

## **Recycle it Right**

Whether at school or at home, students can pre-sort and prepare recyclables. Knowing which packaging and containers are recyclable and which are not can help students and their families make decisions about purchases. This lesson includes a hands-on sort and links to online trash sorting games.

### **Level**

**(k-12)** . This was designed for late primary grades but could easily be adapted for older students.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students will learn to separate waste items into categories: compost material, recyclables (paper, plastic, metal, glass) and landfill wastes. Students will devise recycling system for classroom or home.

### **Materials**

- ✓ Collection of containers and items for sorting (enough for 6 teams of sorters)
- ✓ Bins to hold sorted materials
- ✓ Lane County Waste Services/Sanipac/Royal Refuse posters for curbside and transfer station recycling

### **Procedure**

1. Talk about trash:  
Ask students to share what they already do with recycling at home. Ask students what they think happens to things they recycle and what happens to un-recycled trash. Discuss with students the different types of recyclables, emphasizing natural resource they are made from.
2. Sort trash:  
Students can work in groups, with up to six groups per class. Each pile will contain recyclable and non-recyclable plastic containers, paper and cardboard, metal and vegetable scraps. Using the posters, matching pictures and recycling numbers, students can sort. Students sort (cleaned) containers and other items onto the appropriate categories to learn what is recyclable and what is not. Discuss the differences between trash and things that can be reused to make new items.
3. Practice sorting trash online:  
Help Gus the Gorilla clean up and sort at:  
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/games/actiongames/recycle-roundup/>  
Get waste into the right place at:  
<http://www.naturebridge.org/garbology.php>
4. Make plans for recycling right at school (or at home):  
If your classroom doesn't have a recycling center, design one. How many different bins will you need? What kind of signs do you need to help students recycle? What do you need at home to help your family recycle? Draw pictures or bring home copies of recycling information.

## **Content Standard**

### **Subject Area: Science**

Physical Science: Structure and Properties of Matter

- 2-PS1-1. Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.

## **Background for Teacher**

This lesson is best done before a classroom waste audit. With an audit, students can view the recyclable items from their classroom that were thrown away and easily distinguish between recyclable and non-recyclables.

The following information comes directly from the SANIPAC website

(<http://www.sanipac.com/residential/recycling/commingle-recycling/>) . Be sure to check the website before presentations because recycling rules change as markets for recyclables open and close. This

## Comingle recycling is now available wherever you live and work in Eugene and Springfield

Comingle Recycling includes only the following items:

### **ALL RECYCLING MUST BE CLEAN!**

PLASTIC--in the form of a jug, tub or bottle only

- NO lids
- NO packaging materials
- NO plastic wrap
- NO Styrofoam-like materials

Clean, flat and unwaxed CARDBOARD

PAPER--newspaper, magazines, junk mail, computer paper, paperback books, phone books

- NO paper cups
- NO paper plates
- NO tissue paper
- NO napkins
- NO paper towels

METAL cans and ALUMINUM FOIL

- Soup & food cans--NO detached lids
- Clean aluminum foil crumpled into a ball no smaller than your fist
- NO aerosol cans
- NO paint cans
- NO chemical cans

OTHER: These items may become "non-recyclable" at any time, but for now--they are OK to add to the commingle recycling:

- Tetra-Pak™ containers--the kind that soy milk & rice milk are packaged in
- Gable top milk and juice cartons **no smaller than 1/2 gallon size**

For items that should not be put in the Comingle Box, here are other local recycling alternatives rather than the trash. This is also directly from the Sanipac website: <http://www.sanipac.com/other-resources/other-recycling/>

## Where to Recycle Everything Else.

There are items that are NOT accepted in our commingle recycling that can be recycled or re-used in our area. If you know of a way to recycle something that is not on our list, please let us know [cust2013@wcnx.org](mailto:cust2013@wcnx.org)

Arts & Crafts Materials—Reuse—Donate to thrift stores or contact MECCA (Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts) [www.materials-exchange.org](http://www.materials-exchange.org) or 541-302-1810 for donation information

Automobile Tires—Recycle/Reuse—Big B Tires (541-746-4193), some Les Schwab Tire Centers and Lane County Transfer sites (541-682-4120). Fees apply.

**Batteries—Remove—**Many electronic stores and battery retailers will accept button and other household batteries. All Lane County transfer stations accept household and car batteries. Battery X-Change (541-689-9134) accepts auto batteries. NOTE: Alkaline batteries made after 1996 are safe as garbage.

**Books & Magazines—Reuse—**Take books and magazines to any St. Vincent de Paul store or collection site. Public-appropriate magazines may be taken to hospitals for use in waiting rooms.

**Books & Magazines—Recycle—**Catalogs, magazines, paper-back books, and phone books may be recycled in Sanipac's blue commingle cart.

**Building Materials - Cabinets, plumbing, electrical supplies, doors, windows, tile, drywall, insulation, hardware, lumber, roofing, new carpet, tools, new flooring, millwork/trim, masonry, sheathing, working appliances, furniture, new and unopened paint, lights, low flow toilets, garden tools and supplies. ReStore by Habitat for Humanity <http://www.sehabitatrestore.org/donate>**

**Clothing & Shoes—Reuse—**Donate clean, reusable clothing and shoes to St. Vincent de Paul (541-687-5820), Salvation Army (541-343-3341) or Goodwill Industries (541-345-1801) or resell to a second-hand clothing store.

**Carpet—Reuse—**Donate nearly new carpet without stains, as well as foam pads, pillows and cushions to St. Vincent de Paul (541-687-5820), Salvation Army (541-343-3341), or Goodwill Industries (541-345-1801). Use older carpet on your garage floor or to smother weeds outdoors.

**Cell Phones—Reuse—**Take your phone, battery and charger to Wireless Source in Eugene (541-687-8601), where they are refurbished and distributed to women's shelters for their client's emergency use.

**Cell Phones—Recycle—**Take your phone to NextStep Recycling (686-2366) or call Lane County's e-waste recycling program (541-682-3111) to make an appointment. Legacy Wireless drop-off sites (including REI, UO Bookstore, ASUO office and UO Telecom) also accept phones.

**Computers, Monitors & Electronics—Reuse—**NextStep Recycling (541-686-2366) accepts computers, monitors, keyboards and other electronics for refurbishing, resale and donation for those in need. Fees may apply.

**Computers, Monitors & Electronics—Recycle—**Oregon E-Cycles drop off locations include: Garten Services 4731 Pacific Ave Suite E 541-868-1550 and NextStep Recycling or call Lane County's e-waste recycling program (541-682-3111) to make an appointment.

**Concrete—**Eugene Sand and Gravel (541-683-6400) accepts clean concrete and asphalt weekdays 7 am to 4 pm on North Delta Highway.

**Doors—Reuse—**Bring Recycling will accept reusable windows and doors

**Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids—Reuse—**The Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation (800-635-4667) recalibrates and distributes hearing aids to Oregonians; eyeglasses are distributed worldwide.

**Film Canisters, Prescription Bottles, Plastic Caps & Lids—Reuse—**Artists and hobbyists can use them to hold paint or small objects

**Fire Extinguishers—**Disposal for a fee at these locations: National Firefighter 541-485-3566, Lane

Fluorescent Light Bulbs—Recycle—Most lighting stores, Jerry’s Home Improvement Centers and True Value Hardware stores will collect bulbs and tubes shorter than 4 feet at no charge. For tubes in excess of 4 feet and from commercial businesses, contact Lane County Hazardous Waste (541-682-4120) for a disposal appointment. Note: Florescent Light Bulbs container small amounts of mercury and must be kept out of the landfill. For proper clean up of a broken florescent light bulb see [www.epa.gov/mercury/spills](http://www.epa.gov/mercury/spills) or our [Summer 2008 Commercial Newsletter](#)

Ink and Toner Cartridges--[Rapid Refill](#) Eugene 541-334-4465, [NextStep](#) 541-686-2366

Mattresses—St. Vincent de Paul (541-687-5820) and the Lane County Glenwood Transfer site (541-682-4120) accept mattresses for a fee.

Metal—Scrap metal is accepted at all Lane County Transfer sites (541-682-4120). Pacific Recycling (541-461-3443) and Schnitzer Steel (541-686-0515) also accept both ferrous and non-ferrous metal.

Oil and Grease—Recycle—Sequential Biofuels (541-736-5864) accepts animal and vegetable oils and grease (no petroleum products) in small amounts and up to 50 gallons. For large quantities contact MRP at 1-800-200-0457

Paint & Stains—Recycle—Containers with liquid material need to be scheduled for drop off at Lane County Hazardous Waste (541-682-4120). Empty cans with no liquid residue may be placed in the scrap metal box at all Lane County Transfer Sites.

Paint & Stain—Disposal—Empty latex paint cans with no liquid residue may be placed in the trash cart with the lids removed. Latex paint can be solidified by mixing the liquid paint with kitty litter, sand or soil.

Propane Tanks—can be taken to Lane County's Transfer Site in Glenwood or St. Vincent DePaul for a fee.

Restaurant Grease—E C Restaurant Services (541-995-6025) picks up oil and grease from restaurants in our area.

Shoes—Recycle—Nike will recycle athletic shoes into track surfacing; take them to the Nike store 135 Oakway Rd. Eugene (541-686-3141)

Shredded Paper—Reuse—Shredded paper can be added to compost or used as packing material or as bedding for small pets.

Shredded Paper—Recycle—Your shredded paper can be placed in your Sanipac commingle cart in a paper bag with the top tightly rolled closed. NOTE: To shred any amount of paper for a fee, contact IP at 541-744-4100.

Styrofoam® Packing and Peanuts—Recycle—clean and dry to mailing companies

Windows—Reuse—Bring Recycling (746-3023) will accept reusable windows and doors

Window Glass—Recycle—Clean, single-pane window glass is accepted by Aurora Glass, a division of St. Vincent de Paul (541-681-3260)

## **Appliances**

Some resources for reusing and recycling of appliances small and large.

## Recycle

NextStep Recycling (541-686-2366 or [www.nextsteprecycling.org](http://www.nextsteprecycling.org) ) accepts nearly all small appliances with a cord or that use batteries.

Large appliances may be recycled at all Lane County transfer sites, Schnitzer Steel (541-686-0515), or Pacific Recycling (541-461-3443)

### **Note:**

Oregon Law prohibits disposing of large household appliances as garbage.