



## Become a brigade

Many of our local schools have formed TerraCycle Brigades. These schools have set up stations to collect hard-to-recycle items, which are then “upcycled” by TerraCycle.

(Upcycling turns old products and packages into new and better items.) You can become part of a Brigade, too!

To get started, simply sign up at [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com) and join the Brigade program for the items that you want to collect. There are currently more than 30 Brigade programs that collect items such as food packaging (like drink pouches and lunch kits), office supplies (like pens and tape dispensers), and personal products (like makeup and diaper packaging and toothbrushes). You can join as many Brigade programs as you like, and it's all free.



Parents and grandparents can collect things at home and send them to school with their children and grandchildren for recycling.

TerraCycle Brigades earn points. The points can be turned into cash payments for your school, used to buy TerraCycle products, or donated to charities.

To see TerraCycle products, which range from pencil cases and backpacks to flower pots and compost bins, visit [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com).



## Recycle to Win!

Are you looking for a fun and creative way to increase school recycling? Keep America Beautiful's annual Recycle-Bowl is a nationwide recycling competition for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Open to all schools, this recycling competition runs from October 19 through November 15. Participating schools will track and report how much recyclable material they collect for a chance to win cash prizes. Registration is now open on

**KEEP AMERICA  
BEAUTIFUL**  
Presents

**RECYCLE-  
BOWL  
COMPETITION**

the Recycle-Bowl website, <http://recycle-bowl.org>.

When you register for Recycle-Bowl, you will also be registered for GreenSylvania, Pennsylvania's paper recycling competition for schools. GreenSylvania also awards cash prizes. To learn more about GreenSylvania, visit [www.proprecycles.org](http://www.proprecycles.org).



## What's the buzz?

Need facts about recycling? We've got them! Our education coordinator has a lot of fun, hands-on presentations on reducing, reusing, recycling, preventing and cleaning up litter, composting, and more. We can visit classrooms, as well as scout troops, clubs, after-school programs, and other youth groups.

We offer tours of the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority facilities to students of all ages. When you visit, you get to see how recycling is sorted. You can check out different types of backyard compost bins and get ideas for making your own. Our compost bin demonstration area was built by a local Eagle Scout who wasn't much older than you! Plus, inside our Interpretive Center, you can see how worms turn food scraps into compost.

If your teacher, principal, or club leader would like more information or would like to make arrangements, please ask one of them to contact Education Coordinator Amy Schirf at [aschirf@centrecountyrecycles.org](mailto:aschirf@centrecountyrecycles.org) or 814-238-7005.

## Get some “re-leaf” this fall

The leaves are turning yellow, orange, and red. After school, the air is crisp and cool. You know what that means—the chores are about to begin! Talk to your parents about reusing your fall leaves. Here are some “re-leaf” ideas:

- Using a mulching mower, shred leaves and let them stay on the grass. The shredded leaves will provide a winter cover to protect grass roots and soil and will decay by spring. If you have a lot of leaves, you'll need to mow often during the weeks when the most leaves fall.
- Use your family's mower to create leaf mulch. Simply attach the bagger and collect the leaves. Your mower will shred the leaves as it picks them up, creating a great mulch. Put the leaf mulch on your garden or flower beds, around trees, or on paths. Leaf mulch will help keep moisture in the soil where plants will be able to use it next spring.
- Pick up shredded leaves with the mower or rake up whole leaves and add them to your backyard compost pile or bin.

Some municipalities pick up fall leaves or offer drop-off sites. To find out whether a program is available where you live, ask your parents to check with your municipality, borough, or township.

### Whoa! Matches and leaves don't mix!

Smell burning leaves? Are your eyes watering? Are you coughing? Leaf burning releases harmful pollutants into the air. In fact, smoke from just five pounds of burning leaves creates a full pound of pollution. Leaf burning can create health hazards for children, the elderly, and people with breathing difficulties, such as asthma. A burning leaf pile can also start a larger fire, putting nearby properties at risk. In some Centre County communities, it also isn't legal to burn leaves or other yard waste. Be a good neighbor—don't burn your leaves!

## Way to go!

Each spring, the Recycling & Refuse Authority holds a two-day drop-off event for household hazardous waste (HHW). This past spring, over 1,000 people dropped off more than 57,000 pounds of dangerous and toxic material. HHW includes things like weed and bug killers, paints and stains, motor oil and antifreeze, and other chemicals. These chemicals should never go into the trash! When your parents have chemicals they no longer need, they should deliver them to our annual HHW event. We make sure that HHW is sorted and safely disposed. Our next drop-off event will be in the spring of 2016.

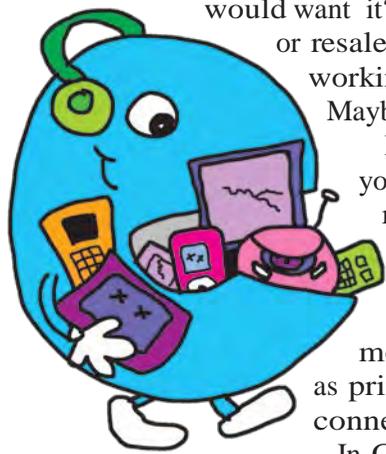


Also last spring, over 400 volunteers gathered to help remove unsightly garbage from Centre County's stream banks, roadsides, sinkholes, and illegal dump sites. The hard-working volunteers removed 94,000 pounds of trash from various cleanup locations, helping to beautify our community.

## E-cycling old gadgets

Electronic devices have become a major part of daily life for us, and we're sure for you, too! Each year, Americans replace hundreds of thousands of computers, TVs, cell phones, iPods/MP3 players, tablets, and other electronic gadgets. Many times the new device is replacing an older gadget that still works. Your old MP3 player might find itself stuck in a drawer for years.

But this doesn't have to be the fate of your unwanted gadgets! When you're ready to discard an old item, stop and think. Who might be able to use this? Do I have a friend or family member who would want it? If not, could I sell it at a garage sale or resale shop? Can I donate my old, but still-working, gadget to a charitable organization? Maybe they'll be able to find it a home!



But if none of those options work, or if your device is broken or unusable, turn to recycling. In Pennsylvania, electronics are considered "covered devices" and, by law, cannot go into the trash. Covered devices include desktop computers, monitors, laptops, and televisions, as well as printers, keyboards, and other items that connect to computers.

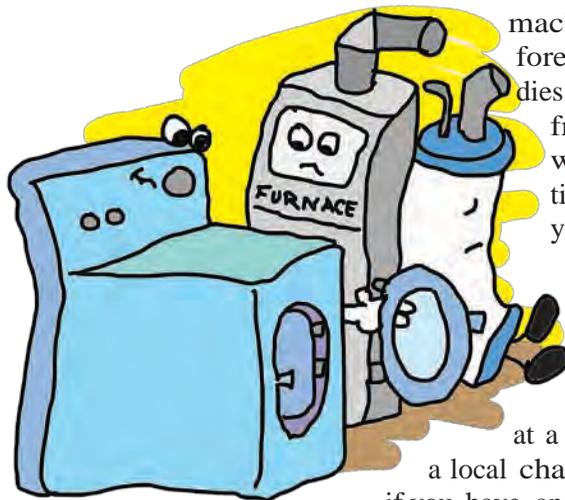
In Centre County, we make it easy for you and your family to recycle covered devices and other electronics, such as DVRs, DVD players, video game systems, tablets, cell phones, and more. If you aren't sure what we accept, just remember—if it has a cord or a battery, bring it to us!

You can drop off all electronics, free of charge, at the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority's Electronic Recycling Drop-Off, which is located next to the Transfer Station in Bellefonte. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. If you or your parents have questions, call 814-238-7005 or visit [www.centrecountyrecycles.org](http://www.centrecountyrecycles.org).

## Aging appliances

One day, the humming coming from your refrigerator might suddenly stop. The dryer might refuse to dry and the washer may leave your clothes soapy.

Most large appliances don't last longer than 20 years. While there's always an exception, these machines simply won't last forever. So when the humming dies down and you find your frozen food a little on the warm side, it's probably time to repair or replace your appliances.

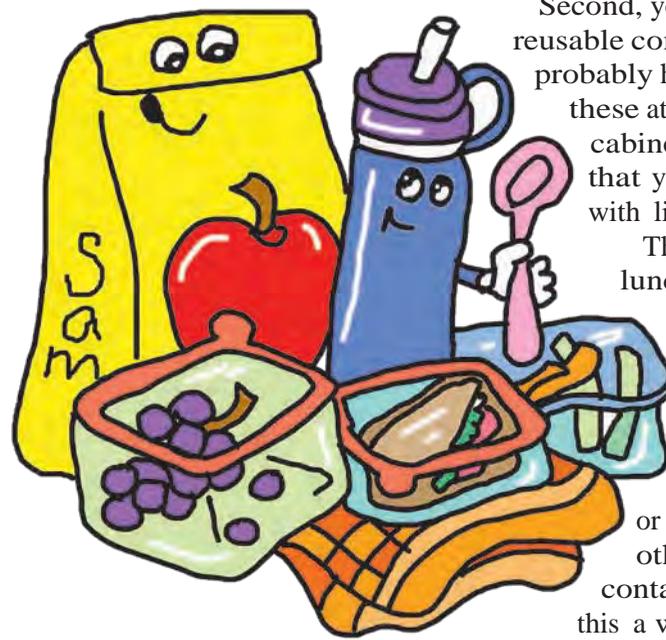


If your family replaces an older appliance that still works, give it a second chance with a new family. You could trade it in, sell it at a garage sale, or donate it to a local charitable organization. But if you have an old appliance that simply doesn't do its job anymore, recycle it for free! Your family can deliver it, as well as other scrap metal, to the Transfer Station in Bellefonte. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 814-238-7005 or visit [www.centrecountyrecycles.org](http://www.centrecountyrecycles.org).

## It's easy to be waste-free

Packing a waste-free lunch is so easy! You probably have everything you need in your kitchen at home. When you go home today, check.

First, you need a reusable bag or box. This might be a lunch bag that keeps things cool (called an "insulated" bag), a decorated lunch box, a large plastic container with a lid, or even a canvas bag.



Second, you need washable, reusable containers. You probably have plenty of these at home. Check the cabinets. Just make sure that you have containers with lids that match.

Third, pack your lunch. Make a sandwich or wrap and put it into a reusable container. Put cut-up veggies, cookies, crackers, or fruit into your other washable containers. Not only is this a waste-free lunch, but it will probably also be cheaper.

Buying food in larger quantities is usually cheaper than buying the same amount of food in lots of single-serving packages.

Fourth, take a drink. You can fill a reusable bottle with water, juice, or milk, or take a recyclable bottle.

Fifth, wash your containers and start again!



## Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority

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