Thurston County Public Works’ free 4th through 8th grade classroom presentations offer information that students can use in their everyday lives. We use hands-on activities and take-home materials to help students enjoy, act on, and retain what they have learned.

Presentations take approximately 60 minutes.

**Sign up now!**

Visit ThurstonSolidWaste.org/youth to find out what learning standards these presentations support and to schedule a presenter for your class.
4th and 5th grade presentations

Recycling 101
Students learn about the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and how to use them to reduce waste and help the environment. Students will do an activity to help them gain an understanding of what can be recycled in Thurston County. They will go home equipped to help their friends and families be better recyclers.

Food: Too Good to Waste
The average family throws away 25 percent of the food they buy. Students will learn why and where food waste occurs and its impacts on the environment. Every student will learn about their own role and gain tips and tools to stop wasting food at home. They can save money and the environment at the same time!

Plastics in the Ocean
Through hands-on activities, students will learn how plastic can affect birds and other ocean life. They will also discuss how we can reduce the amount of plastic going into the ocean.
Middle school presentations

Recycling Right
Students will learn about the benefits of recycling and be introduced to current global challenges. Activities will help them gain an understanding of what can be recycled in Thurston County, as well as why quality (not quantity) is so important. They will go home equipped to help their friends and families be better recyclers.

Consumption Consequences
Students will examine the environmental consequences of the choices they make when shopping. The class will discuss how reducing and reusing can preserve natural resources. By playing a game in which they obtain items on a shopping list they will learn how their consumption choices can affect the environment.

What’s on the Menu?
Students will learn what they can do at home to stop food waste. This includes learning to trust their eyes and nose rather than the “sell by date.” Students will problem-solve in a group activity to learn how to maximize their food rather than letting it go to waste.

ThurstonSolidWaste.org/youth
We provide a pre-sort lesson, as well as supplies and day-of instruction to your class to conduct a successful waste sort.

Hands-on projects like this support Washington education standards and provide opportunities to apply academic skills to real-world problem solving.

Students will have an opportunity to:

- **Learn** about materials and the environmental impacts of everyday products we use and behaviors we practice.
- **Evaluate** the school’s garbage and recycling by collecting, sorting, and weighing garbage and recyclables.
- **Analyze** the data collected.
- **Research** and propose solutions to reduce trash and increase recycling.
- **Present** the results to the school community.

Visit ThurstonSolidWaste.org/youth to schedule your waste sort!