



Earth Month is Every Month at LRS!

Check out the educational resources to bring recycling and sustainability to life in your classroom!

Take a look at these ideas to bring Earth Month alive at your school!



Scan to discover more resources!

Extension

- Start a school green team using GrowNYC's [Green Team Guide](#).
- Download the free [Food Waste Reduction Toolkit](#) from Seven Generations Ahead and the [Wasted Food Action Alliance](#) and start reducing food waste at your school.
- Organize a river or lake clean up using Friends of the Chicago River's [Litter Free Toolkit](#).
- Host a school swap! Share school supplies and unwanted materials with different teachers & students. Donate additional items and keep them out of your school's dumpster!

English Language Arts (ELA)

- Watch a [virtual tour of the LRS Exchange Material Recovery Facility](#). What surprised you?
- Check out [PBS' STEM classroom resources](#) focused on plastic pollution. Write about the pros and cons of plastics. What else can we do to reduce plastic waste?
- Write a story from the point of view of a piece of recycling. What is their life like? Explore [material infographics](#) with statistics from LRS.
- Pick one of the 17 [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) to read about. Can you connect that goal to recycling?



Social Studies

- Engage in political advocacy around waste. Write a letter to the mayor, alderperson, governor, or representative in your community outlining a greener future in your community.
- Research the history of recycling in your community. When did recycling start? What did your community do with recyclables before collection began?
- Design a sustainable city. In your perfect city, how would we deal with waste, water, transportation, food, housing and education? Align your city with the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#).
- Present to your local school council or parent teacher association.
- Create a podcast about sustainability using [Starting Your Podcast a Guide for Students](#) from NPR.



Art

- Draw maps showing the journey of recyclable collection from your school, to the LRS Recovery Facility, to the states where materials are sent. Use the [Chicago Blue Cart Recycling Map](#) to see where LRS sends its recyclable materials.
- Design sorting signs to encourage proper recycling in your school.
- Create mixed media (videos, posters, dances, plays etc.) showing the importance of recycling.
- Create a reuse project: water bottle planters, bottle cap murals, and t-shirt bags are a few of the many ways to reduce waste.
- Read [Ruth Asawa's: A Sculpting Life](#) and make a milk carton sculpture.
- Shop at reuse stores to get materials to make costumes and recycled art. Get inspiration from the photos in, [The Bewildering Beauty of Recycled Waste](#) from The New Yorker.
- Paint earth focused art to display in your cafeteria.
- Read [Magic Trash: A Story of Tyree Guyton and His Art](#) and design a public art project.

Math

- Utilize these [24 graphs](#) from the [New York Times](#) to teach about climate change.
- Conduct a waste audit using [the USDA and EPA's guide](#). Weigh the trash and recyclables from each classroom or cafeteria. After implementing recycling, will you see a change in this data? Display it on a bulletin-board to show change over time.
- Build a tower of milk cartons from one lunch period. How many milk cartons could be recycled daily, weekly, monthly or yearly? Graph your results.
- Explore [LRS' material infographics](#). Compare the tonnage recycled of each material monthly and draw a visual representation.



Science

- Research the different materials found in your cafeteria. What is your tray made of and where does it come from? Can you follow the footprint of the food and materials used at your school? Utilize the EPA's Life Cycle of a Soccer ball in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- Conduct a neighborhood liter survey. What liter do you see in your community? Where is it coming from? Design a campaign to educate the community on liter and waste reduction.
- Take the [Recycle by City Chicago recycling quiz](#) to test your knowledge, check out [Sustain Dane Recycling Better](#) stats, or take the [PBS Twin Cities "How Well Do You Know Your Trash"](#) quiz.
- Utilize [The Quest for Less](#), the EPA's K-8 resources and educational activities focused on waste and sustainability.
- Find a waste focused lesson plan or teacher guide using the [EPA's Educational Resource page](#).