



Classroom Lessons

Rural Action's Zero Waste Program provides free waste-reduction lessons and presentations that meet Ohio's New Learning Standards and can be tailored to fit any grade level or group's educational goals and needs in the Appalachian Ohio region. We are also available to help facilitate field trips to local recycling, composting and landfill facilities. Please contact us to schedule a lesson at zerowaste@ruralaction.org or (740) 677- 4047

Introduction to Waste Reduction and Taking the Zero Waste Pledge (PreK-12): In this basic introductory lesson of waste reduction efforts, students will learn how they can reduce their waste at school and home. Students will then work together to come up with waste reduction goals and procedures for their class and sign the Zero Waste Pledge. Each class that commits to pledging Zero Waste will then receive a window decal to display for the school to see!

Musical Sort (PreK-2): In the style of musical chairs, students will get active and show their best dance moves while thinking critically about common household waste items and how they can be reused many times before they are recycled.

Compost Experiment (Grades PreK-7): Student's will get hands on experience using the Scientific Method and other skills in this two part lesson introducing and exploring the compost process. First lesson in the fall, and a follow up in the spring.

Resource Recovery Hunt (PreK-12): Students will learn the true meaning of "one man's trash is another's treasure" while searching for and analyzing different "trash" items and discovering their true value during a scavenger hunt. Students will then create an art project using upcycled materials!

Unwrapping Packaging (PreK-12): While analyzing different types of packaging, students will gain knowledge of how they can reduce their waste by simply making different shopping choices. Students will gain understanding of the different types of packaging, the natural resources used to produce them, and how they can be disposed. Students will then assess the challenges, benefits, and concerns with processing and disposing of various types of packaging.

Recycled Paper Factory (PreK-12): In this fun activity, students will learn where paper comes from, its history, future, and why recycling paper is beneficial to the environment. They will then start their own paper recycling factory and make their own paper in class. This is especially fun during holidays when cards are popular.

Get to Know Garbage (Grades PreK-12): Students will learn about common “trash” items and the natural resources they are produced with.

Plastic Litter Prevention (Grades PreK-12): Students will put their plastic litter collection skills to the test while they learn about the harmful effects of this kind of pollution on animals, health, and the environment.

Vermicompost (Grades PreK-12): Create your own class worm composting bin or borrow ours for a day of fun learning about “nature’s recyclers” and the compost process.

Planting with Vermicompost (PreK-12): In a two part lesson, students will create and observe their own miniature worm farm, and then use the vermicompost to grow a class garden or plant.

Recycling Relay (Grades K-12): Students race in teams to sort common materials into recycle, reuse, and landfill piles, enforcing the importance of reuse and recycling over throwing things in the trash.

Waste Journaling (Grades 2-12): Students will gain language arts and math skills while exploring the kinds of waste they produce at home and school in one week. While keeping track of their trash, learners will think critically and develop simple action plans for reducing their waste impact.

School Waste Audit (Grades 4-12): Through hands on activities, students will explore the waste that their school or class generates. Students will use math and science skills and procedures to chart, graph, and analyze the quantity and type of trash items generated every day. With this, students can then make action plans to further reduce waste generation around their school.

Recycling Jeopardy (Grades 4-12): Students will test their knowledge of local and national recycling and waste reduction processes and practices in this fun and interactive game.