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BACK TO SCHOOL: School Supplies

Did you know?

Your back-to-school purchases make a huge difference. Here's why: 14 billion pencils are produced every year, many made with wood from ancient forests. Americans use about 31.5 million tons of printing and writing paper each year, requiring 535 million trees (most from virgin tree fiber) and 12 billion gallons of oil to make. The average American consumes about 660 pounds of paper per year, compared to 550 pounds in Japan and only about 8.8 pounds in India.[1]



What can you do?

Re-use and Recycle:

- * Can you reuse binders, pencils, and markers from last year? You might not need to buy much new.

- * Shop for used binder notebooks at your local re-use agencies - Goodwill, Salvation Army and others.

- * Buy used clothing at numerous fashionable stores (Goodwill, Salvation Army, LilyPads, Once Upon A Child, and many more) and/or donate your own used clothing. You can find info about most of these stores under "used children's clothing."

Policy

Contact your school board representative and share this information with them: A recent study found that of schools with hands-on environmental curriculum, 100% had improved behavior, attendance, and attitudes; 77% had improved standardized test scores and 93% of the educators noted positive impact on the learning environment. Grades of Green, a nonprofit has a website with resources and a Youth Corps Program for promoting environmental curriculum.[2] Also, ask

them to visit the [Green Schools Buying Guide](#). [1] It's for everyone-whether you're overhauling school policy or just need to purchase a few reams of paper.

[1] Green Schools Initiative <http://greenschools.net/article.php?id=177>

[2] Grades of Green is a nonprofit organization that facilitates student-led environmental projects that result in measurable results and cost savings to their schools. <http://www.gradesofgreen.org/>

Visit www.wastecapne.org for all your recycling needs.



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