

**Chapter Six,
Lesson One:**

**Our
Environmental
Responsibility -
Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle**

**Concepts and Skills
Addressed:**

Leadership
Team work
Communication

Materials Needed:

Bins for each participating room to collect recyclables. A bulletin board to track the students' progress toward their goal.

Materials Supplied:

A planning guide for your recycling program

Students will develop a recycling project for their classroom or for a number of classes in the school.

Procedure:

Follow the steps outlined throughout the planning guide.



MOBIUS Recycling Planning Guide

1. What do we do?

If your school is not already recycling on a regular basis, here is an opportunity to get started. This could be a big project, even for one classroom, so the best way to start is by planning.



a. Set goals

Ask the class to set goals for how long they want to run the recycling program. We know that recycling must become a habit for a lifetime, but it can seem like an awfully long time at first. Start with a goal of a week or a month. Or set a goal based on weight or volume. Gather the recyclable paper discarded in your classroom daily and weigh it. Keep track of the amount saved on a chart so that students can see their progress. (As summarized in Chapter Four, 17 trees are conserved for each ton of paper recycled.) The school cafeteria personnel could become involved if you ask them to save cans and other recyclable containers. Students could also bring in recyclables from home (if recycling is not yet available in your area).

b. Choose a coordinator.

Whether one class is involved or 100, someone has to coordinate the effort. The coordinator could be a responsible student, a teacher, or a task force made up of administrators. If the project turns out to be large, a multi-tiered approach may be needed to better handle the work. While leadership is a key part of making any project work, remember to cultivate good followers along with the budding leaders in your class.

c. Set Rewards

Every goal deserves a reward when it is accomplished. If recyclables in your area are turned in for cash, the group could choose to buy something for the school or their class. Classes may choose to challenge other classes, or you may want to challenge another school in your area to see which school collects the most recyclables within a set period of time. A celebration could be planned at the end for everyone involved. The point is not to spend a lot of money on a party but to recognize the school's accomplishment toward recycling and environmental responsibility.

2. What do we need?

Some supplies are needed and arrangements must be made to make a school recycling program work. Residents in your area may already recycle at home. If so, your school program will include the recyclables generated at the school. If not, your program may include bringing recyclables from home.

- a. Classrooms need separate collection boxes or containers and a central storage area must be provided to hold the recyclables.
- b. Transportation to a recycling center or transfer station will have to be arranged. Perhaps your local recycling company will pick up the materials, or parents and teachers could volunteer to take them there at regular times or at the end of the program.
- c. If your program is designed as a contest between classes or another school, a means of counting or weighing the material must be arranged.
- d. A speaker may be brought in to give students an opportunity to ask questions.
- e. A tour could be planned of a recycling facility, transfer station, glass or can factory or sanitary landfill site.

3. Who can help us?

Your steps will include contacting a local recycling company. If you don't know anyone in your area that collects recyclables, contact the solid waste hauler for your school and ask them who you should talk to about a class recycling schedule.

