

The Green Anthem Project: Student Kit

GreenAnthem.org

*“I pledge to planet earth
that I will do everything in my power
to create a safe, healthy environment
for all living beings ...”*

Welcome and thanks for taking action. You can help save the planet!

Here are some easy, fun action steps that you and your friends can take in your community to make a difference. You can also go to **GreenAnthem.org** for more ideas, in the section titled “What can I do?”

Choose one of the following projects and follow the directions.

Please remember to always discuss anything you do with your parents and make sure that you always have at least one parent or a couple of friends with you if you approach a local store with a petition.

Let us know what you accomplish! You can e-mail us at **GreenAnthem@greenanthem.org** to tell us the details. We will post your success story on the website.

Be sure to include your name, your school (if applicable), town, and state, as well as the names of any friends, relatives, or classmates that helped you. Include the name of the store, and a description of the changes they made.

You can also send us up to three pictures of you and your friends/relatives/classmates working on your **Green Anthem** project.

If you make a video of any aspect of your project, upload your video to Utube (<http://www.youtube.com/>) and title it **Green Anthem Project at** (include the name of your school or town) and email us to let us know so that we can reference your video on **The Green Anthem** website.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

- Margaret Mead

The Green Anthem: Local Projects

Option #1: Petition a local business

1) Choose a local business that you want to turn green; look up their phone number in your local phone book or on the internet and call the store; explain **The Green Anthem Project**, by saying something like:

“Hello. I am a part of **The Green Anthem Project**. I go to (give the name of your school) and I would like to ask the manager of your store a few questions for our green project.”

If the manager isn't available, there may be someone else who can give you the answers. They will let you know.

Then ask them the following questions:

- Do you encourage shoppers to use paper instead of plastic at the register or in your advertising?
- Do you do anything to encourage your shoppers to bring a reusable shopping bag?
- Do you recycle glass and plastic in the store when your employees throw things in the trash [at the Deli counter, the fish counter, or back in workspace for the store — or whatever applies, depending on the type of business]?
- Do you use compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs in the store?

2) When you find a store that answers “no” to most of these questions, then use the petition in this kit and get signatures from your friends, teachers, parents, and relatives.

3) Call the store and make an appointment to speak with the manager; bring the petition to the local business you have chosen and present it to the manager; ask for the manager to let you know what the store plans to do.

4) If your school is planning a **Green Anthem** concert, invite the manager to come speak at the concert so that he or she can tell the assembly about the green changes they have made at their place of business.

5) When the store makes changes because of your petition, suggest that they hang the **Green Anthem** sign supplied in this kit in their window, and give them a copy. Let them know that they can download a larger-sized sign from the website on the page titled “What Materials Do I Need?” at:

GreenAnthem.org

Take a picture of the sign hanging in their window. Email it to **GreenAnthem@green-anthem.org** so that we can post it on the website.

The Green Anthem: Local Projects

Option #2: Petition your local Congressperson

Your local government has promised to represent the welfare of the people in his or her county and state. If enough citizens insist on an issue through petitions and phone calls, it is that representative's responsibility to address the problem. If you are not sure about who to contact and how to reach him or her, you can go to the following website to get that information:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

You can choose a green issue from your area or something that affects the entire country and collect signatures on a petition, or inspire your community to call your local representative.

1) Choose an important environmental issue that has meaning to you and do some research so that you have up-to-date information that you can share about it. Sadly, there are many issues to choose from, so you can start by choosing between issues that effect either air, earth, water, or global warming.

For ideas, follow the links provided at **GreenAnthem.org** on the bottom of the page titled "What Can I Do?"

2) Create a flyer that you can hand out and organize your classmates, friends, and family for a day at the local mall, supermarket, and wherever else you think is appropriate. Hand out the flyer and get signatures or inspire folks to call;

3) Make sure that your flyer explains the issue in a convincing manner, and supplies the reader with contact information (name and phone number) if you want them to make a call; include a brief description of **The Green Anthem Project**, so that they understand that you are a part of a nationwide student community project.

You can explain **The Green Anthem Project**, by saying something like: I am participating in a nationwide effort through American schools to reduce greenhouse gases, clean up the environment, and educate Americans about what they can do to create a sustainable future for our planet.

4) If your school is planning a **Green Anthem** concert, invite them to come if your teacher thinks that is a good idea.

5) Send a report and photos to **GreenAnthem.org** so that we can post your efforts on the website.

Option #3: Organize a clean-up group

If there is a park, a pond or river, or someplace else that's public in your town, and it has garbage on the ground, you can organize a group of friends to go there with plastic gloves and garbage bags to clean it up. You might even write a "letter to the editor" and submit it to your town's newspaper to describe your project. If there are no public garbage pails in that location, you can even mention that in your letter, and ask that the town put one there.

Option #4:

Choose something in your school that you want to change. Here are a few suggestions:

- Change over to biodegradable lunch trays or plates or cups, if your school uses Styrofoam. Styrofoam takes forever to biodegrade (break down) and is harmful to the health of all living things;
- Ask for beverages that come in waxed cardboard or glass bottles instead of plastic because plastic bottles take a long time to biodegrade;
- Request that the school adds recycling bins for glass, plastic, cardboard, and printer cartridges;
- Make sure that your school changes over to CFL (compact fluorescent light bulbs). Create a petition. Once you've gathered signatures, bring that petition to the principal of your school,

Option #5:

Throw a party to make reusable shopping bags and ask each student to give the bag they've made to their parents or friends to use. Or, you can stand outside of your local supermarket and give them away. For directions, use the Internet search engine to look up "free directions to make a reusable grocery bag" and choose your favorite design. Some sites will show you how to make them from items you already have in your house, while others will help you make them from fabric (like canvas) that you can buy at the local fabric store. It's pretty easy!

On the following two pages, you will find a petition that you can use (or refer to as a model for your own petition) and a sign that you can give store owners in your community if they participate in **The Green Anthem Project**. Add blank pages to the petition for your community's signatures.

If you would like to start an online petition and email friends and relatives to sign it, you can go to: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com> or google the word "petition" to find other sites.

Good luck and thanks for supporting the future of our planet!

The Green Anthem Petition

GreenAnthem.org

*I pledge to planet earth that I will do everything in my power to
create a safe, healthy environment for all living beings ...*

We, the students of _____,
Name of School
are writing to invite _____ to
Name of Business
help us create a more sustainable earth. The name and location of your store will be included on the GreenAnthem.org website. If you institute these changes and are a part of a chain nationwide, please send your logo to greenanthem@greenanthem.org and you will be listed on the endorsements page with a link to your website.

You can download a sign to place in your store window at “What Materials Do I Need?” at greenanthem.org to let the community know that you have become a green store or business.

You can reduce your carbon footprint by making the following changes in your store:

- Encourage shoppers to use paper instead of plastic at the register and in your advertising.
- Do anything you can to encourage your shoppers to bring a reusable shopping bag.
- Recycle glass and plastic in the store when your employees throw things in the trash [at the Deli counter, the fish counter, or back in the workspace for the store — whatever applies, depending on the type of business].
- Switch over to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.

On the average, how long will it take for these everyday items to biodegrade? Think about or research the damage they will they do to wildlife and human life while they are breaking down:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Paper: 2-4 Weeks | 7. Rubber Boot Sole: 50-80 Years |
| 2. Banana Peel: 3-5 Weeks | 8. Tin Can: 80-100 Years |
| 3. Wool Cap: 1 Year | 9. Aluminum Can: 200-400 Years |
| 4. Cigarette Butt: 2-5 Years (or more) | 10. Plastic 6-pack Holder: 450 Years |
| 5. Disposable Diaper: 10-20 Years | 11. Glass Bottles: A Very, Very Long Time (Forever) |
| 6. Hard Plastic Container: 20-30 Years (or more) | |
- The Green Anthem by Julie Lyonn Lieberman --- GreenAnthem.org*

**This business is participating in
THE GREEN ANTHEM
PROJECT**

**Come inside and ask us what
we are doing to help turn
this community green ...**

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