

# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Ideas for Classroom Teachers

## In the Classroom



- **Place** the classroom recycling bin next to the garbage bin where they will be easy to see.
- **Label** the recycling bin with what can and cannot go in it. Students could help make the signs.
- **Designate** a recycling monitor to check for contamination as a classroom job.
- **Check** with custodian on how students can help with recycling collection.

## In the Lunchroom

- **Have** students record lunch items for one week. Is there a lot of packaging going to the garbage? Are there any recyclable or reusable items? What could they do differently to reduce their waste?
- **Hold** a waste-free lunch challenge to see which lunch group creates the least amount of garbage.
- **Conduct** a lunchroom waste audit measuring the amount of trash and recycling. Audit waste before and after education campaigns to see if things have improved.
- **Create** 3-D signs using common lunchroom items to hang near bins. Glue objects onto poster boards showing what can go in each bin for recyclables, compost, and garbage bins.



## School-wide Recycling



- **Have** students educate other students and staff by performing skits, creating posters, and making PA announcements.
- **Assign** students to spot check the classrooms, office, and library for proper recycling.
- **Hold** a contest between classrooms to see who has the least contaminated recycling. Designate a mascot or trophy that moves from classroom to classroom. A custodian can be the judge.
- **Plan** a recycling week with fun activities, games, announcements, and posters to raise awareness of reducing, reusing, and recycling.

## Creative Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling

- **Reduce** paper use by printing on both sides, making double-sided copies, and using your dry-erase board whenever possible.
- **Create** a reuse box for one-sided paper for every classroom and workroom.
- **Save** recyclables to use for art projects. Hold collection drives to collect items such as magazines, plastic jugs, and bottle caps.
- **Reuse** party supplies. Store them in a central location for others to reuse. Students can make holiday decorations from recyclables.



## At Home



- **Choose** an idea from the classroom tips above for students to try at home and report back to class with their results.
- **Ask** students to research what is recyclable at home. These may be different items than school recycling allows. Visit <http://wmnorthwest.com/washington.html> to research what is accepted in your city.
- **Encourage** students to work with their families to label waste bins at home.