

RACE - Waste Reduction Scavenger Hunt

Friends and neighbors help RACE celebrating 50 years of reducing, reusing and recycling in Ridgefield! Ridgefield Recycling Center was built in 1974, one of the first facilities of its kind in CT. Established and manned by volunteers for many years before the Town took it over, the Recycling Center has provided residents with a cost effective way to properly recycle and manage household items that should not go in the garbage.

RACE will be celebrating the the 50th Anniversary of the Recycling Center with activities throughout the month. Our Waste Reduction Scavenger Hunt is just one of those activities.

Once you have entered your email you can move back and forth through the questions. You may work on your submission all month long.

Complete at least 10 of the actions and then submit for an Earth Day friendly prize!

RACE thanks you and your family for helping to make Ridgefield a more sustainable community.

Questions are loosely organized by category:

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Proper Disposal

1. Email *

REDUCE

In the hierarchy of managing waste - REDUCING is at the top. The best way to reduce waste is not to make it in the first place! Households could minimize the amount of waste created thru simple, mindful acts like:

- buying only what you need
- choose products with less packaging
- buy in bulk instead of single serve packaging
- make a habit of reusable water/beverage bottles
- before you throw something away ask if someone else might want or need this

2. Post a tip for reducing waste on [Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment Facebook](#) page. Enter the date of your post.

Example: January 7, 2019

3. Each week in April decipher at least one anagram of a famous environmentalist that is posted the RACE Facebook page with clues. Write your answers here or submit a private message th the Facebook page:

4. Watch a movie or a documentary with "waste" or "resource management" as one of its themes
Suggestions below or enter your own choice.

Check all that apply.



☐ Option 1



☐ Option 2



☐ Option 3

☐ Other: _____

5. Attend a [Library Waste program](#) (Teen Center fast fashion, HRRRA trash talk, storytimes). What did you attend and when?

REUSE

Reusing is a game to play looking at how you can use items again and again (ideally multiple times) before replacing or discarding them. Reusing items in our lives helps save money too! Think about it. Could you change from:

- paper towels to reusable wash cloths
- plastic water bottles to a reusable water bottle
- plastic bags to reusable carry bags
- paper napkins to cloth napkins
- paper lunch bags to a lunchbox

6. CT currently has 6 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws. Name two household materials that fall in this category. (hint: [EPR programs in CT](#)).

7. Make a toy/craft/art out of toilet paper rolls and email us a photo of your creation- racenvironment@gmail.com, please put your last name in the subject line.

Mark only one oval.

☐ Photo submitted

8. Buy a used book or borrow a book. (*Ridgefield Lbrary has a used book sale second Saturday the month or at Ridgefield Thrift Shop*). What was the book title and where did you source it?

RECYCLE

When we recycle we are putting a product to a new use instead of discarding it to the incinerator or landfill. Recycling helps manage resources sustainably into a circular economy away from an unsustainable, irreverent linear economy.

The #1 resource in our trash is also the most destructive component of a landfill: food scraps. Food scraps can be put to a new use - to make compost. Grow. Eat. Compost. Repeat.

9. Collect your household glass - bottles and food grade containers - separate from mixed recyclables. Bring to the Recycling Center for drop off in the Glass Recycling Container.

To show you did this, please email a photo to racenvironment@gmail.com, please put your last name in the subject line.

Check all that apply.

☐ Check when you have uploaded a photo

10. Listen to Jack Johnson's "3Rs" song [Recycling Song Jack Johnson 3Rs - YouTube](#)

Check all that apply.

☐ Yes, I did!

11. Take Recycling Quiz - [Recycling Quiz](#)

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Scored pretty well (answered 10 - 12 questions correctly)
- ☐ Good and I learned something new (answered 7 - 9 questions correctly)
- ☐ Need to grab a What's In, What's Out guide at the Ridgefield Recycling Center (answered 2 - 7 questions correctly)
- ☐ Other: _____

12. Find at least 3 items with the recycling symbol (at home or out and about) and list them below

13. Download What's In, What's Out app from [RecycleCT.com](#) on your phone. Look up one item see if recyclable. What item did you look up? List the item below and how to properly dispose of it.

14. Write letter to Katie Dykes (Commissioner of CT DEEP) about "Why Ridgefield Recycles Right and how you are helping". Send your letter to the Commissioner for Earth Day. Hard copy: Commissioner Katie Dykes, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127 or email: DEEP.communications@ct.gov

Check all that apply.

☐ Sent!

15. Did you recycle Holiday Greens/Christmas tree?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other: _____

16. Name three items that are plastic film and [can be recycled](#) at the Ridgefield Recycling Center

(hint: [Everyday items made from plastic film](#))

17. Identify two products ***made from*** recycled materials

18. Pick 1 day and collect all your food scraps (organics) in a container (gallon zip lock; old plastic cereal holder; any tupperware container) and weigh. Record the results here. Extra Challenge: collect for 3 days

19. Earn at least a dollar redeeming bottles and cans. CT's [Bottle Deposit Bill](#) increased the value of returned containers to \$.10 and expanded the # of types of beverages included.

Check all that apply.

☐ Done!

☐ Other: _____

20. Recycle something you do not usually [recycle](#)...wine corks, old fabric, eyeglasses. What was it? Where did you recycle it?

21. Go to a movie at the Prospector and leave your leftover popcorn and candy in their green bin for composting.

Check all that apply.

☐ Done!

☐ Other: _____

PROPER DISPOSAL

The [Waste Characterization Study](#) done by CT DEEP found 88% of what families are putting in their household trash can be reused or recycled. Properly disposing of what is consumed ensures the health and safety of the public by NOT tossing household hazardous waste or lithium ion batteries in the trash. Keeping food scraps and organics out of the trash ensures devastating methane gas never gets created in landfills. Capturing glass, metal and paper from the trash turns them into inputs for making new products. Proper disposal means shifting our paradigm of waste disposal to resource management - creating the sustainable, reverent circular economy accessible by all.

22. Participate in [Rid Litter Day](#), or pick up litter when you can.
What day did you do this?

Example: January 7, 2019

23. Organize a box of items for HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) drop off. What all is considered HHW? Find out here: [What Can I Bring to a HHW Drop Off Event?](#)

Check all that apply.

☐ Done!

☐ Other: _____

24. Are you putting recyclables in your trash?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other: _____

25. What is the street address of the Ridgefield Recycling Center?

26. Identify where you may find dates of HHW events in 2024. Ridgefielders may attend for FREE!
List three dates and their locations

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms