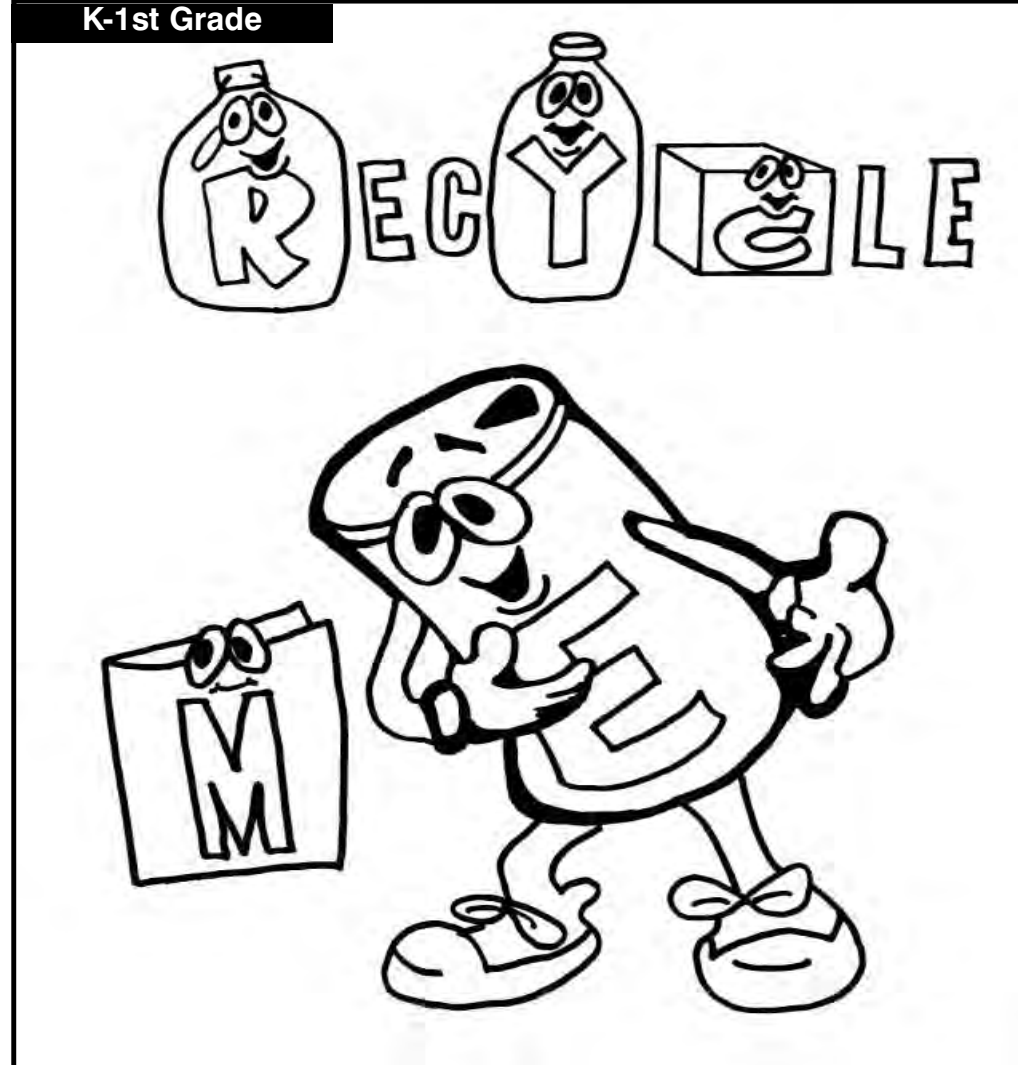


WEST VIRGINIA RECYCLES - Coloring sheets available at www.wvrecycles.com**2nd - 3rd Grade**

Rocky says, "If we're not recycling right,
we're not recycling."

K-1st Grade**REAP, Who We Are and What We Can Do For You!**

By: Sandy Rogers, State Reap Grant Program Coordinator

The Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) was a strategic initiative signed into law by Governor Joe Manchin in 2005. This plan combined solid waste and litter programs within the Division of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under one umbrella within the DEP. The REAP program provides oversight of litter removal, statewide recycling and open dump cleanups.

REAP currently administers three different grant programs. The Recycling Assistance Grant Program was established in 1991. The West Virginia Legislature made it possible to offer this recycling grant program to West Virginians through a \$1 fee imposed on every ton of solid waste disposed of at state landfills.

To date, 578 recycling grants have been awarded, totaling more than \$25.5 million, for the purpose of initiating, expanding or upgrading recycling programs and for promoting recycling through public education throughout West Virginia. Businesses that recycle can apply for these grants as well as county agencies, municipalities and schools.

The REAP Recycling Grant Program has been instrumental in establishing recycling programs in every county in West Virginia by awarding grants to county solid waste authorities, county commissions, schools, municipalities and businesses.

These grants have initiated public awareness campaigns, school recycling programs such as the School Green Team Program in Fayette County and the School Recycling Award Program in Lincoln County, and have even established county collection centers in the Mason and Barbour Counties.

Even higher education has benefitted from the REAP Grant

Program. WV Wesleyan, Shepherd, WVU at Parkersburg, WVU and Marshall have utilized REAP grants for campus recycling purposes.

But these recycling grants are not just for state and local agencies. Private businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout West Virginia like Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity and Wadestown Community Resource Center have received grants to begin or expand their recycling programs. Even the Recycling Coalition of WV received a public awareness grant to produce this informative insert. In addition, many private recyclers have received grant funding for equipment to expand or maintain daily recycling operations.

And there is more good news for recycling. In June 2008, the West Virginia Legislature passed the WV Covered Electronic Devices Manufacturer Registration and Take-Back Program. The goal is to establish a registration process for manufacturers of electronic devices, to determine if manufacturers have adopted or implemented free takeback/recycling programs for their products and award recycling grants to counties and municipalities for recycling or other programs that divert electronic devices from the waste stream.

The program started in August of 2009. Everyone throughout West Virginia will be able to benefit from these grants by taking part in bringing their electronics to a collection site instead of depositing them in a landfill.

REAP not only offers grants for recycling purposes, but also administers the Litter Control Grant Program. These grants are available to county agencies and municipalities to help promote

litter awareness and administer litter cleanup programs. Funding for these grants is provided by litter fines imposed on those who violate state litter laws. Since 1992, 202 Litter Control Grants have been awarded.

But REAP has much more to offer than just grants. The Open Dump Cleanup Program uses landfill fees to clean up illegal dumps and gather evidence to prosecute illegal dumping activity. More than 13,544 projects have resulted in the removal of an estimated 138,829 tons of material, including 25,100 tons of steel, 59,392 appliances and 1,745,000 tires. We urge West Virginia citizens to report open dumps on the litter hotline at 1-800-322-5530 and to take part in the annual Tire Amnesty Day that REAP provides to every county within West Virginia free of charge.

REAP's Adopt-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Spot Program are co-sponsored by the Division of Highways and the Department of Environmental Protection. These programs offer volunteers the opportunity to take charge of their own environment by making a positive effort to create a cleaner, more aesthetic place in which to live.

More information about what REAP has to offer, as well as applications to Adopt-A-Highway, Adopt-A-Spot and the grant programs are available on line at www.wvdep.org. Information can also be obtained by calling REAP at 1-800-322-5530. REAP's staff is happy to help West Virginia communities and volunteers keep the state litter free by reducing solid waste, and helping the environment.