



Environmental Education Program

Schools' solid waste expert education resource

Are you looking for some new, hands-on information and/or curricula to bring recycling and other solid waste management alternatives to life for your students? Mid Michigan Waste Authority, your government garbage gurus, may have the answer for your enviro dilemma!

The award-winning **4R Environmental Education Program** provides comprehensive solid waste education to schools in the Saginaw County area. This educational, comprehensive, interactive program allows students to learn about waste reduction, reuse, recycling and buying recycled from the area's solid waste experts, while encouraging participation in real world activities to reduce waste in their own school environment.

The **4REE** program is **free** and open to any public and private school, pre-K through 8th grade, limited high school, with at least 25% of its student population living in Saginaw County. Participating schools commit to achieve the program's five criteria over the course of a school year. MMWA staff work with the assigned teacher(s) to facilitate school participation and offer guidance for schools as they work toward program completion.

4REE Program Criteria

1. Presentation outlining the **4REE** program to all school staff by a MMWA school ed staff.
2. Start-up or continuation of a paper or other recycling program of at least one material type. The school must provide MMWA data on amounts recycled on a monthly basis for 12 months.
3. 4R lesson taught to at least one grade level by a MMWA staff member. *Available lessons below.*
4. School-wide waste reduction activity to promote the recycling/reuse/reduction of a specific item(s). Possible events: no-waste lunch day, ink-jet cartridge recycling, desk/locker clean-out, old crayon recycling, school event recycling program, etc.
5. School holds a **4REE** end of year school assembly celebrating the school's 4R achievements. MMWA often sponsors an enviro-ed entertainer. At this final assembly, the school is awarded its 4REE Certificate.

Available 4R Lessons for Criteria 3:



There are a variety of lessons to choose from to fulfill the 4REE classroom lesson criteria. Lessons are adapted to noted grade levels. Available 4R lessons from MMWA staff are:

Exploring Green Goods (Grades K-12)

What happens to all those items put into recycling bins everyday? Students learn how recyclable items are transformed into new "green" products by investigating the recycling process and product production. They also learn how to identify a recycled product in order to complete the recycling loop by re-buying: buying items with recycled content.

Incredible Edible Landfill (Grades K-6)

Students travel back in time and learn the history of garbage, landfilling and the importance of the 4R's. This lesson focuses on an interactive lesson which provides students a basic understanding of the dynamics of landfill structure by building an edible landfill model.

It's a Garbage Pizza! (Grades 2-8)

Students learn how trash is created and the different materials that make up America's trash. This lesson teaches students how to reduce the impact on our landfills and resources by discovering alternatives to simply throwing unwanted items away. The centerpiece of the lesson is the creation of a garbage pizza.

Making Recycled Paper (Grades 4-8)

Journey through the life of a piece of paper as it moves from a tree to wood pulp to the flattening and rolling during paper production. Students learn about their trash habits and experience the paper recycling process as they make recycled paper.

Worms & our Garbage (Grades 5-12)

(Limited Availability) Students discover how redworms can play a part in reducing the amount of organic waste sent to the landfill by building and maintaining a classroom worm bin. Students will learn the basics of redworms, how to maintain a healthy worm bin, and the variety of organics manageable by this process.