

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP WITH RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION?

1. Make sure you know **what's recyclable** in Onondaga County! If you're not sure, check out: http://www.ocrra.org/recycling_bluebins.asp

2. Once you learn them, **teach your family** the correct recycling rules.

3. Get another **Blue Bin**, if you need it:

http://www.ocrra.org/recycling_bluebins.asp#bluebin



4. **Tell your friends** about recycling.

5. **Reuse paper.** Do you have old homework or handouts hanging around that you aren't using anymore? Reuse them as scrap paper. After you've used them for scrap paper – be sure to recycle them!

6. **Save paper** – if you have to print or make copies of something, make sure you double-side it. You'll save paper and money!

7. **Donate your old books.** If you have old books that you no longer read, but they are still in good condition – donate them to your local library or to a charity organization.



8. **Buy recycled stuff.** If you buy things made out of recycled material, you are helping to keep the recycling program going. Some recycled things you may want to look for: notebooks, paper, greeting cards, clothing, pens & pencils, etc.

9. **Reuse and then recycle your plastic bags.** If you accumulate plastic bags after shopping, reuse them! They are useful for all sorts of things, like carrying lunches, as small garbage bags, or to store items. If you have too many or have reused the bags a bunch of times already – bring them back to the store for recycling. Places like Wegmans, Price Chopper, Wal-Mart, and Target all take plastic bags.

10. Better yet, **get some reusable bags.** Using reusable bags over and over again saves resources because you are not bringing home dozens of plastic or paper bags.

11. **Make sure your classroom has a recycling bin.** If it doesn't, ask your teacher if you can get one. If you have questions about what happens to the recyclables after they leave the classroom, see if you can talk to your school's custodian.

12. **Make posters** to teach or encourage people in your school to recycle, or to label your classroom's recycling bin. Get creative and colorful – you can even use scrap paper!

13. When you bring your lunch, try to **use reusable packages.** For example, instead of using a baggie for your sandwich, put it in a container that you can take home to wash and use again.



14. Need a fundraising idea? Try a **bottle drive** – collect deposit containers from the community. Turn them in to a redemption center for 5¢ apiece.

15. Learn about [composting](#). Teach your family. If it's possible, see if you can start a compost pile in your own backyard.



16. **Clean up litter!** If your school already has a team that cleans up for [OCRRA's Annual Earth Day Clean-Up](#) - join it. If there isn't one – talk to your teacher about starting one up.

