

Hi, kids!

Do you have a birthday? Of course you do. What do you do on your birthday? **CELEBRATE!**

Birthdays are a day to celebrate that each person is special. Did you know that there is a day we celebrate our planet? It's called Earth Day! This is a day to celebrate the planet's matchless qualities. Earth Day is like a birthday for our planet!

But what exactly is Earth Day? On April 22, people from all over the world unite to recognize, remember, and appreciate nature. It's a great day to learn about ways to protect the environment and to help keep the planet clean.

Would you like to help make the world a better place? I believe you would! So here are some tips to improve your own home and community:

 Look for recycling symbols on products your family buys.
 Purchase items in recyclable packaging

whenever possible. Avoid products that use too many layers of packaging.

- Encourage your parents to use reusable shopping bags. Instead of nagging your parents, grab the bags and carry them into the store yourself!
- ▶ Take shorter showers to conserve (save) water.
- Don't leave the water running while brushing your teeth or washing your face.
- ▶ Turn off lights and electronics when you leave the room. And, more importantly, unplug all electronics from the wall when going on a vacation.
- Try to have things fixed instead of buying new items from the store.
- Have mom and dad check for air leaks around windows and doors to help save money on energy bills and natural resources.

Also have them fix leaky faucets, which are a waste of water and money.

Instead of cleaning up spills with paper towels, use a dish rag.

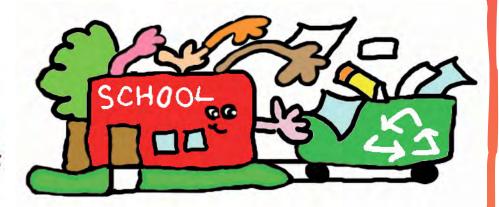
• Go out into the neighborhood or even your own yard and pick up the trash that was left behind by winter winds.

Have mom and dad call the local recycling facility to learn how to recycle broken electronics, light

- bulbs, batteries, paint, and household chemicals.
- Get rid of old medicine safely—don't put it in the trash or flush it down the toilet. Instead, drop it off at one of the four safe disposal days this year. Have your parents call us at 452-2274 for details.
- Always try to recycle while on vacation or at fairs and festivals. Look for recycling bins or ask whether recycling is available.

Mikki Jeffers

Director of Howard County Recycling District



Keep up the good recycling!

Every school in Howard County recycles. Find your school on this list to see how it measured up to others in 2012. These are the total pounds of recyclables collected at each school:

Bon Air – 77,539

Boulevard – 31,572

Central Midde – 51,145

Darrough Chapel – 52,064

Eastern Administration – 9,311

Eastern Elementary – 23,685

Eastern High – 5,899

Elwood Haynes – 72,288

Howard Elementary – 23,685

Ivy Tech – 13,687

Kokomo Administration – 24,038

Kokomo Christian – 8,723

Kokomo High – 121,911

Lafayette Park – 54,712

Lincoln - 2,634

Maple Crest – 71,248

McKinley – 5,877

Northwestern Elementary – 65,908

Northwestern Mid/High – 83,418

Pettit Park – 50,036

Redeemer Lutheran – 8,155

Sycamore – 75,897

Taylor Intermediate – 69,792

Taylor Mid/High – 118,363

Taylor Primary – 71,211

Wallace – 8,537

Western Intermediate – 44,087

Western Mid/High – 78,173

Western Primary – 38,952



Did you know?

The Recycling District operates a yard waste recycling facility, which is located at 1130 S. Dixon Road. People living in Howard County can drop off grass clippings, leaves, and tree limbs at this facility. It opens on April 1. The hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.



to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Have your parents or grandparents call our office at 452-2274 with any questions.

Out with the old

Is your room or closet full of toys that you don't play with anymore? Consider giving away your old toys, games, books, and stuffed animals. Just let your parents know that you would



like to sort through your stuff and give some of the things you don't need to kids who can use them. Goodwill and the Salvation Army accept usable items, as do some churches, day

care centers, and shelters that serve families. It will feel pretty good to give away something that other kids will have fun using.

Good recycling takes practice

When you are doing math or playing soccer or singing, you get better with practice. The same is true of recycling. The more you practice recycling, the better you get! In fact, you might get so good at it that you become the go-to person for family members and friends who have recycling questions.

Here are the things you need to know to start practicing your recycling:

What can I recycle?

- ♦ Aluminum beverage cans, such as pop and juice cans
- ♦ Steel cans, including food, soup, pet food, and "tin" cans
- Plastic bottles, jugs, and containers, such as pop bottles, water bottles, milk jugs, shampoo bottles, detergent jugs, yogurt cups, sour cream tubs, clear plastic boxes that held fruit or cookies, and even plastic drink cups (NO Styrofoam)
- Glass bottles and jars that once held food or beverages, such as pop bottles, baby food jars, and pickle jars
- Newspapers
- Magazines and catalogs
- → School papers, printer and copier paper, and mail
- Paperboard, such as empty cereal and gift boxes
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard, such as shipping boxes

When and where do I recycle?

The Recycling District has 15 drop-off recycling stations: UAW 685, Kokomo Street Department, UCT parking lot, Marsh

Supermarket (south), Kokomo Sport Bowl, Western High School, Northwestern High School, Kokomo High School, Greentown Fairgrounds, Taylor Fire Department (Indian Heights), K-Mart, Sam's Club, Ivy Tech, Russiaville Town Hall, and Elm Street (across from Moore's Pie Shop)

Greentown has curbside recycling. With curbside recycling, your family saves time and gas because you don't have to drive to the recycling drop-off center. If you live in Greentown, call the Town Hall to get the recycling schedule and other details.

How do I prepare my recyclables?

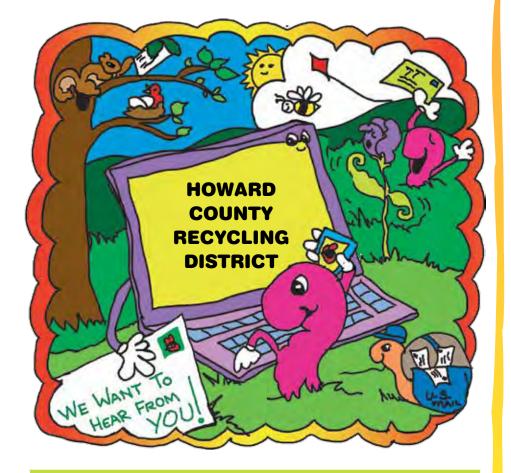
Empty all food and drink containers. Use a spatula to clean out peanut butter jars and sour cream tubs. Rinse containers and then turn them upside down to let them drip-dry. When you clean out your bottles, jugs, and containers, you help keep our recyclables clean and useful. Dirty recyclables can be rejected by factories, so don't let that happen to our recycling!

Paper products should be clean. Break down and flatten boxes. Remember—paper and boxes soaked with grease or covered in sticky, spilled food should go into the trash.

Why should I recycle?

Recycling keeps usable resources out of landfills. Making new products from recyclables uses less energy and creates less pollution. Recycling also helps create jobs.

For more information, call us 456-2274 or visit www. countyrecycling.org.



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