



## Trashmagination Podcast #29

### America Recycles Day & Similar Events Around the World

Welcome to Trashmagination, a podcast about reimagining trash. I'm Carla Brown.

November 15 is America Recycles Day [<https://americarecyclesday.org/>]. In today's podcast, we'll share ideas about how to celebrate recycling in your hometown.

Here are events like America Recycles Day around the world. Many countries celebrate recycling in October or November.

Country	Celebration Name	Dates in 2017	Website
Australia	National Recycling Week	Nov 13-19	<a href="http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/">http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/</a>
Canada	Waste Reduction Week	Oct 16-22	<a href="http://wrwcanada.com/en">http://wrwcanada.com/en</a>
Europe	European Week for Waste Reduction	Nov 18-26	<a href="http://www.ewwr.eu/en/project/main-features">http://www.ewwr.eu/en/project/main-features</a>
Japan	ごみ減量・リサイクル推進週間	May 30-June 5	
New Zealand	National Recycling Week	Nov 6-12	<a href="http://www.recycle.co.nz/recycleweek.php">http://www.recycle.co.nz/recycleweek.php</a>
South Africa	Clean-up & Recycling Week	Sept 11-16	<a href="http://www.cleanup-sa.co.za/home.htm">http://www.cleanup-sa.co.za/home.htm</a>
United Kingdom	Recycling Week	Sept 25-Oct 1	<a href="http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/recycle-week-2017">http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/recycle-week-2017</a>

If you know other events in other places that celebrate recycling, please let me know at [trashmagination@gmail.com](mailto:trashmagination@gmail.com).

There is controversy when it comes to recycling – concerns such as:

- 1) It would be better if we did not use those materials in the first place.
- 2) A lot of recycling materials are shipped places where they are not necessarily recycled.
- 3) It takes a lot of energy to recycle materials.
- 4) When we focus on recycling, we don't focus on pressuring companies to rethink packaging or asking the government to improve legislation.

Those are all important concerns. I hope we can think of America Recycles Day and similar events as an opportunity to increase our mindfulness around which companies we support. So this November, what could you do to support more creative reuse in your communities?

The America Recycles Day website has a searchable map of events. In my area, there is a trash fashion show at a Boys and Girls Club, which I love as discussed in episode 13 of this podcast.

On November 11-12, Barnes and Noble stores are hosting Makers to present what they make. Trashmagination will be at the Tysons Corner mall on Saturday November 11 from 12-4pm. Come say hi!

Another way to celebrate creative reuse this month is with your holiday shopping. There are craft sales and local business events every weekend in November in my area. Many don't offer items made from recycled materials, but if you find a craftsperson who is using recycled materials, support them!

Trashmagination will be at the Herndon High School Holiday Sale on Saturday November 18 from 8am-2pm where I will sell shark anatomy models, cube organizers, rugs woven from plastic bags and other creative reuse crafts. It would mean so much to see you there!

So how do people celebrate America Recycles Day and similar events around the world?

- Collection events for items that don't go in a recycling bin, such as bicycles or hazardous chemicals like paint
- paper shredding or bicycle repair events
- worm composting tutorials
- clothing or toy swaps
- repair cafés where people bring items and others fix them or teach how to fix them
- tours of recycling centers and transfer stations

My favorite events are those where people learn creative reuse skills through events such as a trash fashion show, zero-waste cooking classes or paper-making workshops. Here are ideas of recycling community events from around the world that might inspire you:

- **Neighborhood Street Swap** - In Barcelona, people put out items that they don't need for their neighbors to take. Each street is on a schedule. A common item is scrap wood.
- **Give Box** – In Berlin, volunteers built an actual box about the size of a room. They put wallpaper, shelves and a closet rod to hang up clothing. People could put items in there to share.
- **The Wasted Swap** – This virtual event is hosted by Trash2Tees [<https://trashn2tees.blogspot.com/2017/09/sign-up-for-wasted-swap-20.html>]. People make a bag from recycled materials, and then Jenelle partners them with someone else who registers in the swap. Sign-ups are now full, but what a great idea!
- **Kuru-Kuru Shop** – The people in the Japanese town of Kamikatsu decided to work hard at becoming zero waste by sorting their discards into 45 categories. They have a shop where they make things from discarded items called the Kuru-Kuru Shop – Kuru-Kuru means Circle. When people bring items into the shop, they write down the weight of items that are brought in and the weight of items that are taken away. There is a great TED Talk about it which I'll embed on the podcast page.
- **Recycling Sculpture Contest** – Not far from me in Baltimore, the Maryland Department of the Environment is hosting a sculpture contest for high school students on November 30 [<http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/EducationandOutreach.aspx>]. I hope to attend and get inspired!

## So Thanks for Listening!

To celebrate America Recycles Day or similar events near you, I hope you support craftspeople making items from recycled materials and visit local businesses that collect items for reuse.

Also, let's try something fun! Take a photo of anything made from recycled materials and give it the hashtag #trashmagination on social media. I would love to see all the great items you are making or purchasing that support creative reuse.

Until next time – may you see trash as just another source of art in your life.