



# CREATE A GET THE MOST OUT OF RECYCLING DEMONSTRATION



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Learn how to create and deliver a demonstration that your environment club can use to teach students, teachers and staff about the importance of recycling and how to properly prepare beverage containers for a successful school recycling program.

**Suggested Time:** 10-15 minutes

**Suggested Materials:**

- Small recycle bin
- Small garbage bin
- Plastic bottle and cap  
*(small amount of water inside)*
- 2L plastic bottle and cap
- Aluminum can
- Crushed aluminum can
- Glass bottle and cap
- Juice box, straw and straw wrapper
- Individual milk carton
- Some garbage  
*(i.e. chip bag, bar wrapper, plastic fork)*



## ABOUT BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING:

- Recycling is one of the 3Rs and is an important way to help protect the environment.
- There are many great reasons to recycle at school. Recycling:
  - Saves natural resources such as oil, trees and metals.
  - Saves energy since it takes less energy to make things from recycled material than from natural resources.
  - Protects wildlife by keeping their habitat clean and free of waste and hazards.
  - Keeps waste out of our landfills.
  - Helps keep our environment clean including our neighbourhoods and school grounds.
  - Helps our school raise money.
- Schools get 5 cents per container from the Green Depot and an extra 5 cents per container from the MMSB. That's double the refund. Schools also get double the refund on any alcoholic beverage containers they collect for a total of 20 cents per container.
- At school, you can recycle all drink containers except milk containers. Milk containers are not a part of the Used Beverage Container Recycling Program.
- To properly prepare containers for recycling:
  - remove caps, straws and other garbage.
  - empty all liquid.
  - leave the labels on.
  - do not crush containers.
- If your school recycling contains garbage, caps, straws, liquids and containers that are not a part of the recycling program, it is considered contaminated. The Green Depot may not accept it – that means less money for your school and more garbage going to the landfill.
- It can take hundreds or even thousands of years for things like plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans to break down in a landfill.



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- In Newfoundland and Labrador, we throw away 400,000 tonnes of garbage each year – that’s almost three and a half times the weight of the CN Tower!

- Since 1992, more than 1.8 billion used beverage containers have been kept out of landfills in Newfoundland and Labrador. Stacked end to end, that’s enough containers to circle the earth four times!

## PROCEDURE:

### Step 1

Find volunteers from your environment club to create and deliver a *Get the Most Out of Recycling* demonstration. Volunteers can work in groups of two to deliver the presentation to the whole school.

### Step 2

Get permission to have time set aside at the beginning of class or during homeroom period to deliver the demonstration to classes throughout the school. Try to visit as many classes as possible.

### Step 3

Using the information above, deliver the demonstration. Include some interesting facts about recycling and discuss the importance of recycling. Use props to demonstrate what can and can’t be recycled and how to properly prepare beverage containers for recycling.

**TIP:** Be creative! Come up with a fun way to deliver the information. You can do a demonstration, do a skit, get the audience to participate, quiz the audience, or even make up your own song or infomercial. You may decide to use MMSB’s sample PowerPoint slides to go along with your demonstration, or you may ask your principal to put them on your hallway monitors to help educate the school.

### Step 4

Keep a record of the classes that see your demonstration and the date. This will help you measure the success of your education efforts. You may notice that the classes you visited are recycling more and have less contamination in their recycling than the classes you didn’t visit.

### Step 5

Share your positive results with the rest of the school.



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