

2024 Poster Contest

Call for Entries



Trash to Treasure

All of Colorado's K-12 students are invited to showcase their artistic talent and commitment to reuse and upcycling by participating in Recycle Colorado's 17th annual Poster Contest. This year, students are encouraged to either create a poster demonstrating the possibilities of upcycling or develop a creative innovation out of upcycled materials. Please share this information with others who may be interested in participating!

ENTRY DEADLINE
April 19th, 2024

Thank you to our sponsors of this years poster contest: Greensheen Paint

PRIZES

One first place winner from each age group will receive a **\$100 gift card**.

Each first place winners' teacher/classroom/school will receive a **\$100 gift card for room supplies**.

Winning artwork will be used to help promote Colorado Recycles Week, celebrated the third week in November and America Recycles Day, November 15th.

We hope your school, the schools in your district, your organization or business will participate! The contest rules and judging criteria can be found on the next few pages. We've also included talking points about upcycling for teachers, should they want to provide a mini-lesson to students while introducing this contest. We look forward to working with you. Please contact us if you have any questions.

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Recycle Colorado is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit association committed to advancing infrastructure, end markets and state and local policies so that Colorado's waste stream is recycled, composted or diverted to reuse or remanufacturing. Visit www.recyclecolorado.org for more information.

Poster Contest Rules

Please read the following contest rules carefully. Only posters that meet the contest rules will be considered.



Deadline

Poster files or images and release forms should be received by Recycle Colorado no later than **April 19th, 2024**. You will receive a confirmation that your poster has been received on the day of or after the submission deadline. Winners will be notified the week following the deadline.

Eligibility

All students (kindergarten through high school) in Colorado public and private schools (including home schools) and youth organizations are eligible.

Poster Requirements

Posters or images of creations must be original artwork by students. Copyrighted characters (such as Superman) or copyrighted clip art will not be accepted.

Materials: Students may use a variety of media, such as watercolor, pen and ink, crayon, markers, or computer graphics. Artwork should be easy to see, read and understand. Students are encouraged to incorporate upcycled or recyclable materials in their creations.

Layout: Landscape (horizontal) or Portrait (vertical) layout will be accepted. Images of creations or posters in .jpg, .png, .pdf format will be accepted.

Release Form: Each poster or creation image must be accompanied by a completed release form (see page 8). A poster not accompanied by a completed release form will not be eligible for further judging.

Submission: Only electronic submissions are accepted (scanned copies or photos of hand-drawn posters). The electronic submission should capture the original poster or creation without editing, and images should be clear (not blurry) and well-lit.

To submit your artwork, please use our online form (<https://forms.gle/NUi2dLz68Y8MfDLR9>) or email it to us with the release form (info@recyclecolorado.org).

Theme

Students are encouraged to incorporate the theme “Trash to Treasure” into their artwork (see theme explanation on page 4). Students are encouraged to either create a poster demonstrating the possibilities of upcycling or develop a creative innovation out of upcycled materials and take a picture of it for submission.

Judging Procedure

The posters will be grouped into one of the following five grade categories:

- Kindergarten through 2nd grade
- 3rd through 4th grade
- 5th through 6th grade
- 7th through 8th grade
- 9th through 12th grade

The best poster from each grade category will be selected based on the judging criteria listed below. One finalist will be awarded in each grade category.

Judging Criteria

1. Conveys clear message through text and artwork. (25 points)
2. Exhibits creativity, originality and artistic quality. (25 points)
3. Displays visual clarity and correct spelling - easy to read and understand. (25 points)
4. Addresses the theme listed on page 4. (25 points)

Prizes

For every poster contest participant

Teachers/Schools/Organizations, please photocopy and give a “Certificate of Recognition” to all students that participate to acknowledge their efforts (found on page 8).

Poster contest winners & their teachers/classrooms/schools

One first place winner from each student’s grade category will be awarded a \$100 gift card. Additionally, each classroom/teacher/school of the first place winner for each grade category will be awarded a \$100 gift card for room supplies. Depending on funding, additional winners or other prizes may be announced.

Winning artwork will be used to help promote Colorado Recycles Week, celebrated the third week in November and America Recycles Day, November 15th.

Please Remember:

- Entries must meet the poster requirements specified on page 2 and **must be submitted with the completed release form on page 8.**
- All artwork submitted becomes property of Recycle Colorado and may be reproduced without remuneration to the artist.

Talking Points for Teachers on Upcycling & Reuse

Did you know that most materials in your home and school, including the materials used to build them, can be reused or upcycled instead of being thrown away. What do you know about upcycling?

- Do you creatively reuse something in your home or at school?
- Do you have any reuse stores in your community? These are stores that give materials a second chance to be used. Some common items found at these stores are clothes, art supplies, furniture, and building materials. See the list we have provided below to find a store in your area.
- Can you think of a way to upcycle a material in your classroom or home in an everyday way?
- Can you think of a way to upcycle a material in your classroom or home in a creative way?

What are the benefits of upcycling?

- **Reduces the amount of waste going to the landfill.** Landfills have a limited lifetime. By reducing the amount of things we send to the landfill, we can extend the life of our landfills, saving space for future generations.
- **Reduces greenhouse gas emissions.** By reusing what you already have, you can help to reduce the amount of energy and emissions created from producing new products and from disposing of old ones.
- **Helps to conserve natural resources.** The things you buy at the store use natural resources from our planet to become something new. We can reduce our impact on our planet by using what we already have to make something new that we need.
- **Supports small businesses & innovations.** Many people have been able to develop a small business by creating and selling upcycled products.
- **Creates unique, new products.** Upcycling is great for shoppers because it creates unique, one of a kind products that are different from what you can find at the store.

The power of reducing AND reusing!

Reducing is the first step you can take to protect our planet. By using what you already have, fixing broken things, or turning something old into something new, you accomplish two things that will help reduce your impact on our planet!

Businesses built around reuse and upcycling

Businesses that have a focus on reuse and upcycling are continuing to gain traction and pop up in communities around Colorado and online. With more people wanting to do the right thing, these stores or online shops make it easy to do so and you support local and small businesses as well.

Some people upcycle clothing, silverware, and household decorations to make new art. You can find these folks online or at craft fairs which are fun ways to engage with artists in your community.

The most common business that you have probably heard of is reuse stores or thrift stores. While these stores do not always turn products into something new for you to buy, they are a great way to get materials back to someone to buy and reuse it instead of it going to the landfill. Thrift stores, flea markets, and antiques shops are great places to find clothing, furniture, household items and vintage things.

Did you know that there are craft and building supply thrift stores in Colorado? Crafting thrift stores are a great resource for teachers and students to get materials for their classrooms and projects. Most supplies are sold at a discounted rate too! Building material reuse stores are great options for families looking to reduce their impact when making renovations or building something.

Donating to a reuse or thrift store is super easy. First, find the items you would like to donate and have an adult help you load them up to bring to the store. Make sure your items are not broken, stained, torn, or have a ton of damage. Have an adult help you bring your items to the store and locate the “Donation Drop Off” area. These are usually near the back or on the side of the building. Have an adult or worker help you unload your items. They will let you know if they can or cannot accept certain items. Once you are done you can receive a receipt for your donation if you would like, otherwise you are all set!

Refill stores and bulk refill stations are popping up around Colorado and in your local grocery stores. They are a fun new way to shop. A refill store allows customers to bring in their own containers to fill them up with food and other household products. This is a great way to help eliminate single use packaging and to reuse containers that you may have. Every refill store offers different things to buy and fill up on. Some offer spices, noodles, nuts and snack foods, coffee and tea, body care, pet supplies, cleaning supplies, baking supplies, and much more. **If every American purchased coffee from bulk bins, we could divert 260 million pounds of just coffee packaging from landfill each year!**

The first time you go to a refill store, be sure to ask the worker how it works so they can walk you through how to refill in their store. Typically you bring in your container and weigh it at their weigh station. You can write the weight of your container down on a piece of paper or on a sticker to put on your container. Then go and fill up your container with only ONE item per container. Repeat this for multiple products and containers. Once you are done, bring your full containers and their original weights up to checkout.

You can also find bulk sections at everyday grocery stores such as King Soopers and Sprouts! Simply bring your own container (make sure to weigh it first) and fill up on everyday pantry staples such as rice, oats, nuts, freshly ground nut butters, and much more. This eliminates packaging waste and enables you to upcycle old containers such as pasta jars and jam jars.

Reuse Stores in Colorado

Craft & Art Supply Thrift Stores	Reuse Stores in Colorado for clothing, furniture, & building materials	Refill or Bulk Stores for food, body care, household products & pet care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hidden Treasure 2 in Longmont (Closing soon) ● Art Parts in Boulder ● Who Gives a Scrap in Colorado Springs ● The Craft Box in Wheat Ridge ● ReCreative in Denver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resource Central in Boulder ● Motherlode Mercantile in Aspen ● Arc Thrift Stores ● Goodwill Thrift Stores ● Salvation Army Thrift Store ● Habitat for Humanity ● Boulder Sports Recycler in Boulder ● Play It Again Sports ● Local Thrift Stores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Simply Bulk in Longmont ● Fox Den for coffee in Fort Collins ● Nude Foods in Boulder ● Hygge Habit in Fort Collins ● The Source Zero in Berthoud ● Joy Fill in Denver ● New Way Refillery in Grand Junction ● Conscious Living in Colorado Springs
<p>Upcycling Maker Spaces</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bulk Sections at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natural Grocers ○ Lucky’s Market ○ Sprouts ○ King Soopers ○ Whole Foods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Breck Create Precious Plastics ● Art Spot in Silverthorne ● BLDG61 Boulder Makerspace 		

What are some creative examples of upcycling?

Clothing, Furniture & Jewelry

- Patch holes in clothing - <https://remake.world/stories/style/how-to-mend-your-clothes-during-quarantine-5-easy-stitch-fixes/>
- Add color using paint, glitter, or patches
- Remake an old blanket into a cool sweater - <https://www.instagram.com/upcyclex/>
- Mile High Workshop reusable bag - <https://www.milehighworkshop.org/banner>
- Jewelry made from recycled skis - apresskijewelry.com/
- Use silverware to make a ring or necklace - <https://themerrythought.com/diy/how-to-make-spoon-rings/>
- Gather bread clips to make earrings
- Turn old T-shirts into a memory quilt
- Make a potholder out of old newspaper
- Make pillowcases out of old sweaters
- Make a rug out of old t-shirts - <https://www.thecountrychiccottage.net/t-shirt-rag-rug-using-hula-hoop-from/>

Modern Art

- Statue made from upcycled bike parts - fcgov.com/artspublic/gallery?view=up-cy-clone
- Troll Stature made from upcycled pallets in Colorado - cpr.org/2023/08/03/troll-recycled-sculpture-victor-colorado/
- Party bead unicorn by Colorado artist - summitdaily.com/news/artist-calder-kamin-makes-sculptures-out-of-recycled-summit-county-waste/
- Art made from materials found at Recreative in Denver - recreatedenver.org/blog/2022/4/28/3-local-artists-who-are-helping-the-environment-through-their-art
- Famous art made from recycled materials - blog.artsper.com/en/get-inspired/top-10-of-recycled-art/

Additional resources to use in your classroom

Activities for kids

- Upcycling an old T-shirt into a tote bag - youtu.be/q2ZP5AuK6VA?si=uH2vGLOAJvf8bkbU
- Upcycling Ideas Music Video - youtube.com/watch?v=Xs_HbZO8lOQ
- PBS Kids Upcycle Ideas - pbs.org/parents/upcycled-activities
- DIY thrift store upcycling - youtube.com/watch?v=4kvuSrrYzHI

Videos/Lessons For the Classroom

- Recycling 101 - <https://www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right/recycling-101>
- SciShow Kids: How Recycling Works - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlRVPum9cp4>
- Lesson on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Upcycle - youtube.com/watch?v=XgHALOqs-KQ
- Classroom upcycling challenge activity - youtu.be/HYQdah-f-a0?si=Lwz8PHvS830TufH8

Websites

- What you need to know about Upcycling - greensuggest.com/what-is-upcycling/
- Habitat for Humanity: What is Upcycling? - habitat.org/stories/what-is-upcycling
- 73 Ways to Repurpose Items - mygreenmattress.com/blog/what-is-upcycling/
- Upcycling Lesson Activity For Teachers - creativeeducator.tech4learning.com/2015/lessons/upcycle
- Artist using recycled materials in their activist art pieces - causeartist.com/incredible-recycled-art-materials-creations/

Recycle Colorado Poster Contest Release Form

This form must be completed and submitted with each student's artwork.
You may also submit online at <https://forms.gle/NUi2dLz68Y8MfDLR9>

Student Name _____

School/Organization _____

Grade (circle one): K-2nd 3rd-4th 5th-6th 7th-8th 9th-12th

School/Organization Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

School/Organization Phone Number _____

Teacher/Contact Name _____

Teacher/Contact Email _____

Student/Parent Email _____

Student/Parent Phone Number _____

I hereby certify that this poster was created entirely by the student above and is the student's original artwork and there are no copyrighted characters used. I agree that it may be offered for public display or publication at some time during or after the contest. I understand that this poster becomes the property of Recycle Colorado (formerly the Colorado Association for Recycling) and may be reproduced without remuneration to the artist. The only information that will be released is the student's name, school, grade, and hometown.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Print Name

Print Name

Date

Date



2024

CERTIFICATE

OF PARTICIPATION

This certificate is hereby presented to

for contributing artwork and showing their commitment to recycling
and the environment in Recycle Colorado's

17TH ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST

Thank you for your participation!

A special thank you to our sponsors.

GreenSheen

Eco-Friendly Paint

