

## *Recycle Ann Arbor*

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Everybody should practice the three R's, which stand for reduce, reuse and recycle. I practice the three R's to help slow down global warming. If you practice the three R's, you waste less stuff: less stuff ends up cluttered in landfills, and less energy and materials are used to make new products. The more waste we create, the more polluted our planet becomes. Polluting also shrinks our clean water supply, which can harm people and animals everywhere. The three R's help the earth, animal habitats, and you!

I try hard to reduce. I turn off the lights when I don't need them. I'm going to ask my parents to buy fluorescent light bulbs that save energy. I don't leave the water on while brushing my teeth, and my family installed new water saving toilets so less water gets wasted when we flush. I ride the bus home from school instead of getting a ride. This summer I hope to ride my bike more, and spend more time outside than playing computer games.

I reuse a lot, and so does my school. I use old math homework to doodle on or to make origami. My school reused empty hand sanitizer containers when we collected money for the United Way. Our family uses grocery bags as trash can liners. My mom gives my old clothes to my cousin, and my brother's to charity. Sometimes I wear my brother's old clothes, too. We also give the toys and books we outgrow to our cousins. Last summer, my mom had a garage sale with a friend so other people could enjoy things we know longer wanted.

I recycle lots of things. In Ann Arbor, it is easy to recycle because we have a curbside recycling program with special bins. You should take advantage of that and recycle daily. My school recycled the hand sanitizer containers after the fundraiser. Lunch trays are recycled daily. After I use a plastic container, I check the bottom for a recycle triangle with the 1 or 2 in the middle. My mom puts those containers in the recycle bin. I also recycle used paper, such as homework, worksheets, tests, or even sticky notes. You need to make sure that only clean recyclables go in the recycle bin, so the Recycling Center doesn't have to deal with your trash. My family returns cans and bottles to the grocery store for deposit money. I once found an old milk carton on the street, and I put it in our recycle bin. It was a small task, but I still felt good about it. Small tasks like that still help.

Whenever you want to buy something, think about how much you need it, how eco-friendly it is, how much you can reuse it, and if it is recyclable for when you

are done with it. Look for products that were made with recycled materials and don't have a lot of extra packaging. Also, look for things that will last a long time, and won't clutter up a landfill. These ideas will help you save your money. Go to [www.recycleannarbor.org](http://www.recycleannarbor.org) to get more ideas. Make the three R's part of your everyday life!