

# HOW TO DESIGN AND RUN AN EARTH DAY RECYCLING CHALLENGE AT YOUR SCHOOL:

## **STEP 1: Design your competition – figure out all the logistics involved**

Who is involved in the competition? Is it between grade levels? Classrooms? School buildings?

What are the dates of your competition? How long will the competition last?

What item will you collect? OR will you recycle as much as possible and have a competition to decrease trash?

Where does the recycling get collected in your school? Does your school already have recycling bins or will you need to design and make bins for the event?

Who will collect, weigh, or count the recycling? Who will weigh the trash (if needed)? How often will you collect, weight, or count? Have you spoken with the individuals who will do this job? Have they agreed? If students are responsible, do they have permission from their teachers and parents, if needed?

Where will you post updates and results? Who is in charge of this?

Who will pick up the recycling – your waste hauler? Or will a parent/teacher have to drop off the recycling at a recycling station? Do you need to pay someone to pick up the recycling?

Is there a prize for the winning group? How will you afford the prize? How do you determine who wins? Is it the highest number of x recyclables? Is it the heaviest weight of x recyclables? Is it the lightest weight of trash?

## **STEP 2: Plan an outreach campaign – get the word out!**

Propose competition to school staff and get it approved.

Spread the word by emailing teachers. Have teachers inform their students.

Spread the word to students by having classroom presentations or assemblies.

Put up posters with competition details.

Do you need a sign-up sheet or online sign-up? How will you know who is competing?

## **STEP 3: Hold the competition – gather recyclables and report data throughout**

Answer any last-minute questions and make sure the school/teachers understand the competition rules.

Begin collecting.

Have a schedule for when data will be recorded and who will be collecting that data.

Have a schedule or plan in place to get recyclables to the recycling center.

Have a schedule for daily or weekly updates and who will share those updates with the school.

#### **STEP 4: Share results and announce a winner!**

How will you announce the winner? Email? PA system?

When and how does the winner get the prize?

#### **STEP 5: Continue recycling!**

Now that the competition is over, can you make this practice sustainable? Can you leave the recycling bins out and encourage students to continue recycling?

How do you make this an ongoing practice?

#### **QUESTIONS?**

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