



Recycling Coalition of WV, Inc.

P.O. Box 40113, Charleston, WV 25364
Phone: 304-926-0499 ext. 1673
wvrecycles.com

Press Contact: Paul Hayes, Chair - Recycling Coalition of WV, Inc. 304-926-0499 ext. 1673

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Recycling Coalition honors youth from around the state

The Recycling Coalition of West Virginia, in collaboration with the West Virginia Solid Waste Management Board, has announced five statewide winners for the West Virginia Recycles Youth Contest. Winners were chosen from thousands of entries from across the state.

Winning entries in the **Coloring Contest** identified the recyclable and compostable items on a coloring sheet. Gabriella Robertson, of Barboursville in Cabell County, won first place in the K-1 coloring category. Robertson is a first grade student at Martha Elementary. The first-place winner in the second-through-third grade coloring category was Jena Dorsey, a Girl Scout in Troop 1895, of Fayette County. Both first-place winners received \$50 gift cards and their teacher or scout troop received \$75 gift cards.

Students in grades four through 12 participated in the **Freedom Contest**, which encourages students to express themselves by creating a painting or drawing, writing a poem, composing or recording a song, producing a video, writing an essay, sculpting something, or completing any project based on a recycling theme. Winners in these three age categories received \$150 gift cards and a companion prize of a \$200 gift card for their designated teacher, school or organization.

The fourth-through-sixth grade winning entry was Patricia Robertson, a student at Martha Elementary. After researching ways to re-use plastic bags, Robertson built a scale-model building, which includes plastic bags for insulation.

The seventh-through-eighth grade category winner was essay writer by Arin Dorsey, a Girl Scout in Troop 1895, of Fayette County.

The winner of the ninth-through-12th grade age group was Levi Combs, a sophomore at Herbert Hoover High School in Kanawha County. Combs welded scrap metal and old tools together to make a sculpture that resembles a dinosaur he calls "Regeneration Rex."

The goals for the Coalition's Youth Contest are to encourage students to use their creativity and learn about recycling. The West Virginia Recycles campaign features the theme, "It All Comes Back To You." The slogan presents multiple messages: a recycled product or material can return to consumers as another new product; recycling comes back to consumers as an improved environment; and it is everyone's responsibility to recycle.

The Recycling Coalition of West Virginia is a non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to promote the effective and sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling of materials otherwise destined for disposal. The Recycling Coalition pursues these goals through the promotion of purchasing products made with recycled content material; by coordinating and facilitating activities relative to recycling; by fostering communications among organizations, government agencies and individuals through the sharing of ideas and resources.

State Steering Committee Paul F. Hayes, Chair

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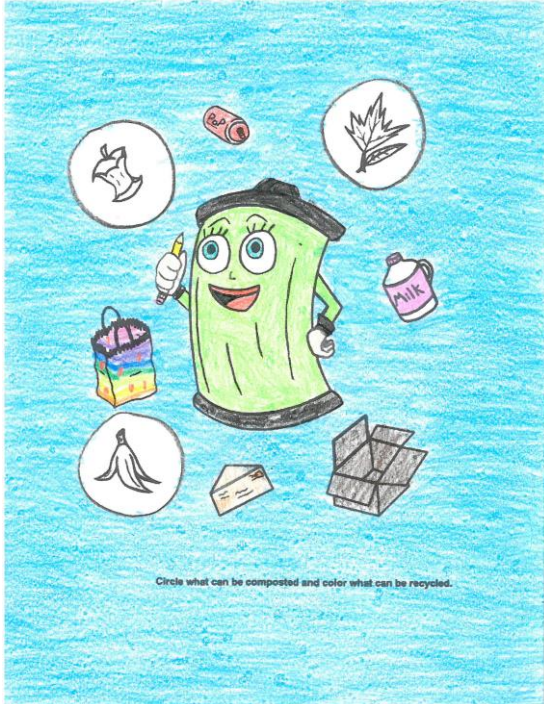
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Charity Fellure

WV Dept. of Education
Robin Sizemore



Left: James Young, Director of the Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority, Levi Combs (9-12 grade winner), Herbert Hoover High School Principal Michael Kelley, and his teacher Mrs. Brittany Woods. "Regeneration Rex" is Combs' winning entry pictured on right.



Left is the winning K-1st grade coloring entry by Gabriella Robertson. Right photo of winning 4-6th grade contest entry built and designed utilizing plastic bags was made by Patricia Robertson. Pictured below are the winners and coincidentally siblings, both students at Martha Elementary School in Cabell County.





Circle what can be composted and color what can be recycled.

On left is the winning 2-3rd grade coloring entry by Jena Dorsey. Below is the winning 7-8th grade contest entry an essay made by Arin Dorsey. The girls are coincidentally are also siblings and members of Girl Scout Troop #1895 in Fayette County.



REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE

By Arin Dorsey, Cadette

Reuse, reduce, and recycle. You've probably heard it before? When you were younger or just recently; either way, you probably know how important recycling is, but do you do it?

Recycling is such an issue because many people don't do it! Without recycling, resources will run out, and so will physical land filled with waste. But recycling can be rewarding. With apps like "Recyclebank," you can receive points by recycling and then redeem them for prizes! And some recycling centers even offer money when you contribute to recycling.

But other than rewards, the effects of not recycling are terrible. Things like pollution, destroying habitats when fire is set to burn waste, ocean effects (this can kill animals and can cause water pollution). Recycling can also help reduce energy consumption and cost on companies and homes.

On the flipside though, the effects of recycling is almost the exact opposite. Which is crazy, because just by reusing a water bottle you can impact the world and environment so much!

Reusing that water bottle was just a part of "reuse, reduce, recycle," rule.

Reuse simply means to just reuse an item more than once, if possible.

Reduce means to basically don't use as much. Some examples of this is using regular tote bags to load groceries into instead of using the plastic bags every time you go shop. Or if you only bought a few things, carrying them with you hands verse a plastic bag.

And lastly, recycling means taking aluminum cans, plastic, or paper and make it into a certain state so we can reuse the paper or substance instead of cutting down new trees to make paper.

So you've probably gathered some new information on recycling, so now I'm going to give you examples on how you can influence others to recycle and recycle yourself!

You can buy rechargeable batteries since it takes 1,000 regular batteries to be the same lifespan as 1 rechargeable battery.

You can also create a compost. You can do this by adding in disposable foods into a bin to let it deteriorate. You can add dirt and even some worms to make the soil very rich which is great for planting!

Which is another way you can help the environment is to grow your own plants instead of buying store bought vegetables and fruits.

You can also donate or give old clothes or toys or any items to someone so they can use it instead of them buying new clothes or toys and making more waste.

Instead of driving your car to the park or supermarket, have you ever thought about riding a bike or walking? Not only is it good for your physical health, it won't be contributing to air pollution from the gasoline in cars.

So in conclusion, finding simple things to do in everyday life has a major impact on the world we live in! So find what works for you and go with it because you never know the effects that it can have!

Honorable Mention Entries 2015



First Row: “Love is in the Air” mobile sculpture made by Paisley Kathryn-Mae of Putnam County; Bouquet sculpture made by Hailee and Danielle of Taylor County; and “The Earth Hangs in Balance” was made by Ronnie of Mason County.

Second Row: Shoe ring holder sculpture made by Josie of Mason County; Kool-Aid Jammers bag made by Ellie of Braxton County; and Marshall in Mingo County holds his West Virginia made from aluminum cans.

Bottom Row: “Normal Guy” colored pencil drawing by Pocahontas resident Laura; and “Please Recycle Circle of Life” poster made by Kaleb of Raleigh County.



"Recycle & Conserve"
poem by Noelle of Raleigh
County.

"Eye In the Sky"
assemblage and drawing
project made by 8th grader
Chloe from Mason County.

Recycle&Conserve

There's always things to throw away
But we need to recycle all our days

We need to bike, instead of drive
Because of animals important lives

We need to conserve our ocean blue
I can help and so can you

Recycling matters everyday
So let's stand up and make a change

