

# YOUTH PROGRAMS

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency



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The Agency provides **FREE** professional youth programming to Ulster County schools, clubs, libraries, and youth community centers. Programs can be held in the Agency's board room, which seats a maximum of 30 people, or the Recycling Outreach Team can come to you!

Many of the games include free prizes and reusable promotional items that youth can keep as a reminder to recycle, compost, and reduce waste!

Please see the examples of programs below:



## Tours

### Tour UCRRA's Recycling and Composting Facilities

Tours typically start with a 30 minute educational program, followed by a 30 minute facility tour. All tour participants must wear closed-toe shoes and the provided hard hat (no sandals, flip-flops, etc.). Youth must be accompanied by adults (5:1 youth/adult). **Maximum 30 guests per visit. This is a seasonal weekday program available only by tour request from April to November.**



## Composting Programs

### "Composting for Kids"

This 20-minute interactive discussion and activity can be adapted for groups of 10-30 students in grades 2-6. Participants will learn about how composting works, what can be composted, and why composting is good for the environment. This program can be supplemented with a compost story book or a hands-on composting activity, depending on the age group.

**Program needs: depends on program request**

### "Soil / Compost Food Web "

This 20+ minute interactive game is recommended for groups of 15-25 students in grades 7-12. Participants learn about soil biology and the many microorganisms in the soil, and gain understanding of ecosystems and ecological food chains. Participants group to form an actual connected food web, where each person plays a part (as a soil organism) in the ecosystem of composting.

**Program needs: large empty room or plenty of floor space**

### "Working with Worms"

This 20+ minute interactive discussion and activity is adaptable for students in grades K-12. Students will get to see inside a live worm bin and will learn introductory composting topics: what is composting, worm ecology, the worm lifecycle, and how a worm bin is built and designed.

**All program materials provided**

# Home Composting Demonstration Garden



The Home Composting Demonstration Garden is an outdoor learning center where visiting groups can receive hands-on instruction on backyard composting systems, troubleshooting tips, and best practices. The Demo Garden features various styles of compost bins, educational signs, and other interactive tools.

**A visit to the Demo Site can be added to a facility tour.**

## Environmental Programs

### “Seed Bombs”

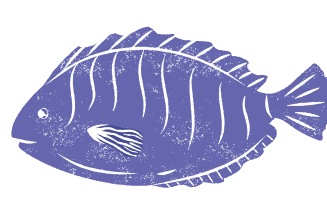
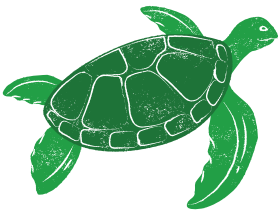
This 30 minute hands-on craft activity is recommended for small groups of students in grades K-2. Participants learn about compost, pollinators, and create small balls of clay with wildflower seeds. This project can be extended by incorporating a short story (example “Compost Stew”).

**Program needs: shared table space, table cloth and handwashing station**

### “Ocean Plastic Pollution: Understanding our Impact on Marine Environments”

This 40+ minute interactive discussion and science exploration activity is recommended for students in grades 5-12. Participants will learn about plastics, litter, ocean pollution and the impacts on marine wildlife.

**Program needs: shared tablespace, access to water, screen to project, laptop/projector**



## Recycling Programs

### “I Want to Be Recycled”

This tabletop card game is recommended for small groups of all ages. Participants will learn what recycled items become (example: a recycled water bottle can become fleece).

### “Recycling Bingo”

This 30-40 minute activity can accommodate up to 30 students. This is a fun game for all ages. Participants will learn facts about recycling, composting and rethinking waste! Prizes will be provided for winners.

**All program materials provided**

### “Recycling & Composting Trivia”

This trivia wheel game (adaptable for all ages) is a good program for very small groups or at an event table. Participants will spin a trivia wheel to land on a recycling/composting category. They will then be asked a trivia question about recycling, composting, or solid waste for chances to win real prizes.

**Program needs: 1 large table for prize wheel**



## **“Recycling Jeopardy”**

This 30-40+ minute game about environmental science, sustainability, recycling, waste reduction, reuse, and composting is adaptable for groups of 10-30 students in grades 2-12. Students will be broken up into two teams and earn points to win real prizes.

***Program needs: screen to project, laptop/projector set up***

## **Up-Cycling Programs**

### **“Upcycling”**

This 20-40 minute hands-on craft activity is adaptable for smaller groups of all ages. Participants learn about upcycling unwanted items into new useful items, the importance of reuse and recycling, and how to make their own creations out of upcycled materials. Examples: robots, valentines, masks, puppets

***Program needs: Shared table space and table cloth.***

***Craft materials provided***

### **“Upcycled Reusable Bags”**

This 30 minute hands-on activity for smaller groups is recommended for students in grades 3-8. Participants will learn about upcycling, the Ulster County Bring Your Own Bag Act, and the benefits of waste reduction and reuse.

***Program needs: Students must bring their own old t-shirts.***

***\*See "Upcycling" program needs***

### **“Upcycled Paper Jewelry”**

This 20-30 minute hands-on craft activity for smaller groups is recommended for students in grades 3-6. Participants learn about upcycling unwanted things into new useful things. Holiday gift-wrapping paper is rolled, glued, and glazed into beautiful beads that can be worn as necklaces, bracelets, or keychains.

***Program needs: \*See "Upcycling" program needs***

## **Waste Reduction Programs**

### **“Countdown to the Breakdown”**

This 40+ minute interactive hands-on activity and discussion is adaptable for groups of 10-45 students in grades 5-12. Participants will learn how garbage creates pollution, how recycling conserves natural resources, and about the biodegradability of various materials. Participants are asked to think critically about how trash is made from raw materials and how long it takes to break down in the environment.

***Program needs: large empty room or plenty of floor space***

### **“What Goes Where”**

This 30-40 minute card game can accommodate groups of all sizes/ages and can be played at an event table, or as a relay race. Participants will learn “what goes where” meaning what items can be composted, landfilled, put in your recycling bin at home or brought to another place for recycling.

***All program materials provided***

# Group Reading Children's Books



- Recycling is Fun** (Recommended K-1)
- Compost Stew: An A—Z Recipe for the Earth** (Recommended K-2)
- Don't Throw That Away** (Recommended K-2)
- Where Do Garbage Trucks Go? And Other Questions about Trash and Recycling** (Recommended K-2)
- Why Should I Recycle?** (Recommended K-3)
- The Berenstain Bears Go Green** (Recommended K-3)
- Wiggling Worms at Work** (Recommended 2nd-4th)
- What a Waste: Trash, Recycling and Protecting our Planet** (Recommended K-5)



## Other Tools for Teachers

**Below are some multi-day project ideas. Upon request, the Recycling Outreach Team can provide more information.**

- Papermaking/Seeded Paper-Making
- Zero Waste Lunch Challenge
- Composting in the Classroom
- NYSAR3 Green School Grant Program
- NYRecycles Poster Contest

## Recycling Ranger

A school recycling engagement program for youth ambassadors that helps improve recycling programs and foster leaders who understand the science, impacts, and solutions for recycling. Complete tasks to become an official 'Recycling Ranger' and earn your badge, then continue on to earn a plaque and more prizes!

**Upon request, the Recycling Outreach Team can provide more information.**

## Giveaways/Prizes for Programs

- Reusable Bags
- Reusable Straws/Sandwich Bags
- Reusable Water Bottles
- Activity Books
- Colored Pencils
- Seed Bracelet and Pot
- Temporary Tattoos/Stickers

*\*Giveaway items are subject to change\**



We strive to offer equal program opportunities. Educational resources may be available in Spanish by request. If you require any special accommodations or have questions about our programs **please contact our Recycling Outreach Team**

**at 845-336-3336 or email [APEO@UCRRA.org](mailto:APEO@UCRRA.org) & [TWHI@UCRRA.org](mailto:TWHI@UCRRA.org)**

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