



“Rethink Recycling” Sculpture Contest

The Sculpture Contest will be held on **Friday, November 21, 2025** at the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. High school students have been invited to create sculptures made of recycled or reused materials. Light fare and beverages will be served. Approximately 250 people are expected to attend the event.

The MDE Recycling Program:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) promotes and encourages recycling and source reduction across the State. This is accomplished by partnering with Maryland’s local governments and the public and private sectors to develop markets for recyclable materials, and by working with other State agencies to increase the volume of materials they recycle. In 1988, the Maryland Recycling Act authorized MDE to reduce the disposal of solid waste in Maryland through management and education. MDE encourages the recycling of all materials because of the environmental and economic benefits that recycling provides.

America Recycles Day (ARD) is a national event that unites business, environmental and civic groups, and local, state, federal government agencies to promote recycling, source reduction and buying products made from recycled materials as means to a more sustainable society. In celebration of ARD, MDE has created the “Rethink Recycling” Sculpture Contest and judging ceremony to display students’ creativity and promote recycling and reuse.

Goals of the Sculpture Contest:

The Sculpture Contest helps MDE achieve the goal of promoting and encouraging waste reduction in the State of Maryland. We are able to educate and empower students and the general public to reuse and recycle materials that would have otherwise gone to disposal. The Sculpture Contest and judging ceremony is a great opportunity for celebrating efforts of the student artists, for media exposure, and for promoting waste prevention to the general public. Past events have received recognition in local, state and national publications.

Contest Judging:

Sculptures are judged on creativity, workmanship and use of recycled materials. A “People’s Choice” category has also been added. The variety of recycled materials is also considered in the judging. Prizes will be provided from corporate and non-profit organization sponsors.

Student Objectives:

The Sculpture Contest challenges students to innovatively and artistically use recycled materials as a solution to waste reduction. Students will use problem-solving skills to create a sculpture made of recycled materials. Students will be able to work hands-on with recycled materials and explore an environmental issue through art. The Sculpture Contest will allow students to understand that there are many opportunities to reduce waste in our everyday activities and to express their creativity.

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