

# MAKE A RECYCLING MONSTER

Decorating recycling containers makes recycling fun and easy for your family. Creating recycling monsters gets everyone involved in recycling paper, plastic, cans and other items. Using two paper grocery bags, youth can create a recycling monster that is hungry for the items we recycle.

## Outcome

Increase recycling at home by making it a fun activity for the entire family.

## Audience

Youth (ages 5+), parents and children

## Time

20 - 40 minutes

## Concepts

- Many things can be recycled. Make sure you're familiar with what can be recycled.
- Remember to recycle materials generated throughout your home. Not just in the kitchen, but from the bathroom, laundry room, office and more.
- The whole family can be involved in recycling. Recycling can be fun!

## Supplies

- Two same-size brown grocery bags per participant
- Scissors
- Glue
- Fabric scraps, crayons or other art materials for decorating the recycling monster



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## Preparation

Gather enough supplies by asking participants to bring their own or soliciting supplies a few weeks before doing the activity.

Pre-cut the opening in paper bags for participants under the age of 8. Pre-cutting will also shorten activity length if you are short on time.

## Procedure

- Each participant should have two same-sized brown grocery bags. Have participants cut a large oval in the bottom of one bag and slide it upside-down over the other bag, so the oval is on top. The oval will be the monster's mouth, which is where participants will place recyclable items.
- Have participants decorate the bag with fabric scraps, crayons or other art materials to make the monster's eyes, nose, hair, teeth, etc.
- Participants can use the recycling monster as their home recycling receptacle. Have the recycling monster 'eat' recyclables including: glass, plastic, paper, cartons and metal. Distribute the Recycling Guide to make sure everyone knows what the monster can eat (what can be recycled).
- When the monster is full, participants can pull off the top decorated bag and put the bottom bag containing recyclables in their recycling cart or out for curbside collection, and replace the bottom bag. The bag could also be emptied into a recycling cart and reused.
- Participants can add a string handle, which will make removing the top bag easier.
- Participants can make multiple monsters to collect recycling throughout their home (in the kitchen, the bathroom, the laundry room, the office, etc.).

## Discussion questions

- How do you currently collect recycling at home? If you didn't recycle before, why not?
- What is difficult or confusing about recycling at home? Are there any materials on the recycling guide that you weren't aware you could recycle? Are there any materials you will begin recycling or will recycle more?
- How will you use the recycling monster at home to encourage your family to recycle?

## Additional activity ideas

### Make recycling monsters for your organization

Create recycling monsters (or animals or other creatures) to use in your organization's common areas, classrooms, etc.

### Share photos of recycling monsters

Challenge participants to post or share photos of their recycling monsters in use in their home on social media.

## Resources

**Handout:** Recycling Guide (*see Appendix*).