

Public Works Pipeline

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Recycling Works and Pays – Part 1: Back to School Shopping

In anticipation of America Recycles Day – celebrated November 15 each year – we will be publishing a four-part series of articles with creative ideas, fun facts, and information on recycling.

Have you tried going “green” when shopping for back to school items? Here are a few tips that you can follow to make a positive difference.

Look for Products with Recycled Materials:

- Read labels and buy products that say: recycled, eco-friendly, or organic
- Purchase products made from at least 30% post-consumer content
- Shop around - Recycled products are everywhere!

Shop to Reduce Waste:

- Buy in bulk (little or no packaging preferably)
- Only buy items that you need – don’t be fooled by advertisers!

Buy Products You Can Reuse:

- Refillable Pens and Pencils
- Solar-Powered Calculators
- Lunch Boxes (cloth napkins, reusable utensils and food/drink containers)

Now that you’ve done your back-to-school shopping, what did you do with last year’s stuff? Here are some suggestions:

- Old sneakers/tennis shoes – take them to your local Nike store and they will recycle them into sport surfaces and playgrounds for kids all over the world. Check it out at www.nikereuseashoe.com/.
- Backpacks – pass it on to a family member, friend, neighbor or donate to an organization like Goodwill. They have a local store at 1780 NE Miami Gardens Drive in the Shops at Skylake.
- Eyeglasses – donate prescription reading, single vision and bifocal eyeglasses and non-prescription eyeglasses to the local Lions Club International. They are accepted year-round at the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center. Children’s eyeglasses are especially needed!

Reduce. Recycle. Reuse.