

ZERO WASTE CHALLENGE

The **Missouri State Recycling Program**, in partnership with the **Missouri Department of Natural Resources**, is coordinating a Zero Waste Challenge during the 2023 Earth Day event.

EARTH DAY PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO...

- Pack lunches that students will eat
- "Pre-cycle" by only purchasing #1 and #2 type plastic bottles and avoid #3 - #7 plastics, foam containers, plastic baggies, and other non-recyclable packaging.

All waste (trash and recyclables) will be weighed. We are challenging this year's participants to reduce the amount of waste as compared to 2019. The main long-term goal of the Zero Waste Challenge is to encourage Earth Day participants to strive for zero waste.



NOTE TO TEACHERS

1. Materials accepted for recycling include: cardboard (including paperboard such as cracker and cereal boxes), aluminum cans, steel cans, and #1 and #2 plastic bottles.
2. Recyclable materials placed in trash containers will be taken to a landfill. Please encourage students to place recyclable materials in the proper recycling container.
3. Consider ways to reduce amounts of food and packaging that's thrown away. For example: instead of each student bringing a brown bag lunch, consider buffet style by providing a box of sandwiches, a box of apples, and a reusable container with beverages.
4. Using the 2019 Zero Waste Challenge measures (below), Earth Day participants are being challenged to generate less waste this year. This will require each student, teacher and state employee to do their part to reduce the amount of waste generated. Consider the importance of reducing first, reusing second, and finally recycling.



2019 ZERO WASTE CHALLENGE MEASURES

Trash (pounds)	Material Recycled (pounds)	Trash + Material Recycled	Percentage of Waste Recycled	Registered Visitors	Per Capita Waste Generation (pounds)
85.5	109.9	195.4	56.2 %	1,011	.19



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