

## If I were President, How Would I Get More Americans to Recycle?

By Maxwell Heningburg  
Brick Elementary School  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mr. Holderith

If I were President, I would first of all make recycling a top priority in our country. We always are worried about the present, but if we don't start thinking about what will happen in the future, we won't have much of a future. Recycling is part of the solution for a clean and healthy environment.

First of all, as President, I would make sure that recycling is easier for our community. I would have multiple locations to bring your large items to. I would also make sure that every community has a pick up recyclable collection every week. If you make it easy people are more willing to participate.

As President, I would launch a campaign to educate people on the importance of recycling. I would make sure that people know what our environment would look like for our kids if we don't start recycling. We will have an overflow of garbage in our communities. I would explain what would happen to our forests, oceans, lakes and wildlife, if we don't start to recycle. Our future would be dirty and unhealthy.

As President, I would encourage a program of "Rewards for Recycling." I would make sure schools and businesses are rewarded for recycling. I would have a program that would pay them by the weight for recycling. That money would be used to improve their school or business. I would like this program to exist in every state and every county. This program would also include reward programs for neighborhoods. We could create a tracking system on our recycling trucks to weigh recyclables per house and get a neighborhood total. We could distribute coupons or gift cards from local businesses at the end of the year to the neighborhood with the most recycling. This would help our environment, as well as, encourage people to visit local businesses. This program could also include recycling contests in our states. We should have a can and bottle refund program in ALL states, in which you pay up front on your can or bottle purchase and then return them for your 5 cents or 10 cents. This would allow states to have recycling contests. You would keep your bottle/can return receipts for the year. Each year the state would have a time to turn in your total to them. The person with the highest amount of returns would receive a grand prize of \$5,000. This would be a program that would give back like Lotto, but instead of just buying a ticket, you would have to play an active role in helping our environment.

As President, I would require recycling programs that would help other people. We would have "Cell phones for Soldiers" programs everywhere. I would make sure communities had "drop zones" for old computers, cell phones, glasses, and other products that can be re-used to help out a fellow neighbor that might not be able to otherwise afford them.

As President, I would lower taxes in communities that have great recycling programs where a large amount of people in the community are participating. I would give tax breaks to companies that set up recycling bins for customers to bring ink cartridges, computers, old TVs, refrigerators, and other large items. They could then ensure they are recycled or reused properly and not just thrown in the dump. I would require every county to enforce a recycling program. There would be fines if people are putting large amounts of recyclables in the garbage or garbage in the recycle bin. This is already being done in many places around the United States. People are more likely to recycle if there is a reward or a punishment. No one wants to lose money!

Finally, I would make sure people understood that we would not only be saving our environment for our future, but we could save a lot of money. Instead of paying for brand new products to be created, we could take our recyclables and make new and exciting products from all that old plastic and metal. There are many "re-usables" lying around our communities. As President, this would be one of my priorities. Recycling is something that affects everyone.

Maxwell Heningburg  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Holderith  
Brick Elementary School