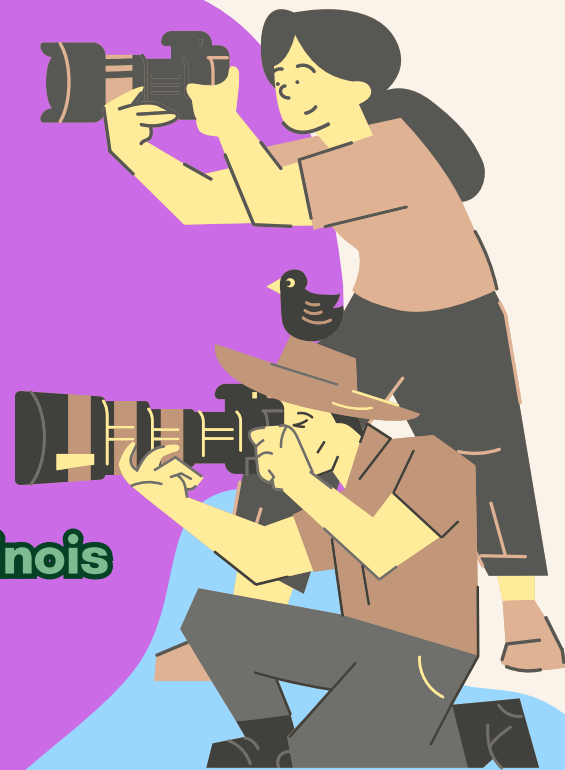




2025

Slash Your Trash

VIDEO CONTEST



For 5th and 6th grade classrooms in Illinois

- Up to 60 seconds per video; content based on theme
- One submission per group/classroom
- Due no later than February 3, 2025
- Upload videos via YouTube
- Submit link, entry form, and release form



Use your creative abilities to explore and communicate ways to create less trash by buying less, reusing, composting, learning, and more!



Your class could win a science kit & recognition on social media!



For more information and materials, please visit :

epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/contest



give us your best shot!

let's join the contest

CONTACT

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Video Contest

Video Contest Basics:

- Length up to one minute (60 seconds) max; can include live filmed components, animations, text slides, etc.—be creative!
- Participation occurs on the classroom/group level. Groups can include homeschool units, 4-H clubs, scout troops, after-school clubs, etc.
- Each school classroom or group with a minimum of five students may submit one video for judging
- Participants must be in the 5th and/or 6th grade
- Videos are uploaded on YouTube; entry form with link and consent form must be submitted to: EPA.contest@illinois.gov
- Teacher/Adult will be main point of contact
- Submission deadline: February 3, 2025

Entries must engage with waste reduction strategies in accordance with this year's theme: "How Can You Slash Your Trash?" thinking creatively on how to reduce the amount of trash you produce. This could include buying fewer single-use products; composting food waste; repairing broken items instead of replacing or buying new; and recycling items that cannot be reused or repaired.

Rules

- Any inappropriate material will be automatically disqualified
 - All work must be original and cannot contain copyrighted material, including background music
 - Entry ID and teacher consent form must be emailed
 - Videos will be judged on their message, creativity, and originality
- Note: Winning videos will be used for Illinois EPA educational purposes and played on social media and posted on websites, etc.

Helpful Steps:

- Plan your script and props before you film
- Think about your cast: who/what will you show to communicate your message?
- Decide what kind of camera/phone you will use to record and practice filming
- Edit your project: programs like iMovie; Adobe Express; and OpenShot are all useful software
- Upload on YouTube (details here: <https://www.youtube.com/creators>)

Awards

- You could win recognition on social media and Illinois EPA's web site
- The top three winners will receive classroom science kits
- The top three winners will receive a group certificate

Reference Material

- Illinois EPA curricula units
 - *What Should I Do with This Trash?* <https://pathways.mste.illinois.edu/curriculum/waste-management>
 - *Where Does My Food Go?* <https://pathways.mste.illinois.edu/curriculum/food-waste>
- Illinois EPA Curbside Recycling Guide: <https://dataservices.epa.illinois.gov/recycle/curbside-bin-recycling-guide.html>
- US EPA Teaching Resources: <https://www.epa.gov/students/lesson-plans-teacher-guides-and-online-environmental-resources-educators-waste-and>
- Seven Generations Ahead, Zero Waste Schools: <https://sevengenerationsahead.org/our-work/zero-waste-schools/>
- SCARCE's 3 R's Video Series: <https://www.scarce.org/elearning/3rs-and-waste/>
- Cafeteria Culture: <https://www.cafeteriaculture.org/>
- Illinois Food Scraps Coalition: Compost 101 <https://illinoiscomposts.org/resources/>
- World Wildlife Fund, Be a Food Waste Warrior: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/teaching-resources/toolkits/be-a-food-waste-warrior>
- Project Learning Tree: <https://www.plt.org/educator-tips/reduce-reuse-recycle-lesson-ideas>
- Recycling Lesson Activities: <https://www.weareteachers.com/21-ideas-big-and-small-to-bring-recycling-into-the-classroom/>

Video Contest Entry Identification

School/Group:

Educator/Contact Name:

YouTube Username:

Link to YouTube Video:

Address:

City:

Zip:

County:

Email:

Phone number:

Grade(s):

Number of students:

Student names:

Group statement from the students about why the theme is important to them:

Please email to: EPA.contest@illinois.gov

Video Contest Appearance and Material Release Form 2025

In consideration that (group/class), _____, at
(school/organization) _____ in
(city) _____ has entered the Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency's *How Can You Slash Your Trash? Video* contest and said video is the
property of the Illinois EPA. I hereby give my consent to the Illinois EPA to publish the
group/class name, school, city, and video on the Illinois EPA's Internet site and social media for
educational, informational, marketing, or other purposes deemed necessary.

I hereby waive any right that I may otherwise have to inspect or approve the finished
product, or the manner of its use chosen by the Illinois EPA. I also release, discharge, and agree
to hold harmless the Illinois EPA to whom this consent and waiver is given from any liability by
virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, or use in composite form, whether intentional or
otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking of said video or in any processing, or in
the distribution. I understand that I shall receive no compensation whatsoever in connection
with the foregoing, beyond participation. I hereby waive all rights of privacy in connection with
the use of the class name, school, city, photo, or video. I also waive any and all rights, whether
explicit or implied, in the material and consent without reservation to the Illinois EPA using,
distributing or otherwise making available the material to other parties as it sees fit.

***It is the group leader and/or teacher's responsibility to make sure that all of the participating
students have been allowed by their guardians/parents to participate in this contest.***

Teacher/Group Leader Name (over 18 years of age)

Email

School/Group Name

Address

Signature _____ **Date** _____