

DEAR EDUCATOR,

Did you know that the average school uses 53,200 milk and juice cartons every year? Over five years, that's four tons of paper going to landfills, a loss of 45 trees, and 20,482 gallons of water! But you and your students can change all that.

Start by teaching students the importance of carton recycling with these standards-based math, science, and language arts activity sheets developed by The Carton Council and the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired. The materials in this kit will allow your students to learn how they can have a positive impact on the environment by recycling the cartons they use at school every day.

Currently schools in 33 states have carton recycling programs in place. While your school may already be recycling, some schools do not include cartons yet. To find out if cartons are recyclable in your area, visit the Carton Council's website at www.recyclecartons.com.

We encourage you to share this resource with other teachers at your school. Although the materials are copyright protected, you may make as many copies as you need for educational purposes.

Please let us know your opinion of this program by responding through the feedback form at ymiclassroom.com/carton-council. We depend on your comments and ideas to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in students' lives.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief • Young Minds Inspired

TARGET AUDIENCE

Elementary school students in grades 1-5

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Help students discover how your school can make an important environmental impact by recycling cartons.
- Empower students to learn how they can improve the environment by recycling cartons at school and at home.
- Educate administrators, teachers, students, and parents about how they can play an instrumental role in bringing a carton recycling program to your school.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- This one-page teacher's guide
- Two reproducible student activity sheets
- Reproducible parent take-home letter
- A feedback form available at ymiclassroom.com/carton-council.

STANDARDS

This program is aligned with Common Core State Standards for Language Arts and Math for grades 1-5 and with Next Generation Science Standards. Find them at ymiclassroom.com/carton-council.

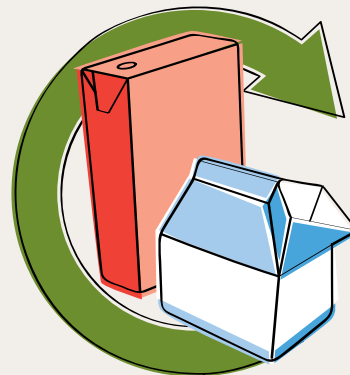
START YOUR OWN SCHOOL CARTON RECYCLING PROGRAM!

Let the Carton Council show you how easy it is to start a carton recycling program at your school. We'll provide the tools you need to make your program a success, including:

- **School carton recycling guide**—explains the “why” and “how” of carton recycling
- **Best practices guide**—examples of some of the best school carton recycling programs
- **Posters**—designed for display in classrooms and cafeteria depicting what and how to recycle cartons
- **Model custodial guidelines**—suggestions for program set-up and custodial support

CONTACT US TODAY AT INFO@RECYCLECARTONS.COM, AND WE'LL HELP YOU GET STARTED.

Carton recycling is available in 10,000 communities in 48 states. Contact us and we will let you know if carton recycling is available in your area.



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Carton Council
RecycleCartons.com

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HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Photocopy this teacher's guide and the student activity sheets. Make additional copies of these resources to share with your colleagues. Refer to The Carton Council website at recyclecartons.com for more information about carton recycling.

ACTIVITY 1

LET'S ADD IT UP! • GRADES 1-3

This activity will educate students about the need for carton recycling at school and at home while developing math skills. Ask students to enlist a parent's or guardian's help in keeping a 5-day pictograph diary of their own milk and juice carton use. Then compile a class pictograph. Talk with the class about where they think all of these cartons go and what valuable resources, like trees and water, are used to make them. Brainstorm how students can recycle these cartons right in their school cafeteria. For ideas of how other schools have conducted carton recycling programs, download The Carton Council Best Practices Guide at recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/Best-Practices-Guide-March-2013.pdf. Ask students to draw a picture of how they could recycle cartons in their own school cafeteria on the back of the sheet. Send home the parent letter to inform families about carton recycling and to encourage them to recycle at home.

ACTIVITY 2

DO THE MATH & MAKE A DIFFERENCE! • GRADES 4-5

This activity will guide students through the process of creating a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on carton recycling based on data they collect about how many resources can be conserved by recycling cartons at school. To get started, help them determine the number of students in your school. They will use that number to complete the worksheets at recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/Potential-Impact-Estimator-Aug-2015.pdf and recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/Recycling-Impact-Calculator-Aug-2015.pdf to find out how carton recycling saves paper, trees, water, energy, and reduces landfills and CO₂ emissions. Tell students that when they're done with the math worksheets, they should transfer their results to the activity sheet. Then organize students into small groups. Suggest that each group use the data and the activity sheet organizer to create a PSA to alert other students, teachers, and administrators to the need for and benefits of carton recycling, how a trash sort might work at their school, how to recycle milk and juice cartons, or why recycling is important. Students can either record their PSA or perform it live for the class. Invite school and cafeteria administrators to the event.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR ALL GRADES

- Have students count how many cartons they use each day and then extrapolate the information to figure out how many they use each week, month, and year.
- Create a classroom display or draw pictures showing all the recycled things that can be produced from a recycled carton.
- Have students create carton recycling labels and collection boxes for their homes and school cafeterias.

RESOURCES

SCHOOL CARTON RECYCLING GUIDE

recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/Carton-Council-School-Guide.pdf

BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/Best-Practices-Guide-March-2013.pdf

DRINK, EMPTY, RECYCLE POSTER

recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/CC_-Drink-Empty-Recycle-Poster.pdf

RECYCLE ONLY POSTER

recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/CC_Poster_Recycle-Only.pdf

EMPTY ONLY POSTER

recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/CC-Poster-Empty-Only.pdf

MODEL CUSTODIAL GUIDELINES

recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/CC-School-Custodial-Guidelines-Mecklenburg-NC-3-4-2011.pdf

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LET'S ADD IT UP!



Part 1

How many milk and juice cartons do you use each week at school? Let's find out!

Every day, for one school week, color in the number of milk or juice cartons you use. For example, if you used two juice cartons and one milk carton on Monday, you would color in three cartons. (You might need to ask your parents to help.)

MONDAY						DAILY TOTAL
TUESDAY						DAILY TOTAL
WEDNESDAY						DAILY TOTAL
THURSDAY						DAILY TOTAL
FRIDAY						DAILY TOTAL

Now, add up the number of cartons you used this week and write the number below.

I USED _____ CARTONS THIS WEEK.

Bring this sheet back to school. You and your teacher will have more fun with it.

Part 2

On the back of this page, draw a picture of how you can recycle cartons right in your own school cafeteria and classroom.



DO THE MATH & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Let's see how you and your school can make a positive impact on the environment — just by recycling milk and juice cartons!

Part 1

1. First, as a class, find out how many students attend your school. Write the answer here:

2. Next, go to the Potential Impact Indicator at recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/Potential-Impact-Estimator-Aug-2015.pdf. Use your math skills to estimate how many cartons your school could be recycling and how much waste your recycling program could prevent from going in landfills. When you're done write your answers here:

- Our school's estimated daily carton usage: _____
- Weight of estimated waste diverted per year: _____

3. But that's not all that could be saved! Go to the Recycling Impact Calculator at recyclecartons.com/wp-content/uploads/Recycling-Impact-Calculator-Aug-2015.pdf, do the math, and see how much you can save of the following:

- Sheets of paper: _____
- Trees each year: _____
- Gallons of water each year: _____
- Waste diverted from landfill (pounds): _____
- Kilowatt-hours (kWH) of energy: _____
- Metric tons of CO₂ not going into the atmosphere: _____

Part 2

Now that you have the facts, work in small groups to create an in-school Public Service Announcement (PSA) to let school administrators, other students, and parents know why your school should start a carton recycling program and how it might work. You can see how other schools have done it at www.recyclecartons.com.

Here's a chart to help you get organized:

Our main message	
Opening sentence	
Fact #1	
Fact #2	
Fact # 3	
Suggestions for how to make our school's program work	
Concluding sentence	

When you're done, record or perform your PSA for the class or even for the entire school! Show everyone how carton recycling can help our environment.

DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

Your child is learning about the importance of recycling milk and juice cartons to help save important natural resources and protect our environment. Here are a few ideas to reinforce these important lessons at home:

- Have a family contest to see who can recycle the most cartons.
- Set a goal for the family's recycling each month; if it's met, celebrate with a fun family outing or reward.
- Brainstorm the impact your family will have by recycling cartons. (For example, you'll divert trash bags from going to landfills, save trees, water, and electricity.)
- During your next visit to your local grocery store, identify all the different products that are available in cartons and can be recycled. There are two types of cartons — aseptic (shelf-stable) and gable-top (refrigerated) that are produced in different shapes and sizes.
- Carton recycling is available in over 10,000 communities across 48 states. Go to recyclecartons.com to see if carton recycling is available in your area. Encourage school officials to do the same.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR SCHOOL CAN
BEGIN A CARTON RECYCLING PROGRAM AT
RECYCLECARTONS.COM**

