

## Energy & Environment Exploration Module 2



# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Waste Not, R•R•R More!



Modules by Green Map® System

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In this module, you will learn about Reduce, Reuse, Recycle while creating a Green Map. What is a Green Map? It is a locally-made map that uses universal Green Map® Icons to highlight the green living, natural and cultural resources in the mapmaker's community. There are hundreds of Green Map projects around the world, and each is as unique as the people making it!

You and your class (or group) will determine your Green Map's specific focus, its design and whether to include narratives, tips, photos and details about the sites identified by the icons. Plan how you will share it – will it be printed or a digital, mural or poster Green Map?

Created for students, Green Map System's Energy & Environment Exploration Modules introduce activities and learning resources designed to help you create a greener and healthier community. Find out more inside!



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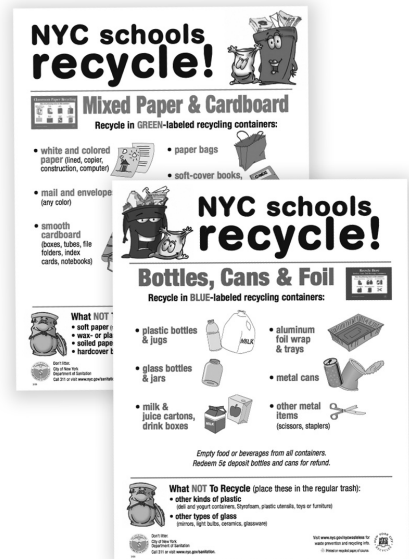
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## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Garbage! Aren't you sick of seeing and smelling it? You can make much less of it by precycling - preventing waste before it happens. By reducing, reusing and buying consciously, we can minimize the amount of waste we create. Look around and you'll find there are lots of places where you can put Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to work – you can even make your own R•R•R Green Map!

### VOCABULARY:

**Packaging . Toxic . Landfill . Conserve . Recyclable  
Solid Waste Products . “Precycling” . Composting  
Fair Trade . Organic . Sweat Shop . Child Labor**



Courtesy of the City of New York Department of Sanitation,  
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling.

## A. PROJECT IDEAS

1. Great animation and checklist for finding school energy and pollution sources is at [NRDC.org/greensquad](http://NRDC.org/greensquad)! Explore their school, and then, explore your own, making notes for your map as you go.
2. Bring in an example of good packaging and one of bad packaging: write a paragraph about each and prepare to defend your selections. If you were going to design a new package for a recycled product, what would it look like?
3. What are examples of reusable packaging?
4. Conduct a Waste Audit. Here's how:

For one week, carefully separate all your trash. Weigh your bags of recyclables, compostables (see: [GreenAppleMap.org/page/compost](http://GreenAppleMap.org/page/compost)), reusable items and garbage. Compare the weight of each of the bags, then empty into the proper bin or can (did you separate all correctly?). Compare your results with your classmates. Try again later in the year, did you toss more into the garbage than last time? Why or why not?

5. This is an example from New York City's "Recycling in the Classroom and School" campaign, see if you can start one at your school! Your city might have something similar. Start at [NYC.gov/wasteless](http://NYC.gov/wasteless). In the middle of the page, click the link: Go to waste less at City agencies & schools.

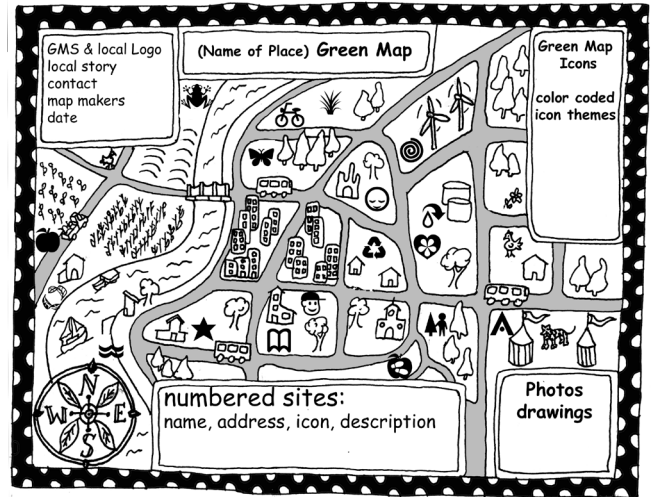
Explore the resources, including school recycling program guidance (help your school win a Golden Apple Award or become a TrashMaster!), videos, posters, stickers available to you for free. But, don't waste them, order only what can be used by your class, in school and at home.

Swap meets are a great way to reduce waste and get the things you need. Get advice from the Wasteless website under Stuff Exchange – you can even promote your event on their calendar.

Look for ideas that you can 'take home'. For example, find out about electronic waste recycling days in your community, and make a poster for everyone to take home. Or, stamp out junk mail! Read about stopping unwanted junk mail, and take action.

## B. CREATE A R•R•R GREEN MAP

1. Explore the R•R•R options around your school or neighborhood.
2. How will people use your map? Online, as a poster, folding map, etc.? Should you make multiple formats for different users?
3. Compile each student's field report into a spreadsheet (or notebook) with global Green Map® Icons, descriptions, drawings, and photos. Then chart them on a base map.
4. Include Reduce/ Reuse/ Recycle tips for map readers. Use the resources in this module to make an original Green Map.
5. Include narratives, images, documenting each site, and include a compass on the map.
6. Design an activity graphic or add a photo about R•R•R.
7. Display and share your Green Map in your school library, at a community board and/ or school parent/teacher meeting or online- (upload a PDF of scanned, photographed or computer-based map).



WHEN COMPLETING YOUR FIELD REPORT ON THE NEXT PAGE,  
CIRCLE YOUR R•R•R GREEN MAP ICON CHOICE



Farmer's market



Solid waste transfer station



Info resources online



Landfill



Wastewater treatment plant



Recycling



Composting



RRR education resources



Water recycling



Reuse shop/resource



Green business & service



Organic/ Local Food



Incinerator

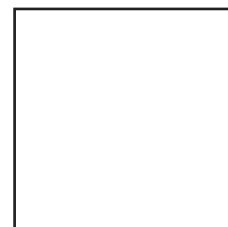
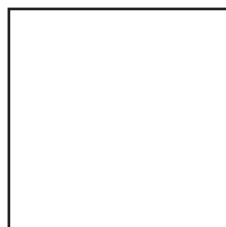
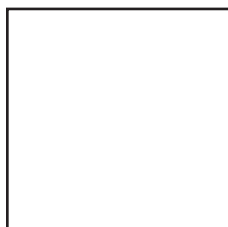
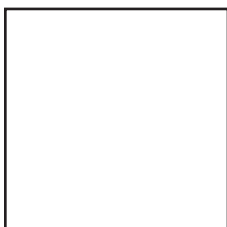


Air pollution source



Waste dump

DRAW YOUR OWN ICONS HERE



Example Mural Icon



## FIELD REPORT: R•R•R

My name:	Date:
Place name:	City:
Neighborhood:	Email / URL :
Closest mass transit:	
What can be Reduced Reused Recycled?	
.....	
Image drawing: (attach image)	Digital photo title:
Key Words: describe site with unique features:	
.....	
Describe site:	
.....	
Related tip for Map users:	
.....	

## DRAW YOUR SITE!



## TAKE A FIELD TRIP!

Where exactly will you go:



Suggestion

- Local ecology center
- Recycling center
- Local business or artist that uses reclaimed or recycled material




eWaste = Electronic Recycling

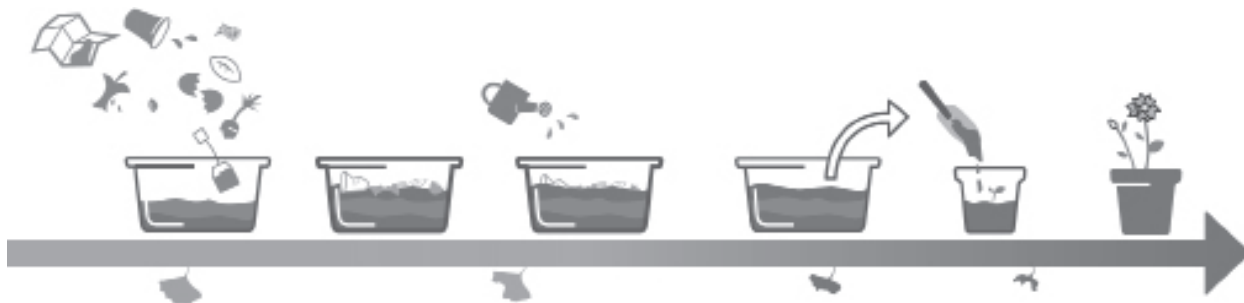
## C. RESEARCH & ESSAY QUESTIONS

Tip: Add your answers to your Green Map!

1. What are ways your community can reuse, recycle, and reduce waste? List 5 ways. How does recycling benefit our lives and environment?
2. Our shopping choices can be shaped by cultural traditions, corporate logos and advertising, mass media, and social pressures, especially when it comes to fashion.
  - a. What are some of the negative impacts?
  - b. What are ways we can look cool and reduce environmental and social impacts (including sweatshops and child labor)? Find out what do 'fair trade' and 'organic' mean.
  - c. Would vintage and secondhand clothes give you a unique look at a low cost to you and the environment? Why or why not?
3. Can you design a waste-less school party to celebrate completion of your Green Map?
  - a. How would you create low/no waste invitations, decorations, fair trade or no-waste party favors?
  - b. What eco-smart snacks and drinks would you offer?
  - c. How would you clean up, creating as little waste as possible?
4. Paper uses more energy than glass or steel to produce. The book Global Warming Survival Handbook (which can be read online at [liveearth.org](http://liveearth.org)) has lots of great ways to reduce our use of paper – you may already know some too. Name 5 of them.

## D. QUIZ (based on information from your town's website, department of sanitation, or other city agency)

1. How much garbage does your community create?
2. Where do they take the your communities residential solid waste?
3. How far do food and products  travel to get to your community? (Check the labels on the fruit and vegetables for a clue)



Step-by-step compost making from the Compost Green Map of Manhattan, 2007 edition.

## LINKS & RESOURCES:

Hint- Use the vocabulary words + your community's name in a Google search to access other related local links.

### RECYCLING

Recycling, waste prevention, volunteer info:  
 How to recycle electronic & toxic waste such as batteries & paint: [earth911.org](http://earth911.org)  
 No advertisements sign: [Informinc.org](http://Informinc.org)  
 Cartridge & cell phones recycling fund raising program: [GreenSchoolProject.com](http://GreenSchoolProject.com)  
 Vouchers for old air conditions with Energy Star models: [Getenergysmart.org](http://Getenergysmart.org)  
 Tools for zero waste in the K-12 school systems. [kidsrecycle.org](http://kidsrecycle.org)  
 Class activity on the three R's, research on environmental topics and contests to participate in. [earth911.org/for-students/](http://earth911.org/for-students/)  
 Download their free guide: "Good Stuff? - A Behind-the-Scenes Guide to the Things We Buy" [worldwatch.org](http://worldwatch.org)

### COMPOSTING

Compost and recycling programs:  
 Neighborhood programs with natural & education spaces: [OpenRoadNY.org](http://OpenRoadNY.org)  
 Composting Guides:  
[www.epa.gov/compost/](http://www.epa.gov/compost/)  
[vegweb.com/composting/](http://vegweb.com/composting/)

### RE-USE

Reuse support organization:  
[ReUseAlliance.net](http://ReUseAlliance.net)  
 Classified lists of free things:  
[Freecycle.org](http://Freecycle.org)  
 Classified lists of free or used items for sale:  
[Craigslist.org](http://Craigslist.org)  
 Interesting approaches:  
[GarbageScout.com](http://GarbageScout.com)  
[Freegan.info](http://Freegan.info)

## MORE YOU CAN DO!

- Research the links above. Before beginning a project, get permission first from your landlord, school, or parks or relevant department
- Use the public libraries to find out about the history of waste and creative reuse
- Create a Compost Bin/Vermicomposting and place it in a convenient location for regular use by students and school staff. Help make sure it's used correctly by maintaining it and telling others how to compost.
- Set up and help run a better school recycling system with helpful posters, bins, and signs.
- Post the City's How to Recycle posters in your apartment building.
- Stop (or reduce) buying over-packaged products – consider writing the manufacturer or retailer about this, and tell them, "Less is More!"
- Second-hand shops are chic, alternative, cheap and prevent waste too. Map them! (or "shop at home" by looking through closets and drawers for the things you need before buying anything - that's the greenest option of all!) Basic sewing skills make favorite clothes last much longer!
- Carry your own mug, take out-containers, and shopping bags instead of using disposable alternatives.
- Add your finished compost to a tree or garden.
- Make a "Trading Post" where people can take and leave useful items for each other. A shelf in a quiet corner or hall will do.