

If I Were the President, How Would I get More People to Recycle?

By Kristen Hayden

If I were President, one of the first things I'd do is try to get more Americans to recycle. Not enough Americans recycle, and too many of them throw recyclable things away in the trash. For example, 30,000,000 trees would be saved each year if Americans didn't throw out newspapers. If I were President, I would help Americans understand that trash isn't the answer. I would do this by starting an organization, having school kids do units on recycling, building more recycling centers, and having the White House residents recycle more.

As President, I would start an organization all about recycling called something like "Race to Recycle". I think this organization should be run by a mix of grownups and kids because kids and grownups both need to help the Earth stay healthy. This organization would raise money to build recycling centers and to get recycling experts into schools to talk about recycling. This organization would help to get my message across to Americans, the message being recycle to save the Earth.

If I were President, I would have school kids in kindergarten and second, fifth, eighth grades do a unit on recycling. If you learn about recycling when you're young, you probably will recycle when you get older. The classes would learn about the ways to recycle, like using a compost bin and recycling glass, paper, plastic, and aluminum cans, why they should recycle, and how they can help others recycle. The classes would also learn how recycling has a positive affect on the world by producing less trash to put in dumps. I think this would educate Americans about recycling so they will do it for the rest of their lives.

Another thing I would do if I were President is build more recycling centers. Some people may not have a recycling center near them, so they throw out all their recyclables like cans, paper, glass, and plastic. Building a few more centers might change this. Here in Ann Arbor, we can only recycle plastic with numbers 1 and 2, and we can't recycle numbers 3 through 7. These other numbers can't be recycled because the recycling facilities can't find a place to sell them to after they are melted. So

as President, I would find places to sell the melted 3s, 4s, etc. There are so many products with these numbers that I think that having places to sell the recycled plastic to would have a big impact on the environment. Building recycling centers that will recycle all the paper, cans, glass, and plastic with numbers 1-7 would help save the Earth.

Another idea I have is that I could make the White House very recycling-conscious. Then the President would serve as a role model for people who don't recycle. These people might then think that if the president recycles, so should they. I would also get my family in the White House to recycle, by having my kids to do the compost, cans, bottles, plastic, and paper recycling. I would also try to have recycled all the packaging and waste from all the parties and feasts. Doing these things seems like it would have an impact on the way Americans recycle.

If I were President, I would try to make the U.S. more recycling aware. I would make an organization, have classes do units on recycling, build more recycling centers, and have the White House recycle. Some people may not think a lot about recycling now, but I think that as the President I could change that to make the Earth a better place.