

Go Green at Home Challenge

Reduce and Reuse

It's Earth Month! Thanks for taking actions to help the environment!

Put leftovers in a reusable container to enjoy later.	Make "hearts for helpers" out of reused paper.	Keep papers that are "Good on One Side" (G.O.O.S.) and use them for notes and drawing.	Find a flower
Make a puzzle out of a cereal box.	Find an insect	Use the "Get Rid of It Right" tool to look up how to properly dispose of something.	Make a donate pile of good-condition toys and household items to donate once we can again.
Use a used item to make something new, like a pencil holder out of a can, a critter out of a toilet paper roll...	Find something that was bought in bulk or economy size rather than single-serving size.	Use a sponge/cloth to wipe up a spill instead of a paper towel.	Hear a bird sing
Count bears in windows	Make a poster about the importance of reducing and reusing.	Help fix or maintain something.	Drink tap water instead of bottled water to reduce plastic waste.
Reuse an envelope.	Hug a tree	Use real dishes, glasses and silverware instead of throwaway materials.	Make a pile of clothing – in all conditions – to put in metal donation boxes once we can donate again.

Go Green at Home Challenge

Reduce and Reuse

Links:

- Hearts for helpers: <https://bit.ly/39AY1Kd>
- Make a puzzle out of a cereal box: <https://bit.ly/2R85ji6>
- Find the “Get Rid of It Right” tool on this page: <https://bit.ly/3bO1wyr>
- Make a soup can into a pencil holder: <https://bit.ly/2x2gCSd>
- Envelope reuse ideas: <https://bit.ly/3bTkAvm>

Metal Donation Boxes - Did you know?

In addition to clothing, towels, sheets, shoes, belts, backpacks, scarves, etc. that are torn, stained, broken or missing something, can be placed in metal donation boxes. Must be dry and clean. Unusable items will be repurposed into something new. Use the “Get Rid of It Right” tool (<https://bit.ly/3bO1wyr>) to find your nearest metal donation box to use when we are allowed to donate again.

Calculate the Impact:

If 100 students say "no straw" at lunch, how many fewer straws would be used after 100 days of school?	If 50 students have a reusable water bottle and then 50 more get a reusable water bottle, how many total students will have reusable water bottles?	A new sweater at the department store costs \$25. A sweater at the second-hand store costs \$5. How much money is saved by buying a sweater at the second-hand store instead of the department store?	If an average spill needs 2 paper towels to clean up, and 50 people have a spill but use a cloth to wipe it up, how many paper towels have been saved?
--	---	---	--

For Older Students:

For grades 3-5, *listen and watch*: [One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia.](#)

Watch:

[REUSE Because You Can't Recycle The Planet](#) - if not available for free, check back later in the week. – A documentary that follows Reuse Pro Alex Eaves on a cross-country adventure to the 48 contiguous U.S. states. On his journey, he finds endless reuse solutions for our waste problem that are not only sustainable, but many of which are easy and fun. And he learns just how reuse truly benefits people, planet, and wallet. A discussion guide is available in the video description.

[The Story of Stuff](#) (click here for the Spanish version) – A 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever.

[The Story of Bottled Water](#) – This tells the story of manufactured demand—how you get Americans to buy more than half a billion bottles of water every week when it already flows virtually free from the tap. Over five minutes, the film explores the bottled water industry's attacks on tap water and its use of seductive, environmental-themed advertising to cover up the mountains of plastic waste it produces. The film concludes with a call for viewers to make a personal commitment to avoid bottled water and support public investment in clean, available tap water for all.

The Go Green at Home Challenge is a collaboration between Cambridge Public Works and Community Development.

Questions? mbrott@cambridgema.gov, 617-349-4836