

Presentations



Outreach & Education Program For Your School

The Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) School Outreach Program uses a variety of educational approaches including in-class student presentations and interactive games that teach students about waste management, natural resources and individual actions that can help to reduce waste.



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The SWMD School Outreach Program seeks to educate students about waste reduction and responsible environmental behaviors through the “3 Rs” concept (reduce, reuse, and recycle) and deliver presentations, activities, and programs based on the best practices in educational learning. Our presentations have been developed to cover many of the TEKS relating to environmental topics in each grade level.

Pre-K – 1st Grade (15 minutes)

Introduces the “3 Rs” and natural resources. Explains how to use, conserve, and correctly dispose of natural resources and materials. Teaches how to conserve, reuse, or recycle paper, plastic, metal, and glass. Optional: Curby the Smart Cart Presentation (see Activities on reverse side).

2nd – 3rd Grade (30 minutes)

Explains how to use, conserve, and correctly dispose of natural resources including recycle paper, plastic, metal, and glass. Covers how people depend on natural resources and strategies to conserve and replenish those natural resources. Learn to make informed choices in the use and conservation of natural resources by recycling or reusing recyclable materials. Explores the characteristics of natural resources that make them useful products. Describes the effects of conservation and pollution in shaping the landscape.

4th – 6th Grade (30 minutes)

Teaches how to make informed choices in the use and conservation of natural resources by recycling or reusing recyclable materials. Teaches about Earth’s renewable and nonrenewable resources and the importance of conservation. Explores the characteristics of natural resources that make them useful products. Describes the effects of conservation and pollution in shaping the landscape, and the impact on habitats and wildlife as well as air and water quality. Identifies alternative energy resources such as wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, and biofuels.

7th – 8th Grade (40 minutes)

Discusses appropriate use and conservation of resources, including disposal, reuse, or recycling of materials. Explains how human activities such as runoff, artificial reefs, or use of resources have modified ocean systems. Teaches about the decay of biomass in the process of composting. Relates recycling practices to individual and community health such as climate change.

High School (45 minutes)

Discusses appropriate use and conservation of resources, including disposal, reuse, or recycling of materials. Explores a timeline of the history of environmental science and contributions of scientists. Investigates causes and types of air, soil, and water pollution and the effect on global warming. Explores the use of renewable and nonrenewable resources and the importance of conservation. Explains the impact of waste management methods such as reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting on resource availability. Describes the effects of conservation and pollution in shaping the landscape, and the impact on habitats and wildlife as well as air and water quality. Teaches about the decay of biomass in the process of composting. Learn about the cost of manufacturing materials from raw resources versus from recycled materials. Explore careers in environmental sciences.



Career Day Presentation (time varies depending on event format)

Available for school-sponsored career day events

Our Recycling Coordinator discusses their job duties in the San Antonio community, and those of other SWMD employees. Explains how SWMD jobs positively impact the City in regard to sanitation, environmental stewardship, and the City’s recycling goals. Highlights specific personnel who have moved up the ranks to become successful SWMD leaders and role models.

Community Meeting Presentation (30 minutes)

Available to HOAs, senior centers, and other community groups

Overview of the services provided by SWMD, including the curbside recycling, organics, and garbage collection, curbside brush and bulky collection, drop off centers for HHW, brush, and bulky items, and curbside leaf pickup. Also covered are rules and regulations, fees, and how to contact SWMD for questions or service information.



Request an Educational Presentation at www.sarecycles.org/request

Activities

For most grade levels we offer an activity after the recycling presentation to engage the students and reinforce what they learned. Activities are grade specific and subject to availability.

Hands-On Sorting (10 minutes)

Grade range: Pre-K – First Grade

Students will gather in a group and take turns choosing recyclable items from each category (paper, plastic, etc.) and placing them in a small blue recycle bin. Activity helps reinforce what kinds of items can be recycled.

Curby the Smart Cart Presentation (20 minutes)

Grade range: Pre-K – First Grade (groups of 50-100 students)

Location: inside gym or cafeteria

Following presentation, presenter will choose students from the group to come up and place a recyclable item into Curby (feed Curby). Activity helps reinforce what kinds of items can be recycled.



Recycling Bingo (15 minutes)

Grade range: Second Grade – Third Grade

Students receive a bingo card with a mixture of blue cart accepted and non-blue cart accepted materials. The presenter flashes image on screen and explains whether items are acceptable or not acceptable in the blue cart. Activity helps to reinforce the DOs & DON'Ts of recycling.



Recycling Relay (20 minutes)

Grade range: Pre-K – Fifth Grade

Location: outdoors or inside gym

Students line up and run, one at a time, to where the recycling, organics, and garbage containers are located (side by side). Students sort the items on the ground, then run back to the starting line. Each student sorts one item at a time until all items are sorted.



Recycling Factile® (20 minutes)

Grade range: Second Grade – Twelfth Grade

Students are divided into groups and a representative from each group is selected to compete in a Jeopardy!®-style game with subject categories about recycling. The student/group with the highest score will win. Questions developed based on grade level.

Sorting Interactive Game (15 minutes)

Grade range: First – Eighth Grade

Students are divided into groups and a representative from each group is selected to compete in a sorting challenge using a large touchscreen monitor. The student/group who sorts the most correct items into the blue, green and brown carts is the winner.



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