Paperouflaged

Purpose of Activity: To learn how to make recycled paper, encouraging use of it moving forward.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes:
By actively participating in this activity, participants will:
- Learn how to make recycled paper
- Learn about the impact using recycled paper can have on the planet
- Be motivated to use recycled paper in the future

Materials Needed:
- Scrap paper (butcher paper scraps, construction paper scraps, old homework, wrapping paper, etc.) DO NOT use new paper or glossy/shiny paper
- 2 old picture frames the same size (I recommend going to a thrift store to purchase used frames if you don’t have some you’re willing to use)
- Pantyhose
- A blender
- White glue
- Large tub (big enough for picture frames to fit in)
- Towels
- Optional:
  - Rolling pin
  - Food coloring and gloves

Facilitation Guide
1. To make paper:
   a. Remove glass etc. from the picture frames.
   b. Stretch panty hose over the frames—you may want to staple them down if it’s not tight
   c. Rip scrap paper into small pieces, and inch or less
   d. Fill your blender about halfway with paper scraps
   e. Add water and blend
   f. Fill tub about halfway with water
   g. Add approximately 2 tablespoons of white glue for every couple of gallons. Just eyeball it
   h. Add blender mixture to tub and mix with your hands to combine paper, glue, and water
   i. Repeat the process until you feel you have enough pulp to make paper for everyone at the program
j. If you want colored paper, add food coloring. If you do this, you will want to use gloves moving forward
k. Dip one frame below the pulp mix
l. Shake gently to get an even covering over screen
m. Put the second frame on top of the first, using the second screen to help squeeze out water and press the paper into shape
n. Pull out of the tub and let drip dry
o. Lay out a flat towel
p. Remove the top of the frame and turn the bottom so it falls out on the towel
q. Place another towel on top of the paper and gently press to remove water
r. If you have a rolling pin, use it now. Roll it on top of the towel, not directly on the paper
s. Let the paper dry overnight

2. While you’re making paper, explain:
   a. Throwing away paper has a big impact on the planet. If instead of throwing away a ton of paper it was recycled, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency, we would save
      i. Enough energy to power the average American home for six months
         ii. 7,000 gallons of water
         iii. 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space
         iv. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one metric ton of carbon equivalents
   b. To put this in perspective,
      i. If you use 1 case of paper (10 reams) of paper each month for a year, you would need approximately 1 ton of wood, or eight 40 foot trees
      ii. If you use 30% recycled content paper, you only need 5 trees
      iii. Consider buying 100% recycled content paper to cut it down to no trees!

Helpful Hints:
1. You may want to iron the paper with a cool iron after it has dried. It will make the paper smoother and easier to write on
2. You can contact Jill Ramirez at sustainability@life.arizona.edu to borrow the materials (blender, tub, etc.)