

Going Green in the Classroom



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Going Green

- **Brainstorm with Students**
 - What can we do this year?
 - Reducing
 - Reusing
 - Recycling

Buy Recycled Products


- **Smart Smencils** - pencils made from 100% recycled newspaper and scented with peppermint. Science has confirmed that the scent of peppermint stimulates brain activity and improves concentration. Recent studies showed increased test scores in children who were exposed to the scent of peppermint during testing. Smart Smencils will give your kid's brain a boost!

Make Your Own

- **Crayons**
 - Melt down old broken crayons
 - Pour into any mold or pan (foil lined!)
 - Let harden
 - Can make rainbow crayons

Recycle: School

- **Paper** - Have bins throughout the school for paper that has been used on both sides
 - Set up a challenge between classes
- **Recycle ink cartridges**
- **Recycling Center**
 - School wide
 - Community wide



Recycle: Classroom

- **Paper** - **Keep a bin for used paper**
 - Encourage students to use this paper to take notes, practice writing, color, practice cutting, etc.
- **Junk Art** - **Collect in an eco-craft box**
 - Cast-aways for art projects
 - Creations can be abstract or useable items
 - Cereal box, OJ can, etc.

Recycle Newspapers and Magazines





Recycled ROBOT




Bubble Wrap Art



Painted.




Cut out & painted.




Recycle: Classroom

- Make a *pencil holder* from a juice can covered with various recycled items.
- Create a *mail holder* from an old cereal box.
- Use as many 'green' products that have been made from recycled materials (notebooks, corn starch pencils, etc.)
- Recycle *water* by watering plants or classroom pets.





Reduce: School

- Make classroom 'green party kits'
 - Real plastic plates, cups, and silverware housed in a rolling cooler to be used at all classroom parties.
 - After the party, the children would be responsible for scraping and putting the dishes back into the cooler.
 - Take the cooler to the kitchen and wash and repack the dishes so the kit is ready for the next party.




Reduce: Classroom



- Do more work on the chalkboard/whiteboard instead of worksheets that must be handed in
 - Individual chalkboards/whiteboards can also be used (Make your own!)
- Challenge students to go 'paperless' for a day
- Do group assessments needing only one sheet of paper per group
- When using worksheets, put info on both sides

Reduce: Classroom


- Have students email their homework
 - Grade it 'online' without printing the assignments off
- Turn off lights when you leave the room.
- Eliminate appliances in the classroom
 - Refrigerators, etc.
 - Unplug everything over the weekend
- Unplug TVs, DVD players, etc. when not using them




Reduce: Classroom

- Turn off the computer - don't just put it to sleep - when you go to lunch or over night
- Put all appliances on one power strip
 - One button will 'unplug' everything
- Use natural light when ever possible
 - When having quiet time or when you are reading to students, turn the lights down or off. Use a desk lamp if you are in the room by yourself.
- Use one bank of lights if you can get by

Reduce: Classroom



- Have parents invest in reuseable lunch boxes
 - Plastic containers instead of plastic baggies
- Parents invest in re-useable drink bottles
- Create a class website so that assignments, etc. can be posted and reduce the amount of paper used
- Use rechargeable batteries
- Use a glass or coffee mug from home - not styrofoam cups



Reduce: School

- Grow vegetables for lunch!
- Compost cafeteria waste
 - No styrofoam
- New buildings
 - 'Green' building materials
 - Sustainable building materials

Classroom lessons:

- Composting - After composting for a while, pour the contents of the compost bin onto a plastic tarp in the classroom and go through it. Let students see the bugs, smell the decomposition, etc. firsthand.
- Create outdoor classrooms - Assign their own tree to observe, write about, and take care of for the year.

Classroom lessons:

- Plant a tree
- Have the class figure their classroom's carbon footprint:
- Energy Calculators:
 - <http://www.bp.com/iframe.do?categoryId=9027929&contentId=7050956>
 - <http://www.coolschoolchallenge.org/>

Healthier Classroom:

- Have plants and flowers growing in the classroom
 - It gives responsibility
 - Reduces carbon dioxide levels
- Plants could also be used as rewards
- Take an eco-friendly field trip by walking to a nearby park, etc.
 - 'Indoor Generation'



General Ideas:

- Encourage students to use the same pencils, crayons, notebooks, markers, etc. left over from the previous year instead of buying brand new to promote your 'green' room
 - This is also a great way for disadvantaged students to feel better about reusing their materials!
- Use refillable pencils instead of pens that have to be thrown away when empty



General Ideas:

- Cover textbooks with brown grocery sacks
 - Decorate with scraps of construction paper or wrapping paper
- Checklists that students would check at the end of the day
 - Water faucets are turned off, blinds shut, lights are off, windows closed, etc.
 - Give groups of students a checklist for different parts of the room

General Ideas:

- Class responsibility - pick up trash around the school once a week
- Create posters/signs to teach younger children
- Plant a tree or bush on the school grounds
 - Students responsible to make sure it gets watered and taken care of




General Ideas:

- Rotating 'recycling monitor'
 - Remind everyone to recycle everything possible. This person may also be the one to empty classroom recycling bins into larger ones.
- 'Idle free' zone at each school - cars not allowed to be running while waiting for children to get out of classes.

General Ideas:

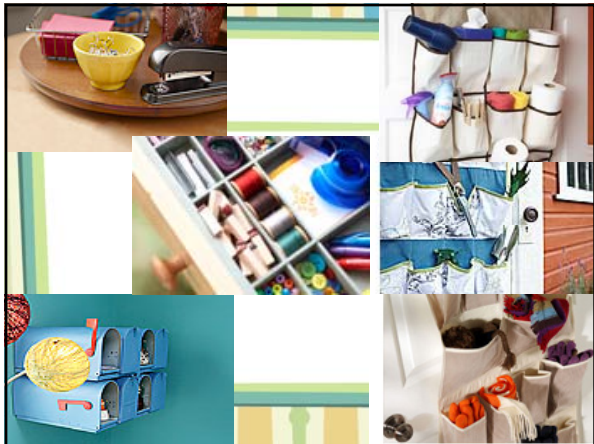
- Carpool with other teachers to and from school if possible
- Use a laptop instead of a desk computer
 - Uses up to 50% less energy than desktop
- Use rags to clean up spills instead of paper towels
- Donate extra paint to a school project
- Don't release helium-filled balloons

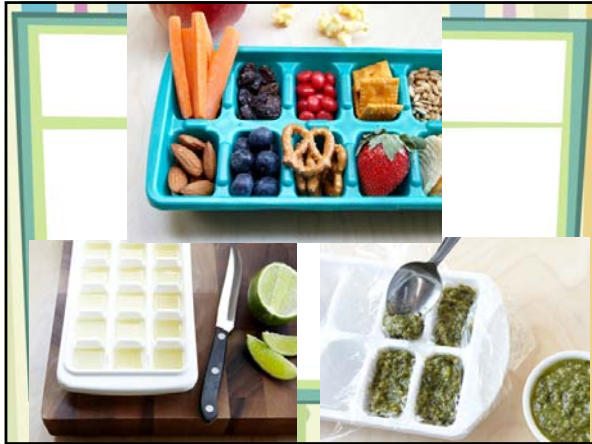


General Ideas:

- Take care of toys, etc. so they don't have to be replaced
- Reuse manila envelopes by putting labels over names
- Create a bulletin board for staff to trade articles
 - (Easier than having a garage sale!)

Repurpose Items











General Ideas

- Peanut butter jar
- Juice cans
- Game boards
- Game pieces
- Rice jar
- Stick
- Magnets

Ideas for teaching Health

- Pill bottles: Matching sounds 
- Toilet paper rolls and playdoh: Blocked blood vessels
- Flannel lined table cloth & Velcro balls: Game board
- Lotion bottle & beads, marbles, etc.: Blood vessel components
- Stuffed animals: Puppet 

Ideas for teaching Health

- Sweat shirt: Body systems apron, fat vest
- Sponges: 
- Dice: 
- Plastic Bottles: Lung model 
- Calendar stand: Easel for small projects 

Make Your Own

- "Innovative Tools for Health Education: Making Inexpensive Props, Visuals, and Manipulatives"
For sale in Exhibit hall - or \$14.00 - Free autograph!

Games for Environmental Health:

http://funschool.kaboose.com/globe-rider/earth-day/games/game_clean_up_your_world.html

http://funschool.kaboose.com/formula-fusion/games/game_earth_day.html

<http://www.seussville.com/games/lorax/game.html>

http://funschool.kaboose.com/formula-fusion/games/game_animal_homes.html

<http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/mainmap.htm>

Lesson Plans

- <http://www.thinkgreen.com/teacher-results>
- -
- <http://www.marca-smallsteps.com/recycling-lesson-plans.html>
- http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_64.html
- <http://earthday.net/greenyourschool>

Marilyn Grechus, Ph.D.

University of Central Missouri
Warrensburg, MO 64093
113 North Morrow
(660) 543-8904
grechus@ucmo.edu