



# NX Projects

## Recycling



### Overview

Recycling is a great way to protect habitats – including your own. When you recycle, someone takes the parts of your trash that they can use and turns it into something else, or even into what it was before you used it. Then, your trash doesn't go to sit in a landfill, and people don't have to get as many resources from the earth, like by mining or cutting down trees.

The first step in recycling is to separate out the trash that can be recycled. A lot of times, trash that can be recycled has the recycling symbol on it somewhere.

Every city and town has different rules about recycling.

Some want the paper, plastic, and other items all in their own containers, while some let you put all the trash that can be recycled into one big container. Recycling containers are usually blue, and have the recycling symbol on their side. They usually tell you if only certain things, like paper, can go into them. You may need to ask an older family member or friend to help you find out where your recycling should go, and how it has to be sorted.

Some schools have a place for recycling too. If yours doesn't, talk to your teacher or principal about getting the school to start recycling.

An important part of recycling is finding ways to make less trash. This can mean reducing the amount of stuff you buy, and reusing things before throwing them away. For instance, you might be able to reuse lunch bags if you bring your lunch to school. If you and a friend both need glue for a project, you can share instead of each buying a separate container. And to create less trash, instead of buying bottled water, get a water bottle that you can reuse, like a sports bottle, and fill it up with water from home or school.

### Materials

Common recycled goods:

Paper - printer paper, newspapers, junk mail (ask your parents before you recycle any mail)

Plastic - milk jugs, plastic soda or juice bottles, plastic bags, plastic food containers, plastic cups – all empty and rinsed out

Glass - glass bottles

Metal - cans from tuna, canned veggies or fruit, canned soup – all empty and rinsed out

Cardboard - cereal boxes, cardboard boxes used when moving or getting something in the mail – but usually not pizza boxes

## **Links**

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This web site from the GrassRoots Recycling Network can give you and your school ideas for starting a school recycling program:

<http://www.kidsrecycle.org/index.php>

On this web site from the state of Wisconsin you'll find some more fun ways to recycle.

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/earth/recycle/index.htm>