

The Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District is challenging YOU to do more for your community and your environment this summer by completing 4 tasks that start with the letter R!

1. First, do something to **REDUCE** your waste. If we can reduce the amount of things we buy, it helps reduce the amount of trash we make and also the amount of resources we use. Take a look at your household waste, and see if there is some way you can cut back, such as using cloth instead of paper towels, or purchasing bars instead of bottles of soap. **Use this chart to help you analyze your own habits!**
2. Next, **REUSE**. Modern life has become disposable. Convenience makes more trash. Choose instead to reuse. Donate something to be reused, or shop for something secondhand. Note that Bartholomew County residents are welcome to drop off and/or pick-up gently used items at the Bartholomew County Landfill Reuse Building during normal operation. Visit www.bcswmd.com for hours and locations of BCSWMD reuse centers and stop by one of the locations.
3. Next, **RECYCLE**. It's the one most people think of first, but it really should be the last, after reducing and reusing. Find out what is recyclable locally. Recycling programs vary by community. Most programs will accept #1 and #2 plastic, paper (newspaper, magazines, junk mail, office paper), paperboard and cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, and glass bottles. All recyclables should be empty, clean, dry, and loose. What materials are recyclable where you live? Find out, and recycle something! (If you have curbside recycling through Columbus Recycles, visit their website <https://www.columbus.in.gov/public-works/sanitation-and-trash/> . If you don't have curbside, visit the Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District website <http://bcswmd.com/locations.php>). Also, don't forget to **close the loop**. Recycling isn't just putting something in the bin. Have you looked at the recycling symbol lately? It makes a loop! We have to close the loop by purchasing goods made from recycled materials. Go online or browse a store for something made from recycled water bottles. Try to find packaging made with post-consumer materials, too.
4. Last, **READ** at least one book from the list. Of course, you can always read more! If you are interested in learning more about the environment, ask the library staff at BCPL to help you find more books.
 - A Tree is Nice by Janice May Udry
 - The Lorax by Dr. Seuss
 - Kenya's Art by Linda Trice
 - What A Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting our Planet by Jess French
 - Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth by Mary McKenna Siddals (Miss Kate reads this one aloud on the BCPL YouTube channel!)

- Flush by Carl Hiaasen
- Strange Birds by Celia C. Perez
- The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth by Rachel Ignotofsky
- One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of Gambia by Miranda Paul
- Eyes Wide Open by Paul Fleischman
- Walden by Henry David Thoreau
- Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
- A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold
- An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore
- Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv

Now that you have completed all of these tasks, take a moment to **RETHINK**. We have to rethink how we live everyday and make changes wherever we can - at home, at school, at work, and in our community to make the world a better place.