycle more, waste less



Have you ever looked at all of the bottle caps, snack wrappers, and drink pouches you throw away and wished there was a way to recycle them? Thanks to TerraCycle, there is!

It's easy to join a TerraCycle Brigade and collect those hard-to-recycle items. To get started, simply sign up at www.terracycle.com and join the brigade program for the objects that you want to collect. There are currently more than 40 brigade programs that collect items ranging from food packaging, such as drink pouches and lunch kits, to office supplies, like writing utensils and tape dispensers, and personal care products, such as cosmetic and diaper packaging. You can join as many brigades as you like, and they're all free!

If your school is a part of a TerraCycle Brigade, bring your accepted recyclables to school from home. You can also ask a parent for help packing up the recyclables at home and then send them to TerraCycle yourself!

Your country wants YOU!

Surely you already know the basics about what it means to recycle. Americans are making recycling more and more a part of their daily routines. In 1980, recycling kept only 15 million tons of waste from going into landfills nationwide. By 2013, we kept 87.2 million tons of waste out of landfills through recycling! We really are making recycling our habit.

However, of the 4.4 pounds of waste each person in our country creates every day, only 1.51 pounds are recycled or composted. We can do better! Here are some things you can do to increase recycling in your house right now.

One is to buy new items made from recycled materials. The labels on these items say "Made from post-consumer recycled content," which means that the product was created from items people like you recycled. A lot of containers you use every day are made from post-consumer recycled content, such as food cans, fleece clothing, printer paper, cereal boxes, greeting cards,

and magazines. Even bigger items can be made from recyclables, such as furniture, appliances, and countertops for the kitchen and bathroom. When you and your parents head out to purchase new things, check the labels for terms like "post-consumer recycled content" or "recycled content."

Another way to increase America's recycling is to "precycle." Precycling is when you buy an item with recyclable packaging, such as the plastic jug your milk comes in or the cardboard box protecting your new laptop. You can even think about the item you're purchasing. How long will your new laptop computer last? Where will you recycle it when you no longer need it? Precycling is an important part of the recycling process.

Last, and most important, if your family or school has not yet begun to make recycling a part of daily life, what are you waiting for? Take the lead to make recycling a habit at home and at school. You don't even need special containers. Any type of container will do, such as an old box or a clean trash can marked "Recycling Only." Place the recycling container next to the trash can so that it is as easy to recycle as it is to throw something away in the trash. Be sure to find out how and where to put the recycling once your containers are full. At school, talk to your teacher, custodian, or principal. At home, ask your parents about curbside recycling or help find the closest drop-off center. The Recycling and Solid Waste Management District can answer any questions about what and where your family can recycle; just call 812-895-4878 or visit our website, www.KnoxCountyRecycling.org.

To show that you are serious about making recycling even stronger in your community and in the United States, you can take the recycling pledge. To join the more than 65,000 Americans who have pledged to learn about recycling and to share their knowledge, visit <http://AmericaRecyclesDay.org>. This fun site is also filled with many ideas for how to celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15, 2016.



Calling all artists!

Knox County Recycling will be sponsoring a poster contest for America Recycles Day. Find out how you can enter at www.KnoxCountyRecycling.org.

Join the club

We want to start an environmental club! If you love helping to make the world greener and want to share that love with others, consider being part of a club! You can help manage a recycling program at your school, spread the word about the three Rs (reducing, reusing, and recycling), and hang out with other people who like keeping the environment healthy. If you are interested in learning more about the club or joining, contact Michelle Smith at kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us.

Take the title with recycling

What's better than your cereal bowl, a mid-afternoon ice cream bowl, or even a bowl game? Why, the Recycle-Bowl, of course! The Recycle-Bowl is a nationwide

competition for elementary, middle, and high school students. In this contest, schools add or improve recycling programs. Schools will compete against each other within their categories for prizes and recognition. Help your school join the competition and your team could become a state champ—and maybe even a national winner! To go even bigger, your school could also team up with your surrounding community to win in a special category. Visit www.Recycle-Bowl.org to learn everything you need to know to score in the Recycle-Bowl!



Let us help

How do you spend your time? You probably spend many hours at home and at school. Maybe you participate in sports or clubs after school, too. Do you ever spend time at a local park or community center? The chores we do at home, the work we do at school, and the activities we do in our spare time all have an effect on our environment. There are so many ways of protecting our Earth that you may feel overwhelmed thinking about what you can do.



Worry no more; help is on the way! We are as close as an email or phone call and would love to teach anyone who would like to learn about helping our environment.

We can answer your questions and provide books, videos, and other resources to your teacher. We will even visit your school, club, or organization and bring fun activities, workshops, or lessons, like our papermaking class pictured above! Check out our website, www.KnoxCountyRecycling.org, for a full list of programs.

To schedule our visit to your school, club, or organization, ask your teacher or group leader to contact Michelle Smith at kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us.



Small but mighty: A compost story

They were tiny, tiny creatures. They were smaller than the smallest child who lived in the big house. They were smaller than the redbirds and the goldfinches who darted among the bird feeders hanging from the backyard trees. But on this evening, they were arguing loudly.

Luna, the wise, old owl, gazed down at the compost heap with her saucer eyes and scolded, "You creepy-crawling critters down there have awakened me earlier than usual. Don't you have work to do?"

Earthworm was the first to reply, "Yes, we do, and some of us get in the way of those who are trying to work!"

This started the argument all over again. Snail couldn't hold back, "Nooooow, hooooold on there, buuuuddy, I'm geeeeetting tiiiiired of your aaaattitude!"

Spider called all of them clumsy, legless, and boring. This prompted Centipede to crawl into the argument for the first time, bragging about having 92 more legs than Spider.

"STOP! Whooooo do yooooou all think yooooou are?" Luna hooted down from her branch, surprising them into silence. "Don't you know that you are all very important to the compost pile? Because of all of you, green and brown waste is broken down into rich fertilizer for our Earth. Because of you and your friends, less waste is sent to landfills, which protects our Earth's air and water."

The sun settled down for the night, and Luna soared off to hunt. All of the tiny creatures were back to working better than ever, now that they knew how important they were to our Earth.

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