

*“Remember to Celebrate Earth Day in April
and America Recycles Day in November”*



West Central Solid Waste District's

3R's SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM **(Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)**

How does my school qualify for a 3R's grant?

*Your school will qualify for **FREE** funding if it does the following:*

- Establish a **new** reduce, reuse, recycle program
- OR
- Expand an **existing** reduce, reuse, recycle program

Grant funds will be used to help with the establishment or expansion of a 3R's program at organizations in Parke and Putnam County(s). Due to limited funds, the **maximum** grant award available to any school or civic organization is **\$500** per budget/calendar year. Grant funds can be used to purchase recycling containers for classrooms, cafeteria, common areas, etc. or to make other capital purchases that will enhance a 3R's program (such as can crushers, informative posters/media, collection carts, reusable dishes/silverware, and the like).

Other creative ideas are welcome.

Who is the West Central Solid Waste District?

West Central Solid Waste District (WCSWD) is a government agency serving Parke and Putnam Counties in Central Indiana and has been charged through state legislation to reduce the waste stream. WCSWD is dedicated to providing resources to K-12 schools in our 2-county district to assist in achieving this goal.

Our mission is "To inform, educate, and inspire our citizens about proper waste disposal, waste reduction, reuse, and recycling; and to provide programs and services in these areas... Educating citizens, along with convenient/effective programs and services, enables WCSWD to protect the environment, fulfill all regulatory and legislative objectives, and benefit our communities today and tomorrow."

How do we apply for a 3R's Grant?

1. Decide what items to reduce, reuse, or recycle (paper, aluminum, plastic bottles #1-7, reusable items such as dishes/silverware, etc.) and where (classrooms, offices, cafeteria, sporting events, etc.). Determine how many and what type of collection bins are needed if applicable. *Refer to Budget Page of grant application for a suggested list of available items (write in options will be considered under "Other").*
2. Submit a letter of commitment from your school to support the school's 3R's grant program for a minimum of 12 months. *You may re-apply for additional grants after successfully completing the initial 12-month period.*
3. If your program focus is based on "Recycling" - decide whether your group will:
 - transport the recyclables to a recycling site OR
 - hire a solid waste hauler to transport the recyclables.
 - Establish a "Recycling Manager or Team" (Environmental/Science clubs, FFA, life-skills, cafeteria staff, etc.) to monitor the program making certain the bins do not overflow, that non-recyclables and contaminants are kept out and to keep the outlying collection area picked up and free of litter.

**Schools report notable savings (up to 50% or more) on their trash disposal costs with a school wide recycling program. ☺ *WCSWD "residential drop-off recycling centers" cannot handle "large" volumes of material collected at businesses/organizations/schools and should not be considered an option for recycling.*

4. Promote your Reduce, Reuse, and/or Recycle program through school announcements, newsletters, local newspapers, etc. to encourage participation, education, and reach your ultimate goals!

It's that easy and we will work with you to ensure your program is as effective as it can be! We will even deliver the materials right to your door!

***To Request an Application, Email:**

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