



Dandy bands

Rubber bands, which are made from the sap of rubber trees, are stretchy and useful. However, while they are reusable, they aren't recyclable in your blue cart or compostable in your *GreenCycle!* cart or backyard bin. Once the band breaks, it is headed for the trash. (Make sure it goes into the trash so your pet doesn't eat it and get sick!)

You can reuse rubber bands at home and at school. You might use them to hold a stack of papers or keep a bag of chips or cereal closed. You can also repurpose them, such as using them in craft projects or to create tie-dye fabrics.

Another option is to make a rubber band ball. A City of Santa Cruz employee has been working on a rubber band ball for 28 years. The ball is now 13 inches in diameter and weighs 35 pounds!

Why don't you start making your own rubber band ball? Start with 10 rubber bands and squeeze them together to make a little ball. Wrap this little ball with a small rubber band to join them together. Add other small rubber bands to shape a ball. Over time, add more rubber bands, starting with smaller bands and using bigger ones as the ball grows.



Calling all artists

It's the 11th anniversary of the *Santa Cruz Recycles!* Poster Contest. How would you like to see your artwork displayed on the side of a recycling truck or a Bigbelly trash compactor? It's time to grab your pens, pencils, and crayons and draw, draw, draw! Put your creativity and drawing talent to



work and design a colorful poster showing why it is important to recycle in Santa Cruz.

Every year, the contest winners see their posters super-sized and mounted on the sides of our City recycling trucks. In addition, student artwork will decorate the sides of the Bigbelly trash compactors located in downtown Santa Cruz. The posters on the trucks share the recycling message all year long as they roll through our neighborhoods. The posters on the Bigbelly trash compactors will remind visitors to help keep downtown clean and litter free.

The deadline for entry is May 31, 2017. You will find the entry form, size requirements, and other information on our website: www.cityofsantacruz.com/truckposters. If you have questions, call 420-5593.



Earth Day Santa Cruz 2017

Come celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 22!

The fun begins at 11 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. at San Lorenzo Park in Santa Cruz.

There will be all kinds of activities for kids, including a climbing wall, crafts, and gymnastics, plus music, a recycled fashion show put on by teens, and many cool, earth-friendly booths.

Don't forget to visit the school booths to see the great environmental class projects.

This is going to be a fun day for the whole family. For more information about Earth Day Santa Cruz, visit: www.scearthday.org.



Mini Maker Faire

Do you love "Show and Tell"? If so, you'll love the Santa Cruz Mini Maker Faire on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hosted by Gateway School, the Faire is an all-ages gathering of artists, crafters, writers, scientists, inventors, farmers, and other creative people. All of these "makers" come to the Mini Maker Faire to show what they have made and to share what they have learned. To learn more, visit: <http://santacruz.makerfaire.com/>.



STEP BY STEP

Abrianna decided to write down the steps for recycling paper, aluminum, and plastic, but she needs your help figuring out the correct order. Read the steps below and then number them 1 through 5 in the order they should occur.

Paper

- _____ Pulp is fed through large rollers to remove water and make the new paper smooth.
- _____ A machine chops the old paper into small pieces and water is added to create pulp.
- _____ The pulp is put on screens to filter out any large or unwanted pieces.
- _____ Finished paper is wound into large rolls.
- _____ The pulp is washed and cleaned and then turned into a slush or slurry.

Aluminum

- _____ Melted aluminum is formed into large blocks, called ingots.
- _____ The aluminum is shaped into new aluminum cans and products.
- _____ Used aluminum is sorted and cleaned.
- _____ The aluminum ingots are rolled out into long, flexible sheets.
- _____ The aluminum is melted down.

Plastic

- _____ The pellets are mixed with dyes and formed into new bottles and other products.
- _____ The plastic flake is washed and cleaned.
- _____ The plastic is shredded into small pieces, or flakes.
- _____ The melted plastic is made into pellets.
- _____ Shredded plastic is melted so that it can be reshaped.

BEGINNINGS & ENDINGS

Add a prefix and/or suffix to each word and then put the word into the correct sentence below. (Hint: Sometimes you need to drop the "e" when adding a suffix.)



_____pose response_____ _____correct
 ease_____ _____cycle_____

1. Look for notebook paper with _____ content.
2. We are all _____ for making our world a cleaner and healthier place to live!
3. _____ of used paper towels in the trash, but recycle the tube when the roll is empty.
4. Make it _____ for your family to recycle by putting a recycling bin right next to the trash can.
5. Dominick kept finding recyclables in the _____ bin at his school, so he created a sign to show which items went into the recycling bin and which didn't.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Steel is one of the most recycled materials around the world, yet crude steel, or new steel that is not made from recycled materials, is still made every year. Using the clues below, figure out which country produced the most crude steel in 2015 at 803,825 thousand metric tons and then color it on this map.

Clues:

1. Though not an island, I touch the Pacific Ocean.
2. In land area, I am one of the largest countries in Asia.
3. You might recognize my flag, which is red and has one large and four small gold stars.
4. I am south of Mongolia and east of Afghanistan.

Scrambled Science

Unscramble the words below, and then use one to complete each sentence.

- _____ esrrouce
- _____ nergey
- _____ ufaumacntre
- _____ ethasvrde
- _____ ininmg
- _____ owrep

1. Natural _____ are materials taken from nature to create energy and products used by people.
2. Energy is used to _____ our houses, cars, appliances, and electronics.
3. Some natural resources are acquired by _____, which requires removing them from the earth.
4. Other natural resources, such as wood and bamboo, are _____.
5. Recyclables can replace natural resources in the _____ of new products.
6. Using recyclables to create new products requires less _____ than using natural resources.

FRACTION ACTION

Miss Spinner's class is creating an Earth Day quilt. Jaylen brought $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of yellow fabric. Baylor brought $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of green fabric. Madison brought $2\frac{1}{3}$ yards of blue fabric.

How many total yards of fabric did the students bring to school?

If the quilt requires $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards of fabric, how much will be left over?

If $\frac{5}{8}$ yard of yellow fabric is needed, did Jaylen bring enough yellow fabric?



Discover how you can make a difference

With Earth Day coming up, your class or club may be thinking about ways to take care of the Earth. This is a great time of year to learn how your choices at home and at school can make a positive difference for our planet. Are you ready to discover what you can do? We can help. We have fun, hands-on lessons for classes and clubs that explore reducing waste, recycling, composting, and so much more. We can even show you how to make new paper from old paper and create upcycled crafts. You can also tour the Resource Recovery Facility on a class or club field trip. Have your teacher or club leader contact us at 420-5593 or lomalley@cityofsantacruz.com to make arrangements. We can't wait to see you!

You can be a Super Recycler!

Recycling seems like a pretty easy thing to do. When you are finished with a piece of paper, a plastic bottle, a steel can, or a cardboard box, you put it into the recycling container and walk away. While this is a great start to recycling, there is so much more you can do to become a Super Recycler! Just as you get better at science or soccer or singing with more practice, so it is with recycling. The more you know about recycling and the more you practice doing it, the better you get! Once you know the facts and practice what you learn, you may become the go-to person for family members and friends who have recycling questions. That will make you a Super Recycler!

First, of course, you need to know what you can recycle. In the blue carts, you can recycle metal cans and foil; plastic bottles, jugs, jars, and tubs; glass bottles and jars (remove caps and lids); plastic bags (bagged together); paper bags; newspaper; magazines, catalogs, school papers, printer/copier paper, and mail; paperboard, such as empty cereal and gift boxes; and corrugated cardboard boxes.

Second, know how to get your recycling ready. Empty and rinse food and drink containers. Turn them upside down and let them drip dry before putting them into your cart or bin. Remove and throw away caps and lids



from glass bottles and jars. Make sure your paper products are clean, and break down and flatten boxes.

Third, you'll need to know what doesn't belong in recycling carts and bins. Remember that paper and boxes soaked with grease or covered in sticky, spilled food should go into the trash. So no pizza boxes should be in the blue cart. Other items not accepted for recycling include wasted food; loose plastic bags; plastic clamshells; expanded polystyrene (what you might call "Styrofoam"); cartons, such as milk cartons and juice boxes; and "tangles," such as electrical cords and hoses that can wrap around equipment at the Resource Recovery Facility. When you put these types of waste into the recycling cart, your recycling can become contaminated. Contaminated recyclables may have to be thrown away instead of being turned into new products. As the saying goes, one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch! That's why it is important to leave out non-recyclable materials.

Fourth, you know to avoid packages that can't be recycled in Santa Cruz, such as single-serve snack packs, drink pouches, and small chip bags. Buying lunch food and snacks in larger packages and then filling washable containers is less wasteful and also cheaper for your parents.

Last, a Super Recycler knows why recycling matters. It keeps usable natural resources out of landfills. Making new products from recyclables uses less energy, creates less pollution, and helps create jobs.



No-waste Dori Poles for your celebration



Spring is the season for school celebrations, festivals, carnivals, and graduations. Special events are fun, but they can create extra waste. Decorations like balloons cannot be reused or recycled, so they end up in the garbage after the event. Plus, balloons pose a serious threat to wildlife, especially when they end up in the ocean. Animals and birds mistake balloons for food or get tangled up in the ribbon tails. On land, balloons and ribbons get caught in trees, fences, and power lines. Metallic balloons can even cause the power to go out.

The City of Santa Cruz has a better idea! We offer Dori Poles — a no-waste decoration! Schools may borrow Dori Poles and long, triangle-shaped flags ("pennants") for special events, free of charge. The colorful and festive pennants wave gently in the breeze and can be used over and over again with nothing to throw away. Your school may reserve up to eight poles and colorful pennants by calling 420-5593.

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
809 Center Street, Room 201
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-420-5593
lomalley@cityofsantacruz.com
www.cityofsantacruz.com/schoolrecycling

