

Protecting Our Environment

Green Revolution Takes Hold In K–12 Schools

(NAPSA)—“Green teams” are forming at K–12 schools all over the country and reinventing the way their communities view waste and recycling. Students and teachers build sheds and design bins to house hundreds of collected bottles and cans. They use their schools’ daily announcements to share original songs and music videos about how to “drop it in the bin.”

Devoted teachers, such as Drew Johnson of Salem, Illinois, are leading the way by advocating for the creation of these groups and empowering students to become leaders themselves. An avid recycler, Johnson first introduced recycling to his school in 2010 and today he co-sponsors the school’s Green Clean Recycling Team alongside teacher Kari Thackrey. The duo oversees a group of 30 students who have rallied the school and community to collect thousands of beverage containers to date.

Leaders are shining at schools nationwide, their success rewarded and measured by organized school recycling programs, such as PepsiCo’s Recycle Rally, whose 1,500 participating schools recycled more than 51 million bottles and cans since the program kicked off in 2010.

School recycling programs provide structure and incentives for teachers and PTA parents so they can take recycling to the next level at their schools. Recycle Rally, for example, provides cur-



Taking the future into their own hands, students across the country are really into recycling—and winning awards for their schools.

riculum, guides and performance reports, plus multiple opportunities to earn supplies and rewards.

What You Can Do

In addition to helping your kids recycle cans and bottles, there are several steps you can take at home to make the world a greener place, including:

- Look around the house for plastic containers that can be upcycled to create something new.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room to conserve energy.
- Plant a garden or tree in your backyard.
- Use both sides of a piece of paper when taking notes or creating artwork. Throw scrap paper in a recycling receptacle instead of a trash bin.
- Beautify your neighborhood by organizing a garbage pickup.

Learn More

For further information about Recycle Rally and to join the program, visit www.PepsiCoRecycle.com/Programs/RecycleRally.