



America Recycles Day Video Contest Rules

2022 Theme: Follow Your Recycling

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

Deadline

Video 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 5-12th grade students in Dakota County public, private and home schools are eligible, including individual student or student group entries like a Green Team). Two winning videos will be selected (see categories below).

Video Requirements

Content: The video must focus on the theme and cannot include characters from cartoons, TV, or movies due to copyright laws. Content copied from other media cannot be accepted as original. All videos must be the original work of the student(s). Each student or student group may submit only one video. **If you use recycling or trash bins in your video, please use blue for recycling and gray or black for trash.**

Length: No more than 30 seconds long.

Release Form: All entries must include the completed Video Release Form. A video not accompanied by a completed Release Form will not be eligible for judging.

Submitting Videos: Email the video link or MP4 to schoolrecycling@co.dakota.mn.us. If sending a link, use a public website like YouTube or Vimeo to upload your video. No hard copy videos or USB flash drives will be accepted.

Awards

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

Judging Criteria

- Focus on the theme
- Effective messaging
- Originality
- Correct information

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

- Overall 1st Place
- Most Original

Winning video entries will be posted on the Dakota County webpage and promoted on social media. Each winning video will be awarded a \$100 Visa gift card. Please note that any deviation in these rules could result in a video 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 paper items 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)

[Recycling Simplified: Lessons and Activities \(6th-8th Grade\)](#)

[Recycling Simplified: Lessons and Activities \(9th-12th Grade\)](#)

[What Do Your Recyclables Become?](#)

[Recycling Videos and Curriculum](#)