

## #wastefreenyc

Launching on [www.nyc.gov/zws](http://www.nyc.gov/zws) on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017!

#wastefreenyc is a new mini-contest, whose goal is to have students **identify a problem**, and **propose a solution**, relating to recycling and/or sustainability issues in their school or community.

### How to participate (follow these required steps to win):

1. **Identify a problem** (relating to recycling or sustainability with your class or Green Team)
2. **Complete activity** w/ your class or green team (see examples for ideas)
3. **Identify potential next steps**
4. **Post as many photos or videos as needed showing all steps shown above**, using hashtag #wastefreenyc

**Deadline to post all steps (using hashtag #wastefreenyc) is March 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**PRIZES:** Classes and/or Green Teams that successfully complete the mini-contest, **posting using the hashtag: #wastefreenyc, by March 24<sup>th</sup>** can win the following:

- Reusable ZWS Water bottles (brand new)!
- Reusable 0X30 Bags!
- ZWS T-Shirts & Pencils!

### Examples of potential projects (problem, activity, solution):

- **Problem:** Your school can do a much better job recycling.
- **Potential Activities:**
  - Review recycling streams with your class or Green Team. Conduct a waste audit of your classroom (or cafeteria) with your class or Green Team and analyze your findings. Have students record what is being discarded and categorize them into groups "Reuse," "Recycle," "Compost," "Landfill."
  - Have your Green Team conduct a bin inventory to make sure all bins have proper signage. Free decals and signs can be ordered here:

- Schools with Organics Collection: <http://on.nyc.gov/recycling-materials-schools-organics>
- Schools without Organics Collection: <http://on.nyc.gov/recycling-materials-schools>
- **Potential Solutions:**
  - Have your class or Green Team create posters detailing their findings. Come up with ways to improve. Present your findings to the school administration and/or maintenance staff.
  - Have students present at a school assembly on their findings, and how to properly recycle (or record a video).
  - Create a volunteer Cafeteria Rangers group to ensure proper recycling is happening in the cafeteria.
- **Problem:** Garbage and recyclable material strewn about the sidewalks and parks.
- **Potential Activity:**
  - Walk your block and/or neighborhood with your class or green team. Record the material you see on the street.
- **Potential Solutions:**
  - Write letters to your local council person
  - Organize a community clean up

See additional ideas, here:

- <https://www.edutopia.org/environmentally-conscious-lesson-ideas>
- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/105720.html>

## **COMING IN APRIL 2017! The ZWS Contests and Awards (Formerly Golden Apple Awards).**

Getting started on the mini-contest today will help you to develop content and ideas for the big contests!

Read the contest pages for more information, and look at the previous winners for great ideas.

Previous winners: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/zws/contest/announcements.shtml>

Email [schools@dsny.nyc.gov](mailto:schools@dsny.nyc.gov) with any questions.