

GRADES OF GREEN'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

TRASH FREE TUESDAYS

FACT: Did you know that Los Angeles County throws away enough trash to fill Dodger Stadium everyday?

TIP: Try packing a trash-free lunch at least once a week!

GOG ACTIVITY: The Trash Free Tuesdays activity encourages students to bring lunches that don't generate trash. This is done by using trash free lunchboxes, reusable cloth sandwich or snack bags, or reusable containers. How about a reusable water bottle in lieu of a disposable juice box? Switch from paper napkins to cloth. There are over 50 million students in the U.S. Imagine the trash we could divert if they all switched to trash free lunches!

DETAILED STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITY:

<http://www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/trash-redux/trash-free-tuesdays>

GREEN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KITS

FACT: Did you know if every student in California had to throw away their emergency kit at the end of each school year, we would be tossing over 18 million juice boxes, 9 million snack bars, and 6 million sweatshirts every year?

TIP: Think through what materials can last longer and what supplies can be reused!

GOG ACTIVITY: Each year parents throw away millions of juice boxes, snack bags and bars, and clothes that were never used. You can encourage your school to switch from wasteful to environmentally friendly emergency supply kits that will last five years, save resources, and save the parents money.

DETAILED STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITY:

<http://www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/r3-project/green-emergency-supply-kits>

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

FACT: If all the schools in the United States switched to online newsletters, we would save over 19 billion sheets of paper each year.

TIP: Find ways to reduce paper usage at your school!

GOG ACTIVITY: Switching from a paper newsletter to an online newsletter not only saves paper, it also makes communication with your parents easy and instant. And of course, the reduced use of paper will save the school money! This activity shows schools how to create an online newsletter and offers suggestions on resources the school can utilize to make your online newsletter fantastic!

DETAILED STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITY:

<http://www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/r3-project/online-newsletter>

e-WASTE DRIVE

FACT: For every million cell phones we recycle, 35,274 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold, and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered.

TIP: Make sure electronics are recycled properly!

GOG ACTIVITY: An E-Waste Collection is a great way for students to be empowered to keep harmful chemicals found in electronics such as computers, phones, batteries, etc. out of our landfills. Hazardous chemicals such as mercury leach from the e-waste and seep into the land, potentially spreading to water sources. By hosting an e-waste collection at your school, you are creating an easy way to help the broader school community dispose of their e-waste properly. In the process, you are teaching other students and parents not to throw away old electronics and inspiring everyone to reduce, reuse and recycle electronics in the future. The e-waste collection activity could even be hosted as a fundraiser for the school.

DETAILED STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITY:

<http://www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/trash-redux/e-waste-drive>

GREENING SPECIAL EVENTS

FACT: Elementary schools throw an average of four parties per year in each classroom. With over 55 million students enrolled in K-12 nationwide, switching to reusable party packs would divert millions of plates, cups, and utensils from our landfills.

TIP: Green your school's special events!

GOG ACTIVITY: Work closely with the Committee Chairs for events at your school to make organized events environmentally friendly. This could include using reusable party packs and reusable decorations.

DETAILED STEP TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITY:

<http://www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/trash-redux/greening-special-events>

IN-CLASS COMPOSTING

FACT: Did you know every year Americans throw 31 million tons of otherwise compostable food waste in landfills and incinerators, enough to fill 725,000 ice-cream trucks?

TIP: Try composting!

GOG ACTIVITY: In-Class Composting is a great way to divert trash from our landfills and show teachers and students how simple composting can be! This activity shows schools how they can set up small compost bins in the classroom to compost unbleached paper towels and fruit and vegetable scraps. In-class composting bins also reinforce the concept that trash is a resource and doesn't have to end up in our landfills.

DETAILED STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITY:

<http://www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/trash-redux/class-composting>

IN-CLASS RECYCLING

FACT: 85% of the waste generated in a classroom is paper and recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, which each year absorb 250 pounds of CO₂.

TIP: Implement in-class recycling at your school!

GOG ACTIVITY: One of the most effective ways schools can divert trash from our landfills is to set up in-class recycling. Not only can this save your school money by reducing the amount of trash pick-ups required, it is also a great way to set a positive example for students. Establishing recycling habits at school can translate into recycling at home. In-class recycling is fun, easy and a must for every school!

DETAILED STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITY:

<http://www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/trash-redux/class-recycling>

WORM BINS

FACT: A worm can eat its body weight in compost refuse everyday.

TIP: Try using worm bins as a fun and environmentally-friendly way to teach kids about decomposition!

GOG ACTIVITY: Most students and parents have never seen a worm bin. This activity teaches schools how to introduce Vermiculture (worm bins) on campus and into the curriculum. Worm bins are a great alternative to composting for homes with smaller compost needs or lack of outdoor space. Fruits and vegetables from snacks and lunches can be added into the worm bin. The worms then eat the food and make worm casings. This nutrient-packed fertilizer can be used around the school or given to the students to take home and show their families.

DETAILED STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITY:

<http://www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/trash-redux/worm-bins>