

# Taking Action (3-5)

## Science and Mathematics

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**Summary:** Students plan and implement a recycling program at their school.

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### Service and Learning Activities

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**Preparation:** Investigate a variety of recycling programs and how they help the environment. Students discuss items they can recycle and decide which will be part of their program. Discuss these questions: What do we need to share with others about the recycling process? How will we get teachers and other students to buy into the idea?

**Action:** Students make collection containers and decorate the containers with pictures and messages that let others know what can be recycled. Be specific about what is acceptable. Groups plan a campaign to promote the program and create flyers, public service announcements, etc. Place containers around school and check weekly. Weigh the amount of each type of material weekly, and keep a yearly record. Deliver the recycled materials to a recycling center for processing.

**Reflection:** Students write in journal: How can we encourage others in our community to recycle? What other ways can we protect the environment? How could this project be improved? What are some next steps? What were the greatest challenges in doing this project?

**Demonstration:** Post a large chart in a central location to publicize what is being recycled, and update it regularly. Publicize the project with the district office and local media. Students can also create and present poems, public service announcements, songs, artwork, lessons, videos, skits, displays, or murals to teach other students or the larger community about the project, the need(s) it addresses, and the impact of their efforts.

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### Standards

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**Mathematics:** The student

- MA.B.1.2 Measures quantities in the real world and uses the measures to solve problems.
- MA.B.4.2 Selects and uses appropriate units and instruments for measurement to achieve the degree of precision and accuracy required in real-world situations.
- MA.E.3.2 Uses statistical methods to make inferences and valid arguments about real-world situations.

**Science:** The student

- SC.G.2.2 Understands the consequences of using limited natural resources

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### Academic Objectives

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- Learn the value of recycling and how it contributes to a cleaner environment.
- Apply math skills of measurement and estimation in a real-world setting.
- Demonstrate writing and speaking skills in creating promotional materials (flyers, public service announcements, etc.)

**Assessment(s):** Measuring and recording recycled materials, promotional materials, and journals

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### Service Objectives

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- The students' program effectively reduces the amount of recyclable material the school throws away.

**Assessment(s):** Record of recycled materials