

Starting a Planet Protectors Club

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to teach children how to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste and create the next generation of Planet Protectors!

You don't have to be an expert in waste reduction and recycling to lead

a Planet Protectors Club. You don't even have to be a teacher. You do have to have the desire to motivate and educate children in grades K-6 ...while having fun in the process. Join in the fun that clubs all across the country are having.



Interested in starting your own Planet Protectors Club? Here's how!

Step 1: Order a Planet Protectors Club Kit from EPA.

Full of activity books, a coloring book, a student membership card, and a certification of completion, the Planet Protectors Club Kit can be ordered online at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/publicat.htm>. Materials can also be downloaded from EPA's Office of Solid Waste Kids' page at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/kids.htm>. The kit is free, and the materials can be supplemented with the additional resources listed on the back of this page or with your own ideas and activities.

Step 2: Ask yourself the following questions:

- ★ What are the club's goals?
- ★ Why will kids want to join a Planet Protectors Club?
- ★ Where will the supplies and funding for the club come from?
- ★ Where and when will the club meet?

Planet Protectors Clubs encourage children to think about these environmental topics:

- ★ Resource conservation
- ★ Global climate change
- ★ Source reduction
- ★ Reuse
- ★ Recycling
- ★ Composting
- ★ Recycled products
- ★ Waste disposal

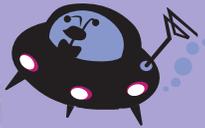
Step 3: Get the word out! Now is the time to recruit members to your club.



- ★ Prepare a handout that explains the purpose of the club, where and when it will meet, who the leaders are (with contact information), and a few sample activities.
- ★ If you are organizing an after-school club, you might want to consider advertising in a school, community, or organization newsletter. ALWAYS request that PARENTS contact you if their child is interested. If a child contacts you, be sure you receive parental permission



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Step 4: Plan your first meeting, and develop a schedule of club activities.

Announce your first meeting well in advance so parents can plan for their children's attendance. Be realistic. Ensure that planned activities are grade and age appropriate and have a good chance of being completed successfully.

Step 5: Have your first meeting and let the fun begin!

Bring the club's schedule to your first club meeting. The schedule should also be shared with the parents of club members. Always ask your club members to evaluate each activity. Listen to their recommendations. Their input is important and provides them with a sense of ownership.



Resources:

A variety of resources are available to you as Planet Protectors Club leaders and others interested in environmental education. To learn more about these resources, see <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education> or to order publications, see an alphabetical listing on <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/publicat.htm>.

★ Planet Protectors Club Kit (EPA-530-E-00-02)

Designed for students in grades K-6, this kit comes with a student membership card and certification of completion, a sticker, a coloring book about reuse on Earth titled "Planet Protectors Create Less Waste in the First Place," and two activity books, "Case of the Broken Loop" and "Follow That Trail!"

★ Planet Protectors Club Calendar (EPA-530-H-06-004)

With a calendar for both students and teachers, this educational tool outlines monthly activities to keep students thinking about waste reduction, reuse, and recycling from September to June.

★ The Quest for Less (EPA-530-R-05-005)

A solid waste resource for teachers of students in grades K-8 with a multidisciplinary focus that includes math, science, art, social studies, language arts, and health. Topics cover natural resources, products, waste, recycling, composting, source reduction, landfilling, and combustion.

★ Office of Solid Waste's Teachers: Curriculum and Activities Web Page

This page provides even more resources for teachers, including project ideas, tools, games, and activities for students in grades K-12. Though some are directed toward much older students, these tools can be modified to fit the Planet Protectors Club-specific age range of grades K-6. See <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/teach_curric.htm> for more information.

★ EPA's Office of Solid Waste's Educational Resources Web Page

EPA's Office of Solid Waste has an array of materials for teachers, kids, students, and researchers to develop an increased knowledge of solid waste issues. See <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education> for more information.

