



Hey Kids, It's Time To Take Action!

Each American generates more than four pounds of trash a day. Much of the paper that is thrown away could be recycled instead. The companies that make paper want us to recycle more of it—and they're doing their part to **help make recycling happen**.



Fact:

The companies that make paper have a goal—to reuse and recycle half of all the paper Americans use in the year 2000. You can help.

With the support of youth leaders from around the country, The Paper Bag Council—a group of 11 companies that make the paper for paper grocery bags—developed a campaign to encourage families to reuse and recycle their paper grocery bags and boxes.

With your help, the Billion Bags Campaign can change the way Americans think about the reuse and recycling of paper grocery bags and other items we use everyday.

Where Can I Learn More?

To learn more about the Paper Bag Council and paper recycling, check out our website at:

www.afandpa.org

Join the Billion Bags Campaign

How does it work?

It's simple. More than **8,000 communities** (that's more than **101 million families** in 30 million households) already pick up newspapers, cans, bottles and other items at curbside or drop-off recycling sites.

If each of these families **adds at least one** paper grocery bag a week to their recycling, Americans will recycle more than a billion bags a year (**that's 1,000,000,000 bags**). Take action today to reuse and recycle your paper **grocery bags and boxes!**

How can I join?

It's as easy as **one, two, three!**

- 1 Set an example** and encourage your family and friends to reuse paper grocery bags for shopping at least 3 times—then recycle them.
- 2 Learn the facts** about recycling, then take action to help your community add paper grocery bags to its curbside or drop-off recycling program.
- 3 Remember** that the paper you recycle is used to make new paper—and keep it separate from plastics, metals, food and other contaminants.

Decode this secret message:



Answer = It's good to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

Reuse & Recycle A Billion Bags!



THINK BEFORE YOU THROW THINGS AWAY. A golden rule of waste reduction is to never throw away anything that can be used again. If an item can be reused for the same purpose, or for something new, then reuse it! Paper grocery bags are made from a kind of paper called *kraft*, a **German** word that means “**strength**.” They can hold up to 20 pounds of groceries, and can be reused many times.

Choose to reuse!



Be a Recycling Leader

Today's youth are a driving force in recycling efforts. In many homes, it's the kids who get the **family involved** in recycling... and who keep it going. You can start a recycling program at home or school. Just learn what items your town recycles, then **do your best** to recycle them. Remember to keep used paper for recycling separate from contaminants such as plastic wraps and food waste.



Write to your local recycling coordinator, mayor, governor, Congressional representatives—even the **President**. Let them know what you're doing to **clean up the earth**, and ask for their help.



Chart your Progress

Use a pencil to draw **3 squares** on the top left corner of each paper grocery bag you get from the grocery store (or find in your house). Every time you **reuse** one of the bags for groceries, chart your progress by writing a **check mark** in one of the squares. Once you've reused each bag at least **3 times**, recycle it.

ORDER FORM

If you, your friends, family, teacher or Scout leader want more copies of this material, please fill out the form below and send it to:

**American Forest & Paper Association
Billion Bags Campaign
1111 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

• I would like _____ Youth Action Kits (handled paper “Kids Bags” and Recycling Flyers).

• I would like _____ Recycling Flyers only. • I would like _____ Kids Bags only.

How will this material be used?

SCHOOL CLUB RECYCLING EVENT GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL EARTH DAY ACTIVITY

OTHER _____

When ordering materials, please let us know how and where they will be used—as well as your deadline for delivery. Also, please provide a street address instead of a post office box number.

Do you have a question or comment about paper recycling? Let us know.
