



*Win a PC from Creative Recycling Systems, Inc.*

Dear Florida School Teachers and Administrators,

November 15, 2008 is America Recycles Day (ARD). ARD is a national event that focuses on the importance of recycling and buying products made with recycled content.

In celebration of this event, Recycle Florida Today, Creative Recycling Systems and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are pleased to announce the FIFTH annual Florida (K-12) Schools **Recycling Pledge Card Contest**.

It has never been more important to recycle. The average American creates over a ton of trash per year, over half of which could be recycled and most often is wasted instead. Every person can make a difference and that is what ARD is all about.

**The contest:**

This contest is designed to reward three Florida schools for submitting the greatest number of recycling pledge cards. By completing a recycling pledge card, individuals are committing to do more to protect the environment through their recycling efforts. By signing a pledge, students are also helping put their school one step closer to winning a computer, and are eligible for a state-wide drawing.

**Prizes:**

The three schools with the most number of pledges will receive a gently used desktop computer including monitor (Courtesy of **Creative Recycling Systems, Inc.**) for their efforts. In addition, each individual who fills out a pledge card will be entered into a statewide drawing for either a \$100.00 gift certificate donated by **Recycle Florida Today** or one of three \$100.00 gift cards donated by **Publix Super Markets**.

The teacher or environmental club leader that has the most student participation in the Florida K-12 Schools Pledge Card Contest will receive free registration to the Recycle Florida Today (RFT) Conference. The RFT annual conference provides an opportunity for people in and around Florida to meet and discuss recycling issues impacting Florida. For more information about RFT, please visit <http://www.recyclefloridatoday.org/>.

**How to enter:**

1. There is no contest application to enter your class in the pledge card contest. Simply have your students get as many individuals as possible to complete a recycling pledge card. Please submit only **one pledge card per person**. You can make copies of the attached pledge card for your students and have some of the information completed such as school name, address and teacher to make it simpler for younger students. To insure that your school gets credit for all pledges, the organization or school information must be consistent on all pledge cards. Please designate a contact or lead person. This will assist us when trying to contact the winning schools. It will also help in determining the teacher or environmental leader that will receive free registration to RFT's annual conference. The pledge card must include the full name of the school and the teacher's or environmental club leader's name. For example:

W. W. Smith Elementary  
Mr. J. Jones

2. Contest entries not containing the full name of the school and the teacher's name will not be counted.
3. All students are encouraged to get family members, friends, neighbors and others to make the pledge. Pledge cards are not limited to students or faculty. If the pledge card is from someone not attending a school, be sure to have them put their own address on the card.
4. **Count your school's pledges, bind them together and attach a slip of paper showing the total pledges and teacher/class name.**
5. Send all pledge cards to DEP, postmarked **no later than November 30, 2008.**

Please mail the pledge cards to:  
Shannan Reynolds  
Florida ARD Coordinator  
Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection  
2600 Blair Stone Rd. M.S. 4555  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

**Our Goal!**

Last year, over 14,000 Floridians pledged to recycle and increase their efforts to buy recycled products. Over half of those came from schools! This year, we are challenging all of the state's schools to help double this amount!

America Recycles Day reminds all Americans of our nation's bountiful resources and of our personal responsibility as stewards to care for those resources. We hope that you will help us instill these values in the children of Florida.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannan Reynolds at [Shannan.reynolds@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Shannan.reynolds@dep.state.fl.us) or (850) 245-8716.

For more information on America Recycles Day and to find out what is happening throughout Florida, please visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/AR/2008/ar08.htm>.