



# 4R Lending Library

## 4R Book Descriptions

MMWA focuses its solid waste education on the 4R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Re-Buy. A variety of books on the 4R's are available for loan from MMWA and are described below.

### **4R BOOKS – PRE-SCHOOL AND YOUNG ELEMENTARY**

- **Bob's Recycling Day (Bob the Builder)**  
It's recycling day for Bob and the team. Readers will help Bob and his team sort out newspapers, bottles, plastic and cans. Will Farmer Pickle's tea set end up in the wrong pile? Find out in this interactive story about teamwork!
- **Follow That Trash! All About Recycling**  
How do you get a canoe from a soda can? A snowsuit from a plastic cup? Easy! Recycle. Find out how recycling works in this easy-to-read book.
- **The Great Recycling Adventure: A Lift-A-Flap Look at Old Things Made New**  
Have you ever wondered what happens to the soda cans and magazines you throw away? Most of our garbage ends up in massive holes in the ground or it is burned. But it's much more practical to recycle! Lots of things that can be recycled end up in your garbage can – it's time to take the lid off garbage and learn the tricks of recycling.
- **Ready, Set, Recycle**  
Join Jim Henson's Muppets as they get ready to start recycling. Book is a great beginner book for elementary students.
- **The Treasure Hunt**  
After Miss Honey reads the class a pirate story, Huckle and Lowly decide there might be buried treasure right in Busytown. But what disappointing stuff the young pirates dig up instead! Luckily, Bruno and Mr. Fixit are there to show the boys what real treasure is.
- **The Wump World**  
The Wump World takes us to a tiny and perfect world, populated only by the gentle and sweet Wumps. But the peace is soon destroyed by the Pollutians, who arrive in strangely primitive looking spaceships. Their intent is anything but primitive though, as the Pollutians are bent on covering every surface of the Wump's world with freeways and skyscrapers. They've already polluted their own world beyond livability.

### **4R BOOKS – ELEMENTARY**

- **50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save The Earth**  
You don't have to be a grown-up to help save the earth! 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth is full of experiments, facts and exciting things to do. Learn to keep the Earth a safe, healthy place for yourself, for other kids and even grown-ups!
- **The Next Step: 50 More Things You Can Do To Save The Earth**  
50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth has shown millions of people how to change their lives to help the environment. Now you can go further, and become environmentally active in your community. This book will show you 50 new projects to help you take The Next Step.
- **Backyard Composting - Recycling Yard Clippings**  
How do you demystify the simple act of home composting? This easy to read book is the next best thing to having a helpful neighbor show you how to compost. Backyard Composting tells you everything you need to know about composting and household refuse, and most importantly, how to get started, and will be enough to convince you to finally get organized and go for it.

- Compost by Gosh!

Compost By Gosh! is a simple, rhyming children's book about the joy of making compost - the process of letting worms eat leftover food and turn into that material into something which is perfect for fertilizing plants. Easy to follow, step-by-step instructions for young people who want to make their own compost round out this excellent and very highly recommended instructional book for budding young gardeners.

- Diary of A Worm

One small worm, one big world! This is the diary...of a worm. This worm lives with his parents, plays with his friends, and even goes to school. But unlike you or me, he never had to take a bath, he gets to eat his homework, and because he doesn't have legs, he just can't do the hokey pokey – no matter how hard he tries.

- Dinosaurs to the Rescue - A Guide to Protecting Our Planet

Follow the adventures of Slobosaurus as your favorite dinosaurs dispel his excuses for why he can't use less, use things again and give something back to the earth. The book explores water conservation, finding new uses for old materials, electricity conservation and remembering the 3R's – reduce, reuse and recycle.

- Food: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- What is food waste?
- What are renewable resources?
- How is compost made?

Books in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle series introduce how you can help the environment by reducing waste. Explore harmful effects of waste, the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources, and ways you can reuse and recycle materials.

Read Food to discover how food gets from a farm to the grocery store. Learn how food waste can be recycled, the benefits of buying food that is grown locally, and how to reduce your own food waste.

- Garbage! The Trashiest Book You'll Ever Read

Presents the past, present and future of one of the nation's biggest problems --garbage. Straightforward text and black-and-white photos explain what it garbage is, where it is, and how we are disposing of it, as well as how to get involved in cleaning up the environment.

- The Garbage Monster

When young Jo is slow to take out the family garbage on evening, it comes to life and hauls her outside instead! Undaunted by his fearsome face and trashy threats, Jo plucks him limb from hodgepodge limb. His cardboard head goes one way, his fibrous fanny another, as Jo finds a resourceful way to put the beast back in his place.

- The Giving Tree

"Once there was a tree....and she loved a little boy." Everyday the boy would come to the tree to eat her apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk and the tree was happy. But as the boy grew older he began to want more from the tree, and the tree gave and gave. A beautiful story that offers an affecting interpretation of the gift of giving and a serene acceptance of another's capacity to love in return.

- Glass: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- What is glass waste?
- What are nonrenewable resources?
- How do we use recycled glass?

Books in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle series introduce how you can help the environment by reducing waste. Explore harmful effects of waste, the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources, and ways you can reuse and recycle materials.

Read Glass to discover what glass is made of, how it is made and used, and how glass waste affects the environment. Learn how glass can be reused and recycled, and how to reduce your own glass waste.

- **The Great Trash Bash**

Mayor Hippo is very proud of his beautiful city but he knows something is wrong. After slipping on a banana peel, he realizes the problem is trash. Mayor Hippo calls a town meeting and suggests the animals have a trash bash. The citizens of Beaston come up with a list of ideas on how they can recycle items instead of throwing everything away.

- **Here Comes the Recycling Truck**

Follow Elisa as she drives "Uncle Bud" (her truck) around the wooded streets of Ann Arbor, Michigan stowing presorted paper, glass, and cans into appropriate bins and then unloading them at a recycling center. Children are able to see the various materials that can be recycled as well as understand how items must be sorted as they enter the recycling center.

- **In My Neighborhood - Garbage Collectors**

What happens to your garbage after it leaves the curb? Is garbage collecting a stinky job? Young children will enjoy finding out in this book that introduces them to the important job done by these community workers. Join garbage collectors Sam and Mabel on their route as they hoist trashcans and compact the garbage in their trucks.

- **Junk Day on Juniper Street**

The town newspaper advertisement read, "Do you have junk around your house? Then it's clean-up time!" The neighbors on Juniper Street decide to have a "Take-Out-All-the-Junk-Day" and pile their junk outside their homes and call for a big truck to take it all away. What begins as a junk day turns out to be a swap day and by the time the big truck makes it to Juniper Street the following day, all that is left is a rocking chair, which the driver of the big truck takes for himself. This easy-to-read-story from 1969 teaches a valuable lesson about reuse and puts truth to the famous quote, "One man's trash is another man's treasure".

- **Just A Dream**

When it comes to the environment, young Walter is not an enlightened individual. He's a litterbug who believes sorting trash is a big waste of time. What's more, he thinks his friend's birthday present, a tree, is the most ridiculous gift he's ever seen. Walter believes the future is going to be wonderful, filled with robots and other amazing inventions. When Walter falls asleep and his wish comes true. But the world Walter sees is not what he'd imagine. When he returns to the present, he is changed and so are his dreams.

- **The Littles and the Trash Tinies**

Tom, Lucy and Mr. Little must get to Trash City to deliver a message to their friends, the Trash Tinies. But there is a terrible storm. Find out how the Littles get to the city below the garbage dump and see what they find!

- **The Lorax**

The now remorseful Once-ler tells the story himself. Bewitched by the beauty of the Truffula Tree tufts, he greedily chops them down to produce and mass-market Thneeds. As the trees swiftly disappear and the denizens leave for greener pastures, the fuzzy yellow Lorax (who speaks for the trees "for the trees have no tongues") repeatedly warns the Once-ler, but his words of wisdom are for naught. Finally the Lorax extricates himself from the scorched earth. But all hope is not lost--the Once-ler has saved a single Truffula Tree seed! Our fate now rests in the hands of a caring child, who becomes our last chance for a clean, green future.

- **Plastic: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

- What is plastic waste?
- What are nonrenewable resources?
- How do we use recycled plastic?

Books in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle series introduce how you can help the environment by reducing waste. Explore harmful effects of waste, the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources, and ways you can reuse and recycle materials.

Read [Plastic](#) to discover how plastic is made and used, and how plastic waste affects the environment. Learn how plastic can be reused and recycled, and how to reduce your own plastic waste.

- **Recycle! A Handbook for Kids**

Ever wonder what happens to all that plastic, glass, paper, aluminum, and polystyrene after the recycling truck picks it up? Here's a behind-the-scenes look at the process of recycling, complete with fascinating facts about garbage and helpful tips on ways that you can help clean up our environment!

- **Recycle That!**

Recycle That! involves young readers as they discover intriguing facts about the fascinating world around them by explaining what recycling means, tells why it's important not to be wasteful, and shows how old cans, bottles, and paper can be made into new products. The natural world comes alive for young readers with striking, full-color photos and just the right amount of text.

- **Sir Johnny's Recycling Adventure**

Sir Johnny's Recycling Adventure is a wonderful, engaging story that helps children understand the complete recycling process. The book is a great example of how kids can truly make a difference in protecting the world in which they live. By following Johnny on his quest for the arrows, kids can see how the recycling process works and why it's so important to get involved in helping to close the loop.

- **Trash! On Ragpicker Children and Recycling**

Trash! Tells the story of Velu, who runs away from his village to Chennai. He meets Jaya, a sharp ragpicker child, and begins to work with her. Life on the streets is difficult and frightening. Jam Bazaar Jaggu, the crafty Ruler of Rubbish and Dorai, the sinister moneylender add to Velu's problems. Trash! also has facts and arguments which help you think about: child labor, lifestyles and waste, ragpicking and schools for working children.

- **The Wartville Wizard**

Wartville is being buried in trash! There are soda bottles under the flowers, juice cans by the mailbox, and newspapers along the road. Everyday the piles grow higher and higher. Then on tidy old man realizes he has the power to get rid of all the trash forever. Wartville will finally be cleaned up once and for all!

- **Where Does the Garbage Go?**

Follow that garbage truck! .... to the landfill to see how trash keeps piling up.....to the incinerator to see how trash can be turned into energy....to the recycling center to see how a soda bottle can be turned into a flowerpot. Filled with graphs, charts, and diagrams the book explains how we deal with the problem of too much trash and provides ideas of easy ways to be a part of the solution.

- **Wiggling Worms at Work**

Crawling through the dirt, worms are hard at work, helping plants to grow. Worms help the fruit and vegetables we eat by loosening the soil and feeding the plants. Read and find out about these wiggling wonders!

## **4R BOOKS – HIGH SCHOOL – ADULT**

- **A New Leaf - A Handbook for Preserving Michigan's Environment**

A New Leaf describes what ails Michigan and explains what we as residents can do to improve her lot. Book discusses a straightforward approach to correcting the problems from water conservation to air clean-up, to preventing more solid waste avalanches. Each section outlines a description of the various perils that face Michigan, while also providing a list of things you can do to help, resources and references.

- **Beyond Recycling: A Re-user's Guide**

This convenient guide describes 336 environmental-friendly, money saving ways to reuse 70 types of common products – most of them not currently accepted for recycling. It also helps readers locate businesses and nonprofit organizations that accept products not suited for average household reuse. Beyond Recycling shows how we can help preserve our environmental heritage while saving money through common-sense choices that contribute to a sustainable lifestyle.

- **Choose to Reuse: An Encyclopedia of Services, Businesses, Tools & Charitable Programs That Facilitate Reuse**  
Reuse conserves energy and natural resources. Reuse reduces waste. Reuse decreases air and water pollution. Reuse creates new jobs and business opportunities. Reuse saves money. Reuse brings goods to those who might not ordinarily obtain them. Reuse isn't new. But the need and opportunities are greater than ever.

- **Compost - New Applications for an Age-Old Technology**

This US Environmental Protection Agency kit addresses the environmental benefits of using compost: soil enrichment, pollution remediation, and pollution prevention. The kit contains a series of fact sheets: Innovative Uses of Compost: Bioremediation and Pollution Prevention; Innovative Uses of Compost: Erosion Control, Turf Remediation, and Landscaping; Innovative Uses of Compost: Disease Control for Plants and Animals; Innovative Uses of Compost: Composting of Soils

Contaminated by Explosives; and Innovative Uses of Compost: Reforestation, Wetlands Restoration, and Habitat Revitalization.

- **The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste**

This handbook was designed to show people how they can help solve a growing problem ..... garbage! Individual consumers can help alleviate America's mounting trash problem by making environmentally aware decisions about everyday things like shopping and caring for the lawn. This handbook outlines many practical steps to reduce the amount and toxicity of garbage.

- **Cradle to Cradle**

"Reduce, reuse and recycle," urge environmentalists; in other words, do more with less in order to minimize damage. In this provocative, visionary book, such an approach only perpetuates the one-way, "cradle to grave" manufacturing model, dating to the Industrial Revolution, that creates such a fantastic amounts of waste and pollution in the first place. Why not challenge the belief that human industry must damage the natural world? In fact, why not take nature itself as our model for making things? A tree produces thousands of blossoms in order to create another tree, yet we consider its abundance not wasteful but safe, beautiful and highly effective.

- **The Earth Moved on the Remarkable Achievements of Earth Worms**

The Earth Moved takes us on a journey through the underground world and introduces us to one of its most amazing denizens. The earthworm may be small, spineless, and blind, but its impact on the ecosystem is profound. It ploughs the soil, fights plant diseases, cleans up pollution, and turns ordinary dirt into fertile land.

- **EPA Guide to Environmental Issues**

The EPA Guide to Environmental Issues shows how many of our daily activities can potentially alter environmental balances, but too often we ignore relationships among people, other living creatures, and our surroundings. Environmental protection can be most effective when complex connections between all parts of an ecosystem and society are taken into account. The guide focuses on pollution prevention, air quality, surface water, ground water, pesticides, hazardous waste, solid waste, public health, and environmental risk.

- **Garbage and Recycling: Opposing Viewpoints**

Those who do not know their opponent's arguments do not completely understand their own. Garbage and Recycling is comprised of articles, speeches, and book excerpts from solid waste experts, policy makers and concerned citizens discussing the different viewpoints on solid waste management issues. Book topics include: Is garbage a serious problem?, Is recycling effective?, Is toxic waste disposal a serious problem?, What innovations will help reduce waste? and many more.

- **The Greenpeace Guide to Anti-Environmental Organizations**

Since most Americans today consider themselves environmentalists, ecologically destructive industries are now creating elaborate front groups that masquerade as environmental organizations. In this ground-breaking book, Greenpeace writer Carl Deal lists these groups, their real agendas and, where possible, their corporate sponsors. An eye-opener for anyone who's concerned about the environment.

- **The Home Energy Decision Book**

Energy costs are soaring, and the price of a new home has gone through the roof; combined with tax incentives and ready financing for remodeling older homes, these factors have created an unprecedented boom in retrofitting for energy efficiency. The Home Energy Decision Book makes sense out of the bewildering array of alternatives available to homeowners in all areas of the country, from major reconstruction projects to less expensive options.

- **House Recycling - The Best Real Estate Opportunity for the '80's**

Today, recycling houses is just about the only sure-fire path to real estate profit. What is it about recycling that makes it so different from other real estate ventures today? Recycling is a very short process: You buy the house, get in, make improvements that raise its market value, and sell out – all within a brief period of time. Weir shows how anyone willing to invest some time and "sweat equity" can substantially build financial reserves in his or her spare time.

- **How on Earth Do We Recycle Metal?**

This book tells the remarkable story of metal, the oldest recyclable material, from ancient to modern times. Learn about how metal refuse affects the environment and what industry, government, and communities are doing to reduce the mountains of garbage accumulating all around us.

- **How To Implement a Plastics Recycling Program**

How to Implement a Plastics Recycling Program was written to provide an educational reference manual for recycling coordinators and public solid waste management officials. It has been designed to be a resource for anyone planning or implementing a plastics recycling program.

- **Lasagna Gardening – A New Layering System for Bountiful Gardens: No Digging, No Tilling, No Weeding, No Kidding!**  
If physical limitations are preventing you from gardening, then try this method. By piling your garden with compost, peat moss, and aged litter and planting seeds in it, you can grow a record number of flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables. This book is filled with ideas to help you make this practical, proven method work in your own backyard.

- **MMWA's Green Construction Guide**

This document was developed by MMWA to help building contractors to get into the "green" mindset. Step-by-step directions to develop and implement recycling programs are provided along with a list of local waste haulers and recyclers. Information on how to purchase recycled-content products and other green products for use in the building process is also provided.

- **Manufacturing from Recyclables - 24 Case Studies of Successful Recycling Enterprises**

Manufacturing from Recyclables is a study of how recycling collection programs operate & generate a supply of discarded material for scrap-based manufacturers. Report will be of interest to people in many sectors including recycling coordinators who can identify potential markets for their recovered materials, manufacturers who will see improved feedstock quality from better educated suppliers, entrepreneurs gaining insight into successful operations, and economic developers weighing the benefits a community might reap from such facilities. The 24 case studies contained here represent a sample of state-of-the-art scrap-based manufacturers.

- **Maximum Recycling**

This book provides information to support the expansion of the amount of materials diverted from disposal facilities, to improve the economics of collecting and processing such materials, and to increase profitable markets for recovered materials. Sections include improving collection techniques and efficiency, collecting residential recyclables, evaluating program effectiveness, waste reduction incentives, market development issues, unique marketing approaches, multifamily recycling, the private sector and recycling, recycling in the commercial and institutional sectors, recycling of paper, plastics, tires, construction debris, glass, and other materials, institutional processing of materials and reuse of materials.

- **Municipal Refuse Disposal**

Published in 1966 by the American Public Works Association, this technical book gives the reader a reference point for past practices for management of municipal solid waste and related costs.

- **The Plastic Waste Primer - A Handbook for Citizens**

This book summarizes the plastic waste problems we face today. It also provides non-technical descriptions of plastic waste solutions such as source reduction, recycling, incineration, and landfilling. The publication also discusses plastics in packaging and plastics in the marine environment, and offers perspectives on the use of plastics vs. alternative materials.

- **Recycled Paper – From Start to Finish**

Pick up your Special Visitor's Pass and come along for a tour through a recycling paper plant. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at how paper is recycled and made into new products. As you tour, you'll see how special problems and challenges are solved as companies put their new products together. You will never look at paper in the same way again.

- **Recycling Glass (Waste Control)**

This book explains the environmental problems that result from the manufacture and disposal of glass. Recycling Glass looks at the many ways in which recycling waste glass can reduce these problems and includes suggestions for how you can help.

- **Recycling: Learning the Four R's**

Recycling: Learning the Four R's describes the different types of trash and where they come from, their detrimental impact on the environment, and ways recycling can help solve this problem. Book also discusses the importance of the four R's: reduce, reuse, recycle and buy recycled.

- **Restoring the Earth: How Americans Are Working to Renew Our Damaged Environment**

This book introduces us to dedicated individuals and groups who have worked, and are working--privately, voluntarily, and often successfully--to repair and restore those damaged natural resources that are so crucial to our present well-being and our future: our water, our land, our wildlife, as well as the cities and towns in which we live.

- **Save Our Planet**

In this completely revised edition, published in time to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, Save Our Planet supplies the reader with a new introduction as well as immediate, simple, and effective techniques to make a real difference in our own--and everyone else's--lives. For everyone who cares about the environment, this is a handbook of how to think globally and act locally to save our planet.

- **State & Local Government Solid Waste Management**

Written to educate solid waste decision makers, this technical publication addresses solid waste issues such as waste reduction, recycling, incineration, landfills, medical and hazardous wastes. Published in 1992.

- **Stuff - The Secret Lives of Everyday Things**

If you don't know your stuff, you don't know your world. Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things takes you to the places and people you touch every day – when you sip your coffee, tie your shoes, click your mouse, or step on the gas. Once you follow a day in the life of an average North American and see the secret lives of your food, your clothes and your toys, your world will never look the same.

- **There's A Hair In My Dirt! - A Worm's Story**

When the worm family (Father Worm, Mother Worm, and Junior Worm) sits down to dinner, Junior makes a horrible discovery: there's a long golden hair in his dirt. This is the last straw, if it's not birds trying to eat them or fishermen trying to put them on hooks, it's dirt for three meals a day, and now THIS! Puffing thoughtfully on his pipe, Father begins to unravel a story to Junior, a story about a beautiful (if rather stupid) young maiden named Harriet, and her adventures in the forest. There's a lesson for Junior, a lesson that makes him glad that he's a worm.

- **Throwing Things Away**

Throwing Things Away discusses clearly and sometimes humorously the history of waste disposal, the means that have been used to deal with it in the past, recent problems, and some of the proposed solutions. Anecdotes are intermingled with facts for a lively account and fast-paced reading. Plentiful sharp black-and-white photographs highlight and illustrate the text.

- **Use Less Stuff**

Recycling has its limits. So what's the solution to our twenty-first-century environmental crisis? The answer is both simple and practical – use less stuff. This groundbreaking consumer guide suggests helpful money and energy-saving tips for everyone who cares about how we live today and tomorrow. Learn to reduce and reuse with creative suggestions for all areas of your life.

- **The Waste Crisis: Landfills, Incinerators and the Search of a Sustainable Future**

The Waste Crisis provides an extensive look at solid waste management in North America and seeks genuine solutions to the waste crisis. It examines the magnitude and intricacy of the problem, focusing on municipal wastes and analyzing them in relation to hazardous, biochemical, and radioactive wastes. The book encourages readers to challenge commonly held observations about garbage and to seek new and better ways of dealing with waste.

- **“What a Load of Trash! Rescue your Household Waste**

Imagine the Planet Earth as a spaceship. Like a spaceship, the Earth has only a limited amount of fuel and supplies. When they run out, they cannot be replaced. Then what will we do?” This colorful, animated book teaches kids about saving raw materials, protecting the environment, waste disposal, and saving energy.

- **Worms Eat My Garbage - Maintaining a Worm Composting System**

The definitive guide to vermicomposting--a process using redworms to recycle food waste into nutrient-rich food for plants. Provides complete illustrated instructions on setting up and maintaining small-scale worm composting systems. Internationally recognized, the author has worked with worms for nearly three decades. Topics include different bins, what kind of worms to use, sex life of a worm, preparing worm beddings, how to meet the needs of the worms, what kinds of foods to feed the worms, harvesting worms, and making potting soil from the vermicompost produced.