

RECYCLING MATERIALS

The ideas aren't new. Reuse, Recycle, and Reduce! Be Green! Don't Waste! Everyone knows recycling is the smart thing to do. By recycling paper, milk cartons and other materials, schools can reduce the amount of waste picked up by the garbage hauler. This can be a significant savings as well as being beneficial to the environment. Become familiar with your school's solid waste contract and resources in your community relating to solid waste. In many communities there are individuals and organizations that will help you set up a program that is appropriate for your school and geographic area.

Buying items and selecting options that will last a long time, can be repaired if they break, are made from recycled materials, can be recycled, and have a minimum of packaging is an excellent way of saving energy. For example, it takes about 20 times more energy to get aluminum from ore (bauxite) than from used cans. Remember, recycling programs emphasize the three R's and if we focus on the "Reduce" probably the most important one, we can probably do a lot.

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**



Throughout the audit, look at things that can be recycled in the school. It does not have to be simply paper, and pop cans, the school can recycle items such as batteries, cell phones, CD's etc. A good resource for ideas is the Michigan Green Schools website www.michiangreenschools.us



BUILDING AUDIT CHALLENGE – RECYCLING AUDIT (STEP 9)



Equipment and Information Needed:

- 1) Visit the Michigan Green Schools Website. www.michigangreenschools.us
- 2) Using the information on the site, create a “Plan of Recycling Actions” the school can do to make itself more “green” in terms of recycling.



Outcome Required:

- 1) Completed “Plan of Recycling Actions”

PLAN OF RECYCLING ATTACK

1. Areas of recycling that the elementary school is currently participating in.

2. Areas of recycling that the elementary school is not currently participating in.

3. What the elementary school can do to recycle the items it is currently not. (Be specific in your plan idea.)

4. Benefits of implementing the above plans.

5. Additional points or comments.
