

INFORMATION BULLETIN
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Ministry of Education

Back-to-school tips to help the environment

VICTORIA - As families across British Columbia get ready to send their kids back to school, here are some tips to help families make this a green school year:

At School:

- * When shopping for school supplies, buy products that are reusable or have recyclable packaging, and reuse leftover school supplies from the previous school year.
- * Encourage children to use the water fountains at school, instead of relying on bottled water.
- * Help your children to become active in an existing recycling club at school, or to start one themselves.
- * Recycle as much waste as possible and aim to produce waste-free lunches for your children by sending food in reusable containers and bags, and by avoiding pre-packaged and processed foods.

At Home:

- * Clean waxed paper, plastic bags and tinfoil can be reused several times, and instead of including pre-packaged drinks in school lunches, a small thermos of cold milk or juice will cut down on unnecessary packaging.
- * Buy good-quality, long-lasting products that can be handed down to younger children.
- * Use cold water when washing clothing.
- * Encourage children to take shorter showers using a restricted-flow shower head.
- * Make sure children turn off taps when brushing their teeth instead of wasting water.
- * Encourage children to turn off lights, electronic devices and computers when not in use.

On the Road:

- * Walk or cycle with your children to school instead of driving to reduce vehicle emissions.
- * Encourage your children to take public transit to school as often as possible or arrange a neighbourhood carpool.
- * Join a car-sharing co-operative for school commutes instead of owning a car.
- * If you must drive children to school, combine the drive with some errands you need to get done.
- * Maintain proper tire inflation, check your tires weekly, and schedule regular maintenance checks for your car.

This Information Bulletin is available in French at:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/news/docs/2011/tips-environment_fr.pdf

In Chinese at:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/news/docs/2011/tips-environment_ch.pdf

In Punjabi at:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/news/docs/2011/tips-environment_pu.pdf

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