

# 5th grade Bookmark Contest



## Pollution Solution

Recently, NASA announced the earth's temperature has risen 1.8 degrees since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It's a big deal because scientists believe a 2 degree increase would result in melting ice caps, rising sea levels, warmer oceans, more hurricanes, floods, droughts, and wildfires. All of this is due to the increase of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane which are produced by humans and emitted into the air. While walking and biking are some great ways to help decrease pollution, we have some new ideas too!

### Plant a tree

Trees turn harmful carbon dioxide into oxygen, cool down our homes in summer, and protect our homes from cold winter

### Grow your own garden

Plants absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. They provide habitats and prevent erosion.

### Start to compost

Composting cuts greenhouse gases and diverts unwanted organic material from landfills.

### Use a rake instead of a leaf blower

A rake doesn't emit engine exhaust like a gas-powered blower.

### Turn off the lights

Power plants use fossil fuels to generate electricity and fossil fuels contribute to air pollution. Turn off the lights to save energy and reduce the demand for electricity.

### Fill up the dishwasher

The EPA and the University of Texas have shown that dishwashers are greatest source of indoor air pollution. Make sure the dishwasher is full before turning it on.

### Recycle and re-use paper

Most paper ends up in landfills where it decomposes and produces methane gas which is 20x more potent than carbon dioxide. Re-use paper bags. Print on both sides of a sheet of paper.

### Avoid plastics – bags, straws, utensils

Made from chemicals that contaminate the air, plastics never disappear even when they are thrown away. Plastics are an environmental menace. Use eco-friendly straws, utensils, and bottles.

The bookmark contest is sponsored by Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc. and Magyar Bank.

The winner will receive a \$100 gift card from Magyar Bank.

The winning bookmark will be printed and distributed to schools in Middlesex County.