

Spring 2019 Zero Waste Week

Monday March 18th

Our Zero Waste Committee is back with another targeted week educating our students, staff and families. Please feel free to reconnect with our [Fall Zero Waste Week](#) for **tips on packing those waste free snacks and lunches** as well as remind you of small changes you can make to have an big impact.

NEW! We will be sending two emails tomorrow and Wednesday. Wednesday's email will include a link to a short quiz based on the material found in each of our emails sent this week. ALL participants who complete the quiz will have their name entered in for a chance to **win a gift basket full of awesome reusable items for your home including a free month of service with Curbside Compost, reusable produce bags, beeswax wraps, snack bags and more!** Winners can claim their prize at the 2nd Zero Waste Faire on Saturday, March 23rd from 11-4pm or coordinate another time.

Social Media: Throughout the week we encourage families and staff to post pictures of how you #choosetoreuse at home, school or work either on your schools Facebook page or Twitter. Be sure to include #choosetoreuse and #wiltonwayct in your posts.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - three words we've all grown up with. Take a look at the order of these words - recycle is third in line but it has received the most attention and has made us feel as if we are doing our part to save the Earth.

Recycling is not the answer to all of our waste issues - because of the market to actually recycle items and the increase in contamination amidst our recycling, the tide is drastically turning on what can and cannot be recycled.

Our Committee and others around the country are doing everything we can to reshift the focus back on the first two R's: Reduce and Reuse.

Did you know?

- Wilton has joined with CT DEEP to implement "What's IN? What's OUT?"
- "What's IN? What's OUT?" is a new simple standard to help improve residential curbside recycling and reduce recycling contamination. Our schools follow these same guidelines.

- Recycling contamination is a BIG issue. Contamination happens when misplaced items are put in your blue bin. These items threaten the solvency and safety of the entire recycling system.
 - For example: every 2 hours workers at our local recycling sorting facility have to stop the sorting machines to pull out plastic bags which are not recyclable but are still placed in our blue bins
- RECYCLING MYTH: If something has the recycling arrows on it, it's recyclable, right? No — not always. Those little arrows indicate the type of plastic that was used; , not whether they can be recycled.

Don't forget to post on social media the ways you #choosetoreuse.

Questions? Email us at wiltonzerowasteschools@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 19

“What’s IN? What’s OUT?”

Some changes may surprise you in terms of what you can and can no longer recycle, but the objectives are to reduce contamination and make sure the recycling stream gets to a point of actually recycling. Collecting is NOT recycling. We have to complete the loop.

Here are a few examples:

“What’s IN?”

- Pizza boxes
- Magazines and newspaper inserts
- Foil containers
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic one-use cups (NO Straws or Lids)

“What’s OUT?”

- Shredded paper
- Gift wrapping and gift bags
- Prescription bottles
- Single serve coffee pod and rings
- Styrofoam cups, containers and packing peanut

For a complete list go on “What’s In? What’s Out?” head to www.recyclect.com. You can download a flyer for your house [here](#). Don’t see your item? Use their RecycleCT Wizard to find out if it can or cannot be recycled.

Don’t forget to post on social media the ways you #choosetoreuse.

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Wednesday, March 20

We NEED to #choosetoreuse. Don't forget to post on social media the ways you #choosetoreuse

Here are some great tips and reminders on how we focus our attention back on REDUCE and REUSE.

REDUCE

- Buy in bulk and use reusable containers/snack bags to cut down on packaging that can not be recycled. Don't forget that individual snack bags, granola wrappers, ziploc bags can not be recycled in your blue bins
- 40% of all food in America is wasted! Prevent food waste by meal planning, storing food properly, taking smaller portions, allowing for seconds and enjoy leftovers! Learn more at <https://savethefood.com>
- Ditch the plastic!! Here are 5 facts from the Center for Biological Diversity to help motivate plastic free decisions:
 1. Americans throw away 35 billion water bottles every year
 2. Studies estimate there are 15 – 51 TRILLION pieces of plastic in the worlds' oceans.
 3. Fish in the North Pacific ingest 12,000 to 24,000 tons of plastic each year
 4. Plastics act like sponges for toxins, contaminating the fish who ingest them.
 5. Plastic is estimated to have been ingested by 60% of seabirds.

REUSE

- Compost - 20% of what heads to the incinerator is food. Burning food requires extra energy to burn through all that water. Use a service like [Curbside Compost](#) or start composting in your backyard. Our Wilton Community has so many amazing folks that can help guide you on how to compost at home. Just ask! Or check out EPA's Tips for [Composting at Home](#)
- Repurpose take-out containers at home to store food, kids toys, crafts, etc.
- [Reusable produce bags](#) are awesome!!
- Take a reusable water bottle where ever you go
- Switch to cloth napkins at home

- Don't forget to take those reusable bags to any store you plan to buy something, not just the grocery store

RECYCLE

- **Textile Recycling.** Every year, 21 billion pounds of textiles are thrown away in the United States. 45% of these textiles can be reused, 30% can be turned into wiping cloths, and 20% recycled into new products.
 - The local PTAs have partnered with Bay State Textiles to accept donations of clothing, shoes and fabrics. Proceeds from the donations are given back to the PTA:
 - Bins are located at Miller-Driscoll, Middlebrook and the High School
 - Acceptable items can be found [here](#)
- Plastic film can be recycled if you bring it to one of the bins at the grocery stores in town. This includes:
 - Plastic grocery bags, newspaper bags, certain types of cereal liners, Air pillows deflated, Produce bags, Plastic wrap from water bottles, toilet paper, paper towels, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, and MORE - [Click to find out](#)
- Go to www.recyclect.com to stay up to date with "What's IN? What's OUT?" and help reduce contamination and improve our recycling stream.

[TAKE OUR SHORT QUIZ](#) ALL participants who complete the quiz will have their name entered in for a chance to win a gift basket full of awesome reusable items for your home including a free month of service with Curbside Compost, reusable produce bags, beeswax wraps, snack bags and more!. One winner will notified individually on Friday 3/22.

We hope to see you at the [Zero Waste Faire](#) on Saturday, March 23 from 11-4pm at the Wilton High School Field House.

Questions? Email us at wiltonzerowasteschools@gmail.com