

Intention Tree: Art Project



This Earth Day make an intention.

What will you do this year to help the planet?

Have everyone in your class or group make recycled art projects that show their conservation intentions.

Then, arrange your projects together on an Intention Tree!

Materials:

A Tree: You can use: a real tree or plant (growing in the ground or in a pot), a tree made out of recycled materials (the one in the picture above was built with discarded wood and branches), a plastic tree, or even a large 2-d picture of a tree on some open wall space. If time allows have your class make the tree!

Recycled Materials: Gather yoghurt containers, corks, paper bags, toilet paper tubes, cereal boxes, canisters and other materials that can be used for building!

Art Supplies: Gather scissors, glue, yarn, ribbon, hole punchers, markers, and construction paper.

Intention Ideas and Art Samples: Have a bunch of conservation intention ideas at the ready.

Make a few sample art projects with recycled materials that your group can use as examples. See the

following pages for intention ideas and art project ideas. Let your participants work creatively with the materials and intentions. If it is hard for someone to pick a conservation intention for the year remind them that “making art with recycled materials” is a great intention, and they are about to do that!

Intention Ideas

There is so much we can do to help the earth. Our actions matter and actions begin with intentions! Here are some ideas grouped into 5 main categories. Take a look and then brainstorm your own!

1. Reuse items creatively!

Make art using recycled materials!

Plant seed starts in biodegradable materials (news-papers, egg cartons, etc.)

Sew old clothes into new ones.

2. Learn about an animal, and what you can do in your life to help it!

Help protect sea turtles by using fabric reusable shopping bags, instead of plastic ones.

Help protect gorillas by responsibly recycling your electronics.

3. Reduce Use!

Turn off lights when you're not in the room.

Reduce water use.

Use reusable plates, silverware and napkins.

Use a reusable water bottle and coffee mug.



Cork butterflies and bees!



Bear paper dolls made from recycled paper bags!

4. Help Create/Support Local, Sustainable Foods!

Plant your own garden!

Learn about non-GMO seeds and help preserve diversity in plants.

Learn how pollinators help food grow

Plant a pollinator garden.

Buy sustainably harvested seafood.

Support local agriculture.

Start a compost pile.

Raise chickens.

5. Be an advocate for the earth!

Use your vote to support plants, animals, clean environments and communities.

Write to politicians and legislators encouraging them to support earth issues you care about.

Volunteer with a conservation organization!

Donate to conservation organizations.

Recycled Art Project Ideas

There are many art projects that can be constructed using recycled materials. Play with the materials and see what you can make! Here are some ideas to get you started:



Cork Bees or Butterflies: Decorate a cork with construction paper wings. Add ribbon (or pipe cleaner) antennae, stripes, eyes and anything else you think your insect needs! Tie a ribbon around the finished creature so it can fly or hang from the tree. Intention Example for this project: "I will plant a pollinator garden!"

TP Tube Snakes: String yarn through 5-6 tp tubes. Use a hole punch to make holes on the first tube and the last tube, then tie the yarn through the holes to your snake stays together. Glue on button eyes, construction paper scale patterns, a tongue and maybe even a rattle! Intention Example for this project: "I will learn about endangered snakes and what I can do to help."

Yoghurt Container Turtle: Decorate a yoghurt container like the back of a turtle. Glue on paper legs (fins for sea turtles, feet for land turtles) and a head! Intention Example for this project: "I will help sea turtles by using a reusable shopping bag instead of plastic ones they might mistake for jellies."

Intention Chain: This is a good project for people to do together, or to do gradually. It can be used to brainstorm a lot of intention ideas, and it is fun to make longer and longer. Write an intention on a rectangle of paper that is about 3 inches high by 8 inches wide (paper bag paper works well!). Glue the ends together to make a circle. The next link in the chain (another intention) will be glued so that it goes through the center of the first link and so on until you have a long intention chain to decorate the tree with!

Favorite Animal Sculpture: Glue or tape recycled materials together to create your favorite animal. This can be a really fun project and has fun creative results! If the sculpture will not hang from the tree have the artist find somewhere to set it in the branches or beside the tree.

Enjoy!