

## NEW JERSEY'S 2011 RECYCLING POETRY CONTEST

Welcome to New Jersey's 2011 Recycling Poetry Contest. We are looking for young writers in grades 4 through 6 to contribute poems to be showcased in our 2012 recycling calendar. Entries must be postmarked no later than May 23, 2011.

Recycling is the law in New Jersey, and while the program enjoys a certain amount of popularity, the recycling rate has remained virtually stationary over the last several years. Additionally, we often hear from residents and students who tell us that many of New Jersey's schools aren't recycling. Therefore, in order to promote recycling in our schools, we think it is important to encourage as many students as possible to participate in this contest.

This year's recycling poetry contest is open to all New Jersey students, grades four through six. Schools must select no more than three (3) poems from each eligible grade level to submit to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Recycling and Planning, for entry into the statewide contest. A review committee will then select 12 winning poems to be featured in the 2012 recycling calendar. This full-color calendar will be distributed at no cost to schools, local and state government agencies, libraries and others.

Students are asked to submit a poem of 100 words or less explaining why they believe recycling is an important component of New Jersey's solid waste management policy, and why it's important for all students and schools to participate in their local recycling programs. In reviewing the entries, the judges will look for understanding of theme, originality, ability to convey a concept, and creative thinking and writing. Winners at the state level will receive a prize in addition to being featured in the calendar.

The NJDEP Bureau of Recycling and Planning is sponsoring this contest as part of its ongoing public awareness and education effort. If you have any questions concerning this program, please contact Vicki Kerekes, Contest Coordinator, at 609-984-3438 or by e-mail at [victoria.kerekes@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:victoria.kerekes@dep.state.nj.us).

We look forward to receiving entries from your students!

## NEW JERSEY 2011 RECYCLING POETRY CONTEST RULES

### Eligibility

Students in **grades 4, 5 and 6** – Public, private and charter New Jersey schools

### Poetry Requirements

-The submission should be typed on an 8 ½ “ x 11” sheet of paper, and should be 100 words or less. Extra points will be given if the entry is accompanied by appropriate and exemplary graphics or artwork appearing on the same page as the poem.

-Product brand names should not appear as part of the entries.

-The content of the poem should describe why recycling is important individually and/or for society as a whole.

-The poem should encourage individuals to expand their recycling activities, and to purchase more recycled products.

-Only poetry will be accepted; no prose will be allowed.

### Deadline

Entries must be postmarked by **Monday, May 23, 2011.**

Sorry - late or incomplete entries cannot be accepted.

### Judging

**Local Level:** Each participating school is to conduct a poetry contest in the appropriate grade levels and select three entries from each eligible grade. The winning entries from each grade should be submitted to Vicki Kerekes, Contest Coordinator, Mail Code 401-02C, NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Each winning entry from each grade must be accompanied by the attached release form secured to the entry. Any entry unaccompanied by the completed release form signed by both the student and parent/guardian will be ineligible for state competition. Students' names should appear only on the **back** of the entry.

The Teacher/Volunteer Contest Coordinator Form must also accompany each school's entries.

**State Level:** A State Poetry Contest Selection Committee will select four entries from each grade level as the state winners. State winners and the school contest coordinators will receive notification via e-mail by Friday, September 16, 2011.

### Winners

The winning entries will receive a small prize and will be featured in the 2011 recycling calendar. This will be a full-color calendar with each state winner's name, grade, school and city printed under his or her poem. This calendar will be distributed at no cost to New Jersey schools, local and state government agencies, public libraries and other interested organizations.

## CHECKLIST FOR POETRY SUBMITTALS

- Release Form is securely attached to each entry.
- Release Form is completed and signed by both the student and parent/guardian.
- Contest Coordinator Form is included with your submittals. (It is essential that we have someone at your school to contact if there is a question or problem.)
- The student's name appears on the **back** of the entry only.
- Entries must be postmarked by Monday, May 23, 2011. (The judging committee will meet immediately following this date, so late entries cannot be accepted.)
- Please submit a maximum of **three (3)** entries per eligible grade level (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) from your school.
- Please call the Contest Coordinator, Vicki Kerekes, at 609-984-3438 if you have any questions.
- Send entries to: Vicki Kerekes, Contest Coordinator  
Mail Code 401-02C  
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Recycling and Planning  
PO Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

## **SUGGESTED RESOURCES**

Here are some sources of information about recycling:

[www.recyclenj.org](http://www.recyclenj.org)

[www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/sect6.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/sect6.htm) (“Here Today, Here Tomorrow” Teacher’s Guide)

[www.anjr.com](http://www.anjr.com)

[www.nrcrecycles.org](http://www.nrcrecycles.org)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

## **CORE CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS**

Below are some of the Core Curriculum Content Standards that may be supported or practiced by the student participating in this contest, depending upon the content, development and design of their work.

### **English Language Arts Standards—Writing Grades 4, 5, and 6**

#### **Range of Writing**

**W.4.10, W.5.10, W.6.10**---Write routinely over extended timeframes (time for research, reflection and revision) and shorter timeframes (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes and audiences.

### **N.J. World Class Standards---Science**

**5.4.P.G.1**---Demonstrate emergent awareness for conservation, recycling, and respect for the environment.

## 2011 TEACHER/VOLUNTEER CONTEST COORDINATOR

If you are coordinating the New Jersey 2011 Recycling Poetry Contest at your school, please provide us with the following information, in case we need to contact you regarding entries from your school.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

How many students participated at your school? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following space for any comments or suggestions that you may have regarding the contest or the materials that you received in this packet.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your willingness to make the extra effort required to offer the students at your school the opportunity to participate in this contest. Good luck to all!

**2011 NEW JERSEY RECYCLING POETRY CONTEST  
RELEASE FORM**

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's/Parent's E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this poem was completely written by the student named above and agree that it may be offered for publication in the event it is selected as a state winner in the 2011 New Jersey Recycling Poetry Contest. It is also understood that this poem becomes the property of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Recycling and Planning and will not be returned.

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent (s) or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_