Program Title: R-E-C-Y-C-L-E, RECYLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE
Category: Social Action
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Touchstone Text:
“When the Holy One created the first man, He took him, and led him around all the trees of the Garden of Eden, and said to him: “Behold My works, how beautiful, how splendid they are. All that I have created, I created for your sake. Take care that you do not become corrupt, and thus destroy My world. For once you become corrupt, there is not one after you to repair it.” – Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13

Goals:
1. Teach PP’s about recycling
2. Make PP's understand why recycling is so important
3. Inspire PP's to recycle at home

Objectives:
1. Allow PP’s to contribute to the recycling of NFTY-NE.
2. PP's learn about the benefits of recycling
3. PP's learn how to recycle

Materials:
- Recycling bins
- Paint appropriate for the material of recycling bins
- Large brushes
- Medium sized brushes
- Water to clean brushes

People:
- 2 rovers
- 10 group leaders (for smaller groups)
- PP’s

Space Needed:
Multiple breakout rooms (one per group) One central room

Timeline:
00:00- 00:03 Skit
00:03- 00:06 Break up into groups
00:06- 00:11 Name Game.
00:11- 00:31 Why Recycle?.
00:31- 00:36 How to Recycle
00:36- 01:06 Promoting Recycling in NE/painting!
01:06- 01:09 Regroup
01:09- 01:11 Closing Skit

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Detailed Procedure:
1. Skit ...................................................................................................................... 3 minutes
   [GL1 is standing on stage sad.]
   [Enter GL2, who is a happy, smiley person]

   GL2: Hey! Why do you look so blue?

   GL1: [looking offended]. Me?! I'm not blue! Why would you think that?
   GL2: Because you aren't smiling! You aren't jumping around and being happy happy happy!

   GL1: Whoa there! But ok, you got me, I am a little sad, because there aren't any folders!
   Those were always my favorite. And why are you so happy, jumpy, smiley?

   GL2: Because there aren't any folders!

   GL1: What?!?!?!?!
   (ooooooooooooooooooooooo)

2. Break up in to groups ...................................................................................... 3 minutes

3. Name Game ..................................................................................................... 5 minutes

   GL: Hi Everybody! Name game time! Everyone say your name, your TYG, and your favorite thing
   that is green, and why.

   (Hi! My name is Hayley and I'm in NFTY-NE and my favorite thing that is green is grass. I love sitting
   outside on the grass.)

4. Why Recycle? ................................................................................................... 20 minutes

   GL: So who can sum up the skit for me?

   (Some crazy person was happy because there aren't any folders.)

   GL: That's right! Does anyone know why we've abolished folders?

   (Because we're saving a lot of paper!!)

   GL: Right-o. What's another great way to save paper?

   (RECYCLING!!)

   GL: Excellent. Ok, so I know you all recycle, or at least I really hope you all do, so shout out some of
   the items or materials you recycle.

   (Paper, cardboard, plastic (bottles), aluminum cans, glass, cell phones...)
GL: Good list. Now all those materials make items that once you're done using can be shipped off and either made into the same product again or a new product. Either way the material isn't being wasted. Now, some of you may be recycling pros, if you are, kindly shout out some of items that you reuse.

(Clothing, containers, plastic and paper bags, paper (scrap paper), pens w/ refillable ink cartridges, parts of otherwise broken machinery/gadgets, rubber bands, paper clips, etc)

GL: I'm impressed. Great job! If you really know recycling you'll notice that we've talked about 2 of the 3 "R's." The first two are Recycle and Reuse. What's the 3rd one?

(Reduce!)

GL: By gosh! You're a down right genius! That's exactly right. What are some specific ways we can reduce the amount of waste produced? (Don't just say by recycling and reusing that's cheating!)

(Reduce the amount of packing on item bought – i.e. family size vs. individual wrapping, prepackaged vs. unpackaged; buying goods that are durable and long lasting; avoiding toxics)

GL: In addition to the 3 R's, there is a C. Does anyone know what that is? Does anyone here do it at home?

(I do! I do! It's compost. That's when you naturally decompose your food and yard waste (by letting it sit there) and it turns into really good soil that gardens love!)

GL: Alright, now we have a good background on recycling! Let's take a look at hand out 1 so we can be experts!

[Hand out handout #1]

GL: Let's all take turns reading. Who would like to start?

[Read in whatever style you like. No popcorn mid-sentence.]

GL: Great job. As you can see, you just learned about some of the major benefits to recycling. Some we didn't mention are conserving natural resources and avoiding/decreasing landfills; however, those are the most obvious (though very important) benefits to recycling. Did you notice that the issues you learned about are issues you hear about in the news all the time but aren't usually associated with recycling?

(Yes.)

GL: What does that tell you about recycling?

(It's beneficial for all aspects of life.)
(It's a basic lifestyle change that can lead to so many positive changes)
(It's a really good idea)

5. How to Recycle Properly...............................................................5 minutes
GL: Exactly! Now that you know how amazing recycling is for...everything...you must be itching to know the rules to recycling. Since the northeast is pretty good about recycling, we're going to assume that you all get curbside pickup for recycling. If you don't, going on the Internet for just a few minutes will allow you to find a drop off site and guidelines of what you can drop off. Ok? Alright, so I'm going pass out handout #2.

[Pass out Handout 2]

GL: Would someone like to read?

[PP's take turn reading].

6. Promoting Recycling in NE/painting!........................................30 minutes

GL: I hope this sheet is helpful for you. Please, please, please take it home and use it. Recycling improperly is almost as bad as not recycling at all! Now, this seems like a lot of talk and no action. In order to promote recycling in NFTY-NE, we will be painting recycling bins! We will use these recycling bins at institutes so ensure that all paper is recycled and not thrown away. We have paint and brushes for the bins, so let's get to it!

[PP's paint]

GL: Beautiful! You did a great job! We're going to regroup now in the living room.

7. Regroup to living room.........................................................3 minutes
8. End Skit.................................................................................2 minutes

[GL1 and GL2 are talking, GL1 is very happy and excited]

GL1: Ooooooooooooooooooooh, I get it! I understand why your so happy! Not having folders is such a great way to conserve paper and reduce waste! And I understand why that is so important! What a rush this is!

GL2: Yay!!!!!!!! So you're no longer blue?

GL1: How could I be? This is glorious! I'll never be blue again, from now on I'll be green!

GL2: Green! I love green! (Not the jealousy kind of course). Yay! We'll be green buddies together forever! I LOVE recycling!

GL1: Yay!!

[And they frolic away together, hand in hand...yay!]
Problem #1 - Global Warming:

Recycling prevents global warming by decreasing the amount of heat-trapping greenhouse gases that are linked to everyday trash. Because the manufacture, distribution, and use of products – as well as management of the resulting waste – all result in greenhouse gas emissions. Waste prevention and recycling reduce greenhouse gases associated with these activities by reducing methane emissions and saving energy.

More specifically recycling:

- **Reduces emissions from energy consumption.** Recycling saves energy. Manufacturing goods from recycled materials typically requires less energy than producing goods from virgin materials. When people reuse goods or when products are made with less material, less energy is needed to extract, transport, and process raw materials and to manufacture products. When energy demand decreases, fewer fossil fuels are burned and less carbon dioxide is emitted into the atmosphere.

- **Reduces emissions from incinerators.** Recycling and waste prevention divert materials from incinerators and thus reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste combustion.

- **Reduces methane emissions from landfills.** Waste prevention and recycling (including composting) divert organic wastes from landfills, reducing the methane that would be released if these materials decomposed in a landfill.

- **Increases storage of carbon in forests.** Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood in a process called "carbon sequestration." Waste prevention and recycling paper products allows more trees to remain standing in the forest, where they can continue to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Problem #2 - (Lack of) Jobs:

Advances in the collection of solid waste and recyclables are only one piece of recycling's economic success. Recycling also has made a vital contribution to job creation and economic development. Recycling creates or expands businesses that collect, process, and broker recovered materials as well as companies that manufacture and distribute products made with recovered materials. Recycling is estimated to create nearly 5 times as many jobs as landfilling.

Numerous studies have documented the billions of dollars invested and the thousands of jobs created by recycling. A 1995 recycling employment study for the state of North Carolina, for instance, documented that recycling activities support more than 8800 jobs in the state, most of which are in the private sector. The study also found that recycling was a net job creator – for every 100 jobs created by recycling on an estimated 13 were lost in solid waste collection and disposal and virgin material extraction within the state.

In addition, a study of 10 northeastern states found that processing and remanufacturing recyclable materials in the region added more than $7.2 billion to the value of the materials. According to the study, recycling employed more than 103,000 people, 25 percent in materials processing (i.e. sorting and intermediate processing facilities) and 75 percent in manufacturing. All these jobs created by recycling businesses draw from the full spectrum of the labor market, ranging from low-skilled to highly-skilled positions. Materials, sorters, dispatchers, truck drivers, brokers, sales representatives, process engineers, and chemists are just some of the people needed in the recycling industry. These facts and studies show that thousands of communities are realizing benefits from recycling far beyond diverting materials from landfills and incinerators.

Problem #3 - Energy and Pollution

How does recycling save energy?

Harvesting, extracting, and processing the raw materials used to manufacture new products is an energy-intensive activity. Reducing or nearly eliminating the need for these processes, therefore, achieves huge savings in energy. Recycling aluminum cans, for example, saves 95 percent of the energy required to make the same amount of aluminum from its virgin source, bauxite. The amount of energy saved differs by material, but almost all recycling processes achieve significant energy savings compared to production using virgin materials. Creating aluminum cans
from recycled aluminum is far less energy-intensive, and less costly, than mining the raw materials and manufacturing new cans from scratch.

In 2000, recycling resulted in an annual energy savings of at least 660 trillion BTUs, which equals the amount of energy used in 6 million households annually. In 2005, recycling is conservatively projected to save 900 trillion BTUs, equal to the annual energy use of 9 million households.

**How does recycling help prevent pollution?**

By decreasing the need to extract and process virgin materials, recycling helps reduce or eliminate the pollution associated with the first two stages of a product's development: material extraction and processing. Mineral extracting and processing often pollute air, land, and water with toxic materials. In addition, both mining and processing operations require energy – that is, the burning of fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. When burned these fuels release pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide, into the air.

When products are made using recovered rather than virgin materials, less energy is used during manufacturing and consequently, fewer pollutants are emitted. Studies show that less energy is needed to manufacture products from recovered materials than from virgin materials. Manufacturing products from recovered materials can reduce the amount of energy needed by as much as 94 percent.

A recent analysis of several studies concluded that the environmental impacts of recycled-content products are less than those of virgin products when the two are compared over their entire life cycles. The analysis found that when compared to a system based on the use of virgin materials and landfilling or incineration, recycling and manufacturing products from recovered materials results in a net reduction in 10 major categories of air pollutants (aldehydes, ammonia, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, methane, nitrogen oxides, other organics, particulates, and sulfur oxides) and 8 major categories of water quality indicators and water pollutants (biochemical oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand, dissolved solids, iron, metal ions, oil, sulfuric acid, and suspended solids). Using recovered materials also generates less solid waste, whether measure by weight or volume.

**Problem # 4 - Cost/Money**

In some communities across the United States, recycling is a cost-effective way to manage municipal solid waste (MSW, or trash). The experience of Madison, Wisconsin (population 201,000), for example illustrates the economic benefits curbside recycling can provide midsize U.S. cities. In 8 years, the city has more than tripled its diversion of residential solid wasted while also decreasing the net annual cost of solid waste services from $158 per household to $139. A recycling rate (including composting) of 49 percent reduced the number of garbage routes needed and helped hold landfill tipping fees in check.

As solid waste managers take advantage of various cost-saving methods for collecting residential solid waste and recyclables, the business of MSW collection will become even more cost-effective. Successful strategies include changing collection frequency, introducing automated collection equipment, and improving routing design. Dozens of local governments and haulers across the country have demonstrated that these and other strategies can have dramatic impacts on the bottom line while improving the quality of service delivery.

Mesa, Arizona (population 314,000), is one city that saved money by recycling. When the city integrated curbside recycling into its solid waste management system, it was able to reduce the number of garbage pick-ups from twice per week to just one. To reduce costs further, the city also upgraded its fleet of collection trucks (thus reducing labor and maintenance costs), streamlined collection routes, and initiated staff productivity.
*This information was taken from the website of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). www.epa.gov
So you wanna recycle…?

The northeast is very strong in recycling so most of your towns should have recycling programs – many of them will even have curbside pick up. Each town may vary slightly with their recycling guidelines, so if your unsure DEFINITELY find your way to your town’s/city’s website to learn more. But none the less, here are some basic guidelines:

If its dirty, clean it or forget it

If its bottles, cans, glass or similar and its dirty (with your drink or dirt) a few rinses is all you need – but its very important. It will make the materials easier to process thus keeping costs down.

If it’s paper, cardboard, newspaper or the similar and its dirty with food, oils or its sopping wet unfortunately its no good. You may feel guilty about not recycling a few pieces of paper but its better than ruining a whole batch of paper and wasting that much more!

If it’s hazardous waste, it has its own place

(Household) Hazardous waste DOES NOT belong curbside with your other recyclable materials, they have their own home. Look online for where your town disposes of them and bring them there! These materials include: paint cans, motor oil, antifreeze, car batteries, pesticides, pool chemicals.

Materials you can recycle:

Tin cans, aluminum cans, newspaper, magazines, phone books, plastic beverage bottles, milk jugs, glass bottles and jars, cereal boxes, other clean and dry cardboard boxes.

Materials you can not recycle:

Plastic grocery bags, Styrofoam, light bulbs, food-soiled paper, wax paper, ceramics.

***However: Most grocery stores would love their plastic grocery bags back, so bring them back! I’m sure you’ll be rewarded…

If you can use it again…

That's great! Reusable and rechargeable (etc) items are very environment-friendly! They may cost more at first, but in the long run, you'll save. Plus, you are producing less waste, which is just as important as recycling.

Some examples: washable dishes and silverware, rechargeable batteries, renting books from the library, old clothing, CDs of bad pop stars, real cameras (not disposable), egg cartons and cardboard boxers for playing and art (if not going to be recycled).

…or if you can find another use for it

That's awesome too! Be creative! You can find so many uses for things that are no longer used for their original purpose. The easiest way to do this is to use the paper you are recycling as scrap paper. You can also use food containers to store other items.

Things to remember:

- buy items with many uses, long lives, or that can be recycled
- before you throw something away, think if someone else would find use for it. Donating used items is a double mitzvah – recycling and helping others!
- produce less waste – bring your own bag to the supermarket, or don't use one if possible; only cook what you'll eat; buy items with reduced packaging (buy in bulk/family size)

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE AND COMPOST!!!!!