

For this month.....

It's Back to School Time!

Can you believe it's almost the end of the summer? Many students have already headed back to school in other states, but here are a few things to consider as you prepare for this year.

- ⇒ **Go Through Last Year's Supplies and Clothes.** There is a tendency to want all new things for the coming school year, yet reusing can save you "green" while being green! Be sure to double check for new or like new supplies around the house that could be used for school. Same for clothing. Try on last year's wardrobe and see what can be salvaged before purchasing new items.
- ⇒ **Hit the Resale Trail.** Your student is not the only one who may have grown out of all their clothes from last year. Stop by one of the many resale shops in the area to see what gently used item could become your student's next favorite shirt, dress or jeans. The same goes for books. For older students who may need to purchase course materials, check out Amazon and other sites that resell used books—saving you both money and resources!
- ⇒ **Send a Waste Free Lunch.** The average American family spends \$400 extra per year on disposable lunch ware and creates about 4,320 pieces of trash—mostly plastic packaging—unnecessarily. Send your kids' lunches to school in a reusable lunchbox, and replace bottled water and boxed juices with stainless steel bottles you fill at home.
- ⇒ **When Buying New, Buy Green.** There's no doubt you'll still need to make some new back-to-school purchases this fall. Look for brands that use recycled paper. Green backpack, shoe, and clothing brands are springing up everywhere, too!
- ⇒ **Recycle at School.** Did you know that schools located in SOCRRA member communities can recycle at no charge? Check to see what is in place at your kid's school, and contact SOCRRA for additional assistance. There is so much to recycle at a school from the classroom to the cafeteria!

The average U.S. family will spend \$630.36 on their K-12 students this year for the return of school.

Source:
National Retail Foundation
nrf.com

Source: <http://mysweetgreens.com/eco-kids/5-green-tips-for-back-to-school-shopping/>

Enjoy the last days of summer!

Remember, your community PAYS for trash, but EARNS rebates for recycling.