



SAVE OUR FUTURE

Beloved Earth Community of Riverside Church

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Revisiting Recycling: Options to Re-Format Throwaways



Recycled and re-used materials become toys in the Weekday School's Winter Wonder.



TAKE ACTION TO SAVE OUR PLANET

Write to our state officials to enact the "packaging reduction and recycling infrastructure act"

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S4246/amendment/A>



If composting is also available in your area, follow those directives. For more tips on effective recycling of eligible materials see: <https://recyclerightny.org/>

“AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM:” HOW THE WEEKDAY SCHOOL RECYCLES

“Reduce, reuse, recycle” is the mantra of the environmental movement. Riverside’s Weekday School re-purposes all sorts of donated materials for art projects, stuff that might otherwise end up in a landfill. The Weekday School also has asked vendors to reduce packaging. At their March 8, 2024, “Night under the Stars” gala, which benefits the scholarship fund, people will dine with reusable plates, glasses, and silverware and the decorations will be recycled.

Some things are hard to recycle, such as Styrofoam (which yields little for the effort it takes to collect and process it) and tiny plastic bottles and caps (which jams the machinery at recycling centers). The Weekday School puts these to good use! Foam packing sheets make great canvasses; trays from grocery stores are terrific for finger painting. Styro shipping blocks and plastic bottles become buildings with spires and steeples. Frozen orange juice cans make perfect paint holders. Small paper cups and cardboard egg cartons are great for planting seedlings this spring. The Friday before Christmas, the Weekday School kids sang and danced in front of a glorious winter cityscape they built from recycled materials. This display was then moved downstairs to grace Riverside’s Winter Wonderland.

New York recycles more than most communities, but it is even better to reduce our consumption and reuse things whenever we can. The city’s plastic bag ban is reducing the amount of wasted bags, utensils, and napkins from stores and restaurants. Another bill recently introduced in the New York State legislature, S.4246-a (Senator Harckham)/A.5322-a (Assembly member Glick), would reduce plastic packaging. You can find your senator at www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S4246/amendment/A

OTHER WAYS TO REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

- Do you have clothing you no longer need—or that no longer fits? Recycle it. Riverside's clothing ministry would be glad to receive donations of wearable items any day between 9 AM and noon.
- Is there food in your cupboard that you won't or shouldn't eat? Perhaps the Ghost of Fruitcake Past? Why not donate it to the food pantry? While you are looking, you might see what other canned goods you might spare. Riverside collects these on a table near the C Level security desk on the first Sunday of each month. Julio Quirindongo, the food pantry attendant, is in the building Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM, and the security desk is happy to receive donations anytime.
- Also, if you cannot avoid them entirely,—because they are notoriously difficult to recycle—donate your collection of **plastic bags** to Riverside's food pantry. The bags can be dropped off the first Sunday of each month at the small table near the security desk on C Level. Of course, reusable cloth bags are always best.

WORLDWIDE, CHILDREN AT WORK: RECYCLING JUNK TO TOYS TO CHAIRS TO BAGS TO BRICKS

The pictured items (right) were made of sardine cans with bottle tops for wheels with a pulling string attached, specifically from Sierra Leone; the minibus was made of scrap metals, from East Africa. Other work comes from Mushin School in Mumbai, India, where students sit for lunch on benches made from recycled Tetra Pak Cartons.

In parts of Africa, plastics that blocks drainage and that's found in garbage dumps are collected, washed and made into school bags, key purses, etc. Other re-constituted items include robots built from card boxes and yogurt containers, and box houses made from empty milk or juice cartons.

Below is a list of videos of children's recycling activities and some children's books on recycling and sustainability :
<https://www.getepic.com/collection/293136/recycling>
<https://www.getepic.com/collection/263809/recycling-and-sustainability>
<https://www.unicef.org/wca/press-releases/unicef-breaks-ground-africas-first-its-kind-recycled-plastic-brick-factory-c%C3%B4te>



A Delicious Vegan
 Recipe for Cold Days:
<https://sweetsimplevegan.com/5-ingredient-vegan-chili/>



Beloved Earth Community

We call Riversiders to protest the climate crisis and care for the Earth through educational programs, greening the church, changing our lifestyles, and courageous political actions. For more information, or to join, contact David King <davidking1089@gmail.com> or Claudia Canasto <canastoclachi@gmail.com>

- The next Beloved Earth Meetings: March 4, at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.
 - To view this [S.O.F.](https://www.trcnyc.org/belovedearthnewsletter) online, visit www.trcnyc.org/belovedearthnewsletter
- February Newsletter Contents by Tom Goodhue, Milli Akinsulure, Claudia Canasto, Luvon Robertson and Dana Minaya. Graphic by Jeremiah Drake

