

Get active!

Save a Tree – Recycle

Project Plant It! helps the environment by giving students seedlings to plant. But saving an existing tree is another way that students can help the environment. The first step is to become aware of how much paper we use and how recycling helps.

How much paper do we use?

Have students visit the library or use the internet to find out:

- How much paper does each person use each year?
- How many trees are used each year to produce paper products?
- How many trees could we save by recycling paper?

How does recycling paper help?

Have students discuss how recycling paper helps the environment. Use the worksheet to help them identify the kinds of paper that can be recycled.

1. Recycling saves trees that already exist and conserves our natural resources.
2. It improves air quality – it saves the trees that purify our air and cuts down on burning.
3. It reduces the energy and water paper mills needed to make new paper products.
4. It keeps paper out of landfills.
 - 75% of U.S. paper mills use recycled paper fiber to make their products.
 - 36% of the raw materials used at paper mills come from recycled paper.

How can students help?

- A paper recycling project can help kids provide a service to their community. And, if the recycler pays for paper, you may be able to raise funds for your school. A phone book recycling project may be one way to start.
- Students can tell their families about recycling and start doing it at home.

Every little bit helps.

One year of recycling at Stanford University saved the equivalent of 33,913 trees.

Helpful sites:

http://www.paperrecycles.org/school_recycling/index.html

<http://earth911.com/recycling/paper/paper-recycling-at-school/>

