Reuse, Reduce, And Recycle!

Background
As learned from the video, conservation is needed to help the planet Earth, and have resources for longer time. What happens to the paper we throw in the recycle bin daily? How can you recycle your own paper and give it another creative use?

Pre-lab Questions
With your group discuss and record different ways you can conserve resources:
1. What do you do at home that helps conservation?

2. What do you do in school that helps conservation?

3. What other things do you think you can do to help?

Materials
- Blender
- Paper (newspaper, class paper, junk mail paper, etc. to be recycled)
- Water
- Measuring cup
- Wide plastic bin
- Thin Cloth
- iPad (optional)
- Balance
- Heavy Object (ex: Book)

Safety
- The blender may only be operated by the teacher. When blending the paper, make sure you close the blender correctly, do not touch the blades.
- Students should wear proper safety gear during chemistry demonstrations. Safety goggles and lab apron are required.

Procedure
1. Each person in your group should choose a different type of paper mixture.
2. When you decide on your paper type, collect it from your teacher (you may have to wait for it to be blended). Pour the mixture into a plastic container.
3. Mix the water with the blended paper to remove the pulp from the bottom of the container.
4. Submerge the strainer in the mixture.
5. Remove strainer, and wait for excess water to be drained. Use your fingers to press gently.
6. Add decorations (optional) such as glitter, seeds, leaves, small pieces of color paper, etc.
7. Cover it with a thin wet cloth and turn it upside down to remove it from the strainer.
8. Measure its mass on the balance and record the weight in the data table below.
9. Let it form and dry by layering the papers with the cloth separating each paper. Place a heavy object such as a book on the top of the cloth. It can take up to 30 minutes to completely dry while outside under the sun, or wait if it will be dried inside, allow it to dry overnight.
10. Measure the mass of your dry paper and record the weight in the data table below.

| Data |
|------|------------------|------------------|
| Group Papers | Mass of Wet paper | Mass of Dried Paper |
| Paper 1 | | |
| Paper 2 | | |
| Paper 3 | | |
| Paper 4 | | |

**Analysis**

1. What can you use your recycled paper for? What projects can you create with it?

2. What other things can be reduced or recycled at school or at home instead of throwing them away?

3. Why is it important that we conserve our natural resources?

4. Did the paper weight the same when it was wet? Why? What happened to the water in the wet paper?

**Conclusion**

Now that you have learned how to create your own recycle paper, possibilities and uses are endless. You can continue doing this project at home with an adult supervision and pass it on to future generations! Create your own video on the iPad and spread the word!