



Earth Day Groceries Project™

What on earth is the **Earth Day Groceries Project**? The Earth Day Groceries Project is an easy, cost-free, environmental awareness project that teams up **youth and grocers** to protect our planet. The project is managed online by Mark Ahlness, a third grade teacher at Arbor Heights Elementary School in Seattle, Washington, and you may have read about it in **Weekly Reader** or *Science & Children* magazine. To participate, **follow the instructions below.**

4 Simple Steps

1. Borrow Paper Bags.

Contact the manager of a local grocery store and explain that you want to take action to promote reuse and recycling in your community. Ask to borrow enough paper grocery bags so that each student can decorate at least one.

2. Decorate Paper Grocery Bags.

Students decorate the paper bags with colorful environmental messages, such as pictures of the earth or a favorite natural resource.

3. Deliver Paper Grocery Bags.

Return the decorated bags to the grocery store. On Earth Day, April 22 of each year, customers receive their groceries—and the message that kids care about our environment—in the decorated bags.

4. Report Participation on the Web.

Submit a brief report telling how many bags your school or club decorated, along with the name of the grocery store that provided the bags. Document your school's commitment to the environment, and join the online community of thousands of schools worldwide who are doing their part to improve our environment.



If you have access to the Internet, check out the **Earth Day Groceries Project website.**

Along with detailed instructions for getting involved, you'll find reports and pictures from schools and clubs that have participated in the project.

Check it out!

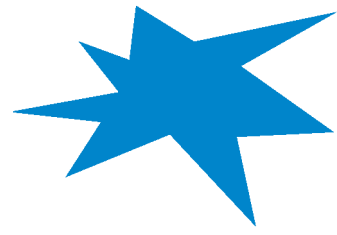
www.earthdaybags.org

You've Made a Difference!

Thanks to thousands of environmentally-minded students, teachers and youth groups, the project is growing bigger every year. In 1999, students at more than 1,200 schools decorated nearly 400,000 bags. Each decorated bag is a reminder that kids care about and are doing their part to protect our planet.



Reuse and Recycle Again and Again and Again



Some people throw paper grocery bags away because they think they're trash. **But they're not!** Paper grocery bags can be reused again and again. In fact, a Hillsboro, Oregon couple wanted to see how many times they could reuse one paper grocery bag. So they **took it back** to the grocery store and filled it up again—**98 times!** Paper grocery bags are made with recycled paper, and can be **recycled, too**. They also make great recycling containers for more paper grocery bags, boxes, newspapers, cans, bottles and other recyclables.



A Gail N. Chapman Elementary student helps bag Earth Day groceries at The Quality Markets in Randolph, NY.

Spread the Word!

Share this project with others in your community.

Decorate a few bags to show other classes and clubs how it's done. Let your local newspaper or television know about your project, too. Take pictures of your decorated bags and share the photos with area schools, youth groups, churches

and grocery stores and the project's website (www.earthdaybags.org). Your success might inspire others to get involved. Remember to **say thank you** to the grocery store that provides you bags. If you write a short thank you letter and have your classmates sign it, maybe the

grocery store manager will post your letter and photos of the bags, or include them in the store's newsletter.

Decorating Ideas...

Use crayons to draw pictures of the earth (use a coffee can lid to trace the circle; show the different continents). Create catchy Earth Day slogans such as **"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle;"** **"Recycling Rules;"** or **"Choose to Reuse."**

Draw your favorite animal, body of water, mountain or type of tree. Draw pictures of the different types of paper products your family or school recycles, including paper grocery bags, boxes, notebook paper, magazines, newspapers and envelopes. **Remember** to check your spelling. Also, it's okay to write your first name on the bags, but please don't include any last names, as the bags will be handed out to strangers.

Teachers:

This hands-on classroom project is designed to enhance students' environmental knowledge, along with skills in art, computer science, geography, math and science. **It also generates interest in reuse, recycling and forestry.**



Albertson's, Ralphs, HEB, ShopRite and IGA grocery stores have supported this project.

For more fun facts on forestry and recycling, contact:

American Forest & Paper Association
1111 19th Street, NW, #800
Washington, DC 20036
www.afandpa.org



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Our students had a wonderful time doing the project and learned timely lessons on community service and recycling — LAKEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, GREAT NECK, NY

We had a great time decorating 875 bags for our local HEB grocery store. We then took several of the bags out to our local mall and made an exhibit promoting community awareness.

— FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY, PORT AURTHUR, TX

The Albertson's store manager was enthusiastic and welcomed us! He then let the students go to the produce area and pick out one piece of fruit to eat on our trip back to school. — WOODCREST PRESCHOOL, NEWBURY PARK, CA

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