



Operation EarthWatch

November 2009: RECYCLING/REUSE!

K - 3rd grades: Choose at least 3 activities
4th - 5th grades: Choose at least 3 activities,
 plus one "Choose Your Own".

*Please return this sheet to your homeroom teacher or to the school office by **November 30, 2009**. Attach another sheet, if necessary, when completing form. Sheets are also available online at www.operationearthwatch.org.*

Your Name: _____
 School: _____
 Email (optional): _____
 Grade: ____ Teacher's Name: _____
 Parent Signature: _____

America Recycles Day



"America Recycles Day" is November 15. Celebrate this month by pledging to learn more about recycling! To make a pledge (and be entered to win a prize in a regional drawing!), visit the National Recycling Coalition website at <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspx> and click on "take the pledge". What did you pledge to do?

Recycle or Trash?

When you have something to throw away, it's important to know whether it can be recycled or if it must go in the trash. Take a look at the list below. Next to each item put an "R" next to items that are recyclable and a "T" next to items that should go in the trash. Check your answers: If you live in Falls Church and place your items in a "green bin" go to www.fallschurchva.gov, and click on "recycling" under "popular topics". If you live in an apartment, check for signs posted near your recycling area or check with your Building Manager. If you live in another jurisdiction, check their website.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> paper milk cartons | <input type="checkbox"/> books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dirty paper plate | <input type="checkbox"/> yogurt cups | <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum foil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> plastic soda bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> soup cans | <input type="checkbox"/> plastic salad bar containers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cardboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Styrofoam meat trays | <input type="checkbox"/> detergent bottles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> plastic milk jugs | <input type="checkbox"/> magazines | <input type="checkbox"/> potato chip bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> soda cans | <input type="checkbox"/> plastic grocery bags | <input type="checkbox"/> light bulbs |

Scrap Metal Recycling



The City of Falls Church offers scrap metal recycling at the Recycling Center (217 Gordon Rd.) This month, recycle metal items that your family may have otherwise thrown in the trash by taking them to the Recycling Center. Examples of recyclable metal items are: old keys, screws, metal bed frames, appliances, tire rims, and fencing. What did you recycle?

Post-Consumer Recycled Content



Many items that we buy at the supermarket or drug store are made from "post-consumer" recycled materials. This means they contain materials that someone already used and put in a curbside recycling bin or took to a recycling center. Look around your house and see if you can find any of the following items that say "post-consumer" recycled content on them. Write down what percent is post-consumer recycled.

_____ % = cereal / cracker box

_____ % = copier paper

_____ % = note book

_____ % = paper egg carton

_____ % = gift wrap

_____ % = grocery bag

_____ % = t-shirt

_____ % = greeting card

_____ % = _____

Activities and Events



Help Plant a Rain Garden: When it rains, water that falls on hard surfaces like our roofs, roads and driveways, makes its way to storm drain openings in the street and becomes "stormwater". From there, water flows untreated through pipes to our streams. A rain garden helps remove and clean excess stormwater before it enters our streams. The City of Falls Church has created a new rain garden at the intersection of Buxton Rd. and Tyson Dr. (off E. Broad St., near Seven Corners). Volunteer to help plant water-loving shrubs and plants on **Saturday, November 14th, 9 a.m.** Jeanette Stewart of *Lands and Waters* will provide a short presentation at the event. Please bring garden gloves and small planting tools if you have them. What did you do or learn at the planting party?

Habitat Restoration Event: You are invited to a work party to get rid of invasive plants like English ivy that are threatening our trees. Come to Cherry Hill Park (near the basketball court) on Saturday, November 7, 10 a.m. to learn how to get rid of plant "invaders" that smother trees and other native vegetation and will eventually kill them. What did you learn at the work party?



Choose Your Own!

Choose your own activity related to the theme of **Recycling/Reuse**. Describe it below or on another sheet of paper and complete the activity.

Operation EarthWatch Coordinators

Mt Daniel: Susan Matchett - sematchett@gmail.com

Thomas Jefferson: Stephanie Johnson - sjohnson@fallschurchva.gov

St. James: Laurel Ruland - lruland@cox.net

Thanks for volunteering for Operation EarthWatch!

Operation EarthWatch is sponsored by the City of Falls Church and the Falls Church Environmental Services Council.

Students who complete all six activity sheets (October thru March) receive a T-shirt and are eligible to march with other EarthWatchers in the Memorial Day parade!

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability call 703-248-5176, (TTY 711).

