

NEW JERSEY 2016 RECYCLING POETRY CONTEST

Welcome to New Jersey's 2016 Recycling Poetry Contest! We are looking for young writers in grades 4 through 6 to contribute poems focusing on their thoughts about recycling in our state. The winning poets will be invited to participate in an awards ceremony later this year. Entries must be postmarked no later than June 3, 2016.

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 Energy and Sustainability, for entry into the statewide contest. A review committee will then select the 12 winning poems.

Students are asked to submit a poem of 100 words or less explaining why they believe recycling is important, why all students and schools should participate in their local recycling programs, and how best to improve New Jersey's recycling rate. 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 be invited to participate in an awards ceremony later this year, and will receive prizes made of recycled material.

The NJDEP Bureau of Energy and Sustainability 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 609-984-6906 or by e-mail at victoria.kerekes@dep.nj.gov.

We look forward to receiving entries from your students!

NEW JERSEY 2016 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 a separate page.

-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 other literary form will be considered.

Deadline

Entries must be postmarked by **Friday, June 3, 2016**.

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 Kerekas, Contest Coordinator, NJDEP, Bureau of Energy and Sustainability, PO Box 420, Mail Code 401-02H, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Each winning entry from each grade must be accompanied by the attached release form which must be secured to the entry. Any entry unaccompanied by a 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. School contest coordinators will receive notification via email of any winning poems from their school by Friday, September 16, 2016.

Winners

The winning entries will receive prizes made of recycled material and will be invited to participate in an awards ceremony later this year.

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 Friday, June 3, 2016**. (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 (4th, 5th and 6th) from your school.
- Please call the Contest Coordinator, Vicki Kerekes, at 609-984-6906 if you have any questions.

- Send entries to: Vicki Kerekes, Contest Coordinator
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Energy and Sustainability
PO Box 420, Mail Code 401-02H
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

CORE CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS

Below are some of the Core Curriculum Content Standards and Next Generation Science 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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy--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.

Next Generation Science Standards

References to recycling, reuse, and conservation of resources can be found in the following **Science Standards: HS-Human Sustainability; HS-ESS3, HS-ESS3-2, HS-ESS3-4—Earth and Human Activity; K-Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants and Their Environment; K-ESS3, KESS3-3—Earth and Human Activity.**

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Here are some sources of information about recycling:

www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/sect6.htm

www.nrcrecycles.org

www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling

www.epa.gov

www.anjr.com

www.earth911.com

2016 TEACHER/VOLUNTEER CONTEST COORDINATOR

If you are coordinating the New Jersey 2016 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 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!

**2016 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, and any accompanying artwork, may be offered for publication in the event it is selected as a state winner in the 2016 New Jersey Recycling Poetry Contest. It is also understood that this poem and artwork, if submitted, becomes the property of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Energy and Sustainability, and will not be returned.

Signature of Student: _____

Signature of Parent (s) or Guardian: _____

Date: _____

