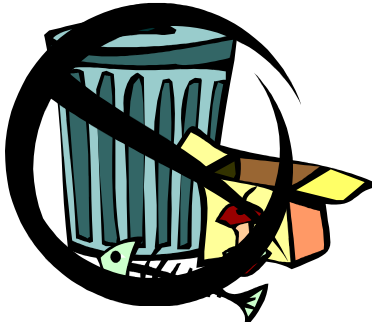


5th Annual Zero Waste Challenge



The State Recycling Program is coordinating the **5th Annual Zero Waste Challenge** for this event and we need your help. All waste (trash and recyclables) will be audited and weighed this year. We are challenging this year's participants to reduce the amount of waste (trash & recyclables) as compared to 2011. One of the long term goals of the Zero Waste Challenge is to encourage Earth Day participants to strive for zero waste.

Earth Day Waste Statistics




	Non-Recyclable Trash	Recyclable Material	Total Waste (trash & recyclables)	Number of Registered Participants	Amount of Waste (trash & recyclables) Generated Per Person
2009	308.4 lbs.	253.2 lbs.	561.6 lbs.	1553	.36 lbs. per person
2010	211.7 lbs.	203.8 lbs.	415.5 lbs.	1056	.39 lbs. per person
2011	114.4 lbs.	147.7 lbs.	262.1 lbs.	1308	.20 lbs. per person

Observations from past DNR Earth Day Waste Audits

1. A considerable amount of unopened food containers such as bananas and milk were found in the trash.
2. A significant amount of paperboard packaging from lunches could not be recycled due to food contamination.
3. A significant amount of plastic containers from lunches could not be recycled because these were not #1 or #2 type plastic.



2012 Earth Day Participants are encouraged to ...

-  Pack lunches that students will eat.
-  Prevent food contamination of recyclable materials such as paperboard/ cardboard packaging.
-  "Pre-cycle" by only purchasing #1 & #2 type plastic bottle containers (avoid #3 - #7 plastics).

Notes for Teachers

1. Materials accepted for recycling at DNR's 2012 Earth Day include: mixed office paper; cardboard (including paperboard such as cracker & cereal boxes); aluminum cans & #1 / #2 plastic bottles; and compostable material such as leftover food (fruit, bread, etc.) and paper (napkins, paper towels, etc.)
2. Recyclable materials placed in trash containers will be land-filled. Please encourage students to place recyclable materials in the proper recycling container.
3. Consider ways to reduce the amount of food and food packaging that is thrown away. For example, instead of each student having the same brown bag lunch, could lunch be served buffet-style by having a box of sandwiches, a box of apples, a box of drinks, etc? Can reusable containers be utilized?



4. Using the waste statistics from above, 2012 Earth Day participants are being challenged to generate less waste this year. This will require each student, teacher, and state employee doing their part to reduce not only the amount of trash generated, but also the amount of recyclable materials generated. Consider the importance of reducing first, reusing second, and finally recycling.

5.

<http://wastefreelunch.com/teachers-resources>