

Kids at the Co-op

GREEN KIDS

The 6 Rs

At the Co-op, we talk about the “6 R’s”.

Recycle means to send things like bottles to be made into new stuff.

Reuse means to use things over and over again until they’re worn out.

Repurpose means that you use it for something else, like empty paper towel rolls for crafts!

Regift means giving items to friends or a thrift store and buying items from a second hand store. Your trash might be someone else’s treasure!

Repair means that you fix items up before you buy a new one, like patching up old jeans.

Refuse means bringing your own item when necessary, like a straw and shopping bag.

But how does recycling work? What happens to cans, bottles and paper after you put them in the recycling bin?

If you put a soda can in the recycling bin, it will probably be made into a new soda can. The people who make soda cans like to do this, because it takes less energy to turn an old can into a new can than to make a brand new can.

When your can gets recycled, it’s sent with millions of other cans to a factory. The cans are broken up into small pieces. The shredded cans are baked in a very hot oven, which takes off all the paint on them, and gets rid of leftover soda pop. Then the shredded cans go into a furnace, which is the hottest oven you could ever think of, where they melt into liquid metal. Then the liquid metal is poured into molds to make “ingots” which are like bricks of metal. When the factory needs the metal to make cans, they roll out the ingots into long, thin sheets of metal. This is sort of like rolling out play-dough, but the factory uses heavy metal rollers to do it, because the ingots are much harder than playdough. The metal for soda cans is rolled so thin that an ingot might make a sheet of aluminum that’s 2 miles long! This sheet of metal goes to the can factory, where they make more soda cans, and send them back to the store for you to buy.

WHERE DOES IT BELONG?

Draw arrows to the right bin

