



Clean Up - Give Back .Org  
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Non-Profit 501(c)(3) / EIN 82 - 4822640

## Recycling Action Resource (RAR)

The purpose of Clean Up - Give Back's new Recycling Action Resource is to educate groups concerning solid waste, recycling, and litter. The secondary goal is to nurture respect and responsibility for the environment in all people through choice and action.

Clean Up - Give Back will provide or facilitate Digital Experiences, Live Presentations, and Hands-On Learning through the RAR. We encourage its use in school systems, church communities, and any other volunteer networks.

### How Does it Work?

Teachers and others are free to use the resource as part of their Science, Biology, Social Studies, and Graphics, Civics curriculum to inform and demonstrate to viewers that every part of their daily life has an effect on the environment.

- **Onsite Programs:** RAR can provide onsite programs for schools, civic groups, senior centers, church groups, employee groups, condo associations, almost any group imaginable. Programs range from 30-60 minutes and can be adapted to any age and experience level.
- **Consultations:** RAR can consult with any school or business that would like to improve its in house recycling program as well as organize supervised team building cleanups of school grounds, the neighborhood, etc.
- **Guest Speakers:** Local public office holders, concerned environmentalists, industry representatives, scientists, Park District personnel, and Clean Up - Give Back staff.
- **Discussion Suggestions:** Find out what kids find important regarding the environment. Discuss how science, politics, business, and consumers come together to help. List ways everyone can help through their choices.
- **Videos:** Detail the recycling and waste stream issues. Open discussion with their teachers in related classroom curriculum. See Classroom Videos below.
- **Hands On Learning:** Teachers lead an "Invention Project" as part of curriculum where students use recycled objects to make art, usable items, and sculpture to be displayed at The Children's Museum, their school, or the City Hall lobby. Desk organizers, pet food scoop, Rain water gauge.
- **Earth Month:** Combine this effort with other schools to have a larger show on Earth Day at The Museum of Science and Industry or other notable public location to garner press.

To schedule a RAR program at your site, email: [info@cleanupgiveback.org](mailto:info@cleanupgiveback.org) with information about your group, the desired date, time, and location, and a contact name and phone number.

Thank you for reviewing this preliminary collection of ideas to increase recycling knowledge and action. Any efforts taken increase the effectiveness of Lake Shore Recycling in Des Plaines.

We appreciate your review of grammar, punctuation, and additional ideas at [sdanemayer@comcast.net](mailto:sdanemayer@comcast.net).

## Resources for Teachers

### [EPA Resource Page](#)

- <https://www.epa.gov/students/lesson-plans-teacher-guides-and-online-environmental-resources-educators-waste-and>

### [Jeopardy Recycle Game](#)

- <https://jeopardylabs.com/play/recycling-jeopardy-19>

### [5 Lessons To Teach Students to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#)

- [https://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/Five-Lessons-Teach-Students-to-Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.shtml](https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/Five-Lessons-Teach-Students-to-Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.shtml)

### [Teachers Guide to Composting](#)

- <https://hrra.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CompostingForTeachers.pdf>

### [EPA Educating Youth on Food Waste](#)

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/educating-youth-about-wasted-food>

### [How to properly dispose of batteries](#)

- <https://www.chargedforlife.ca/>

## Resources for Schools

### [School Recycling](#)

- <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/reduce-reuse-recycle/schools/grade-school-recycling-resources>

### [EPA Guide to Conducting Food Waste Audit in Schools](#)

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/guide-conducting-student-food-waste-audits-resource-schools>

### [Green Cleaning in Schools](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11MIcvoWGMo>

### [The Crayon Initiative \(Crayon Recycling\)](#)

- <https://thecrayoninitiative.org/>

### [The National Crayon Recycling Program](#)

- <https://nationalcrayonrecycleprogram.org/>

### [Crayon Collection](#)

- <https://crayoncollection.org/>

## Classroom Videos

### [Where Does Our Garbage Go?](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkQvN2ExjUY>

### [See a Waste-To-Energy Plant at Work](#)

- <https://www.win-waste.com/>

### [See a Landfill at Work.](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wzo5sv4IrIw>

### [Where Does Our Recycling Go?](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fM5E9Hq87o4>

### [Single Stream Video](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Bwlii0m39M>

### [Material Recovery Facility](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkQvN2ExjUY>

### [Paper Recycling](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWH1Mg8gdiC>

### [Metal Recycling](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGJdjwD-OCc>

### [Plastic Recycling](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccubxZfwUFI>

### [Glass Recycling](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf8bWDPDSi8>

## Discussion Topics / Did You Know

### [Christmas Lights Can Be Recycled](#)

- <https://www.holidayleds.com/free-light-recycling>

### [Leftover Paint Can Be Recycled](#)

- <https://www.productcare.org/about/blog/how-is-paint-recycled/>

### [Textiles Can Be Recycled \(Even if Ripped or Stained\)](#)

- <https://chicagotextilerecycling.com/>

### [Mattresses Can Be Recycled](#)

- <https://www.sleepare.com/bloghttps://www.sleepare.com/blogs/mattress-disposal-chicago/gsmattress-disposal-chicago/>

## Des Plaines Recycling

### [What Do I Do With...](#)

- <https://www.desplainesil.gov/access-your-government/city-departments/public-works-and-engineering/trash-and-recycling>

#### Electronics

- <https://www.desplainesil.gov/access-your-government/city-departments/public-works-and-engineering/trash-and-recycling/residential-electronic-recycling-options>

## Sustainable Lifestyle Resources

#### Habits

- <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2025/01/31/reverse-course-reporters-notebook>

#### Fast Fashion

- <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2025/01/28/textile-waste-recycling>

## Kid's Corner

#### Recycling Facts Games & Crafts

- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/search?q=recycling>

#### PBS Kids – Sid the Science Kid on Recycling

- <https://pbskids.org/videos/watch/recycling/29056>

#### Recycle City

- <https://www3.epa.gov/recyclecity/>

#### Trash and Climate Change

- <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/k00-001.pdf>

#### Happy Earth Day Coloring and Activities Book

- [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-10/documents/epa\\_general\\_coloring\\_book\\_final.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-10/documents/epa_general_coloring_book_final.pdf)

#### How Trash Is Recycled – Video

- <https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/recycle-video-for-kids>

#### NIEHS Kids' Pages

- <https://kids.niehs.nih.gov/>

#### Recycle Roundup – Play a Game!

- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/games/action-adventure/article/recycle-roundup-new>

#### Washington Post Recycling Quiz

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/interactive/2023/recycling-tips-mistakes-quiz/>

#### Food Is Too Good To Waste Activity Book

- <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/documents/foodwastecoloringbookfinalnov022020.pdf>

#### Animal Sculptures Made from 100% Recycled Plastic

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3q65Jnjcps>

#### Fun Recycling Facts

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nh5w0kOfQRk>

#### Composting

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5s4n9r-JGU>

## Student Engagement

### Recycling Poster Contest

- Students make and display RAR posters/flyers/digital messages at schools, parks, churches, public gathering areas, and sponsors to build RAR program awareness and identity.

### Student Designed Recycling Flyers

- [Recycling Flyer – English](#)
- [Recycling Flyer – Spanish](#)

### Student Designed Video for Des Plaines and CUGB website

- Contact CUGB for more about this example.

### Field Trips

- Tour a recycling facility, land fill, and a water treatment plant.

### Class Service Day

- Have students pick an area in need, and schedule a cleanup. Examples include a river walk, forest preserve, and park. Avoid areas of high traffic and along railways.
- Display and Weigh: Take before/after photos and weigh the garbage cleaned.

### Start a Chapter

- <https://cleanupgiveback.org/start-your-local-chapter-1>

### Fundraise

- Collect aluminum cans during RAR actions, from home, school, or anywhere using proceeds to fund RAR initiatives.
- Local private sponsors as well as Waste Management, Groot, Alcoa, Sims Metal Recycling, Central Steel, Ace Hardware. etc. could get involved by supplying bags, cans, dumpsters, tours, and services as needed.

Contact Clean Up - Give Back with other student engagement ideas

## Book Resources

### Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth

- Mary McKenna Siddals

### Garbage Helps Our Garden Grow: A Compost Story

- Linda Glaser

### Composting: Nature's Recyclers

- Robin Koontz

### S Is for Save the Planet: A How-to-Be Green Alphabet

- Brad Herzog

### A Gardener's Alphabet

- Mary Azarian