



America Recycles Day Poster Contest Rules

2022 Theme: Follow Your Recycling

Show off your creative skills by illustrating what happens after your recycling leaves your home or school. See page 3 for more details about the theme.

Deadline

Posters and release form must be submitted to Dakota County no later than **Friday, Dec. 2**. The winners will be notified in December 2022.

Eligibility

All 4th grade students in Dakota County public and private schools including home schools and youth organizations are eligible. Two winners will be selected (see categories below).

Poster Requirements

Materials: Students may use a variety of media, such as watercolor, pen and ink, crayon, chalk, colored pencil, markers and computer graphics. Colors should be bold and bright. Crayons, permanent markers or paint are recommended (light pencil lines may not show up).

Size and Layout: Posters must be designed on 11 inches x 17 inches paper. This paper size can be mailed to you if needed by contacting schoolrecycling@co.dakota.mn.us. Posters may be landscape (hotdog) or portrait (hamburger) orientation.

Design: Poster must focus on the theme and cannot include characters from cartoons, TV or movies due to copyright laws. All posters must be the original artwork of the student. Designs traced or copied from coloring books or other media cannot be accepted as original drawings. Each student may submit only one poster. **If you use recycling or trash bins on your poster, please use blue for recycling and gray or black for trash. Students are encouraged to incorporate recycled or recyclable materials in their creations.**

Submitting Posters: Scan your poster in color and send to schoolrecycling@co.dakota.mn.us (your school may be able to provide help). If scanning is not possible, take a high-quality photo of the poster. No hard copy posters will be collected. Please keep the original version of your poster. Original versions of posters may be needed for quality enhancement when printing.

Release Form: **All posters must include the completed Poster Release Form.** A poster not accompanied by a completed Release Form will not be eligible for judging.

Awards

The final judging committee is organized by Dakota County Environmental Resources. Posters will be selected based on the criteria below.

Judging Criteria

- Focus on the theme
- Effective messaging using text and artwork
- Originality
- Correct information

Two winners will be awarded (one in each category):

- Overall 1st Place
- Most Original

Posters of both winners will be professionally printed and displayed at the Dakota County Galaxie Library. An electronic version will be posted on the Dakota County webpage. The winners will receive a [home recycling bin](#) to improve recycling at home with some fun goodies inside. Their professionally printed poster will be delivered to their school. All entries will receive a participation prize.

Please note that any deviation in these rules could result in a poster being disqualified.

Questions? Contact Dakota County School Recycling Program Coordinator Ali Vandercook, ali.vandercook@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7552.

2022 Theme: Follow Your Recycling

Recycling is the process of collecting materials that would otherwise be thrown away and turning them into new products. Recycling saves energy, protects resources like trees and minerals and keeps our air and water clean. We often think of our recycling as just going “away”. But have you stopped to think where your recycling actually goes?

Step 1: Collection

Cans, bottles, and paper that you put in a recycling bin at home or school are put into a larger container called a cart or dumpster. The cart or dumpster is picked up by a recycling truck along with your neighbors' recycling.

Step 2: Processing

The recycling truck drops off our recycling at a recycling sorting facility where paper, bottles, and cans are separated by people and machines into material types. [Watch this video from a sorting facility in the Twin Cities](#) to find out how it happens.

Step 3: Make new products

Sorted paper, metal cans, glass jars and plastics bottles are purchased by a company that wants to make new stuff. Aluminum cans and glass can be made into new products FOREVER without losing any quality. Paper and plastic can be recycled numerous times but eventually lose quality. Cans are made into new cans. Glass bottles into new glass bottles. Paper is made into other paper products like cereal boxes, tissues or a newspaper. Plastic bottles become new bottles, lumber, clothing or carpet.

Step 4: Buying items made from recycled materials

Recycling only works if we buy products made from our recycling. Encourage your parents to buy products made from recycled content. For example, you might see a sentence on a notebook or loose-leaf paper that says “made from recycled content” or “post-consumer content”. That means it was made from our old paper!



We need you to help teach others about the journey of recycling! **Show us how items we recycle (paper, cans, glass, and plastics) get made into new things!**

Learn more

[Recycle Right at School](#) (what is recyclable in Dakota County)

Videos

[Recycling Simplified: Lessons and Activities \(3rd-5th Grade\)](#)

[What Do Your Recyclables Become?](#)

[Recycling Videos and Curriculum](#)

Books

Trash Magic: A Book about Recycling a Plastic Bottle

The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle: A Story About Recycling

The Adventures of an Aluminum Can: A Story About Recycling