

Student makes fashion statement for recycling

By SARAH PEACHEY
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FORT POLK, La. — **Editor's note:** This is the first of a series of Guardian articles focusing on community members that are making a difference by recycling, reusing or rethinking about waste products and contributing to a Net Zero lifestyle. They are "Net Zero Heroes."

Isabelle Hernandez, a Fort Polk Family member, 12, has been recycling for the last few years at home. In October 2011, she came up with a new idea to save — snack bag hair bows. In less than five minutes, Hernandez can turn a waste product into a fashion statement with some twisting, fastening and tying.

"I had a candy wrapper one day and I started twisting it different ways to make a hair bow. I thought that if it worked with one, it would work with others. I'm also reusing them instead of throwing them away," she said. She wore one almost every day at school after that.

Since her initial creation, Hernandez's peers and friends have asked where she bought her bows. When they found out she was making each one, they asked her to make some bows for them. She even taught her friends how to make the bows.

While the bows can make a fashion statement, Hernandez said she hopes they are also an environmental statement. "Maybe now

my friends and other students will think before they throw something away," she said.

Hernandez's mother, Lillian, said she wasn't surprised to see her daughter making the bows. "She's always been creative. What surprised me most was that she chose to reuse materials and how popular the idea became among her classmates," she said.

Hernandez has plans to continue to reuse waste products. "I saw a girl one day with a bag made out of Capri Sun bags. I hope to do something similar. Ideas still come to me, but I haven't decided yet to do a specific thing," she said.

If someone within your community is implementing the concepts of rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle, nominate them as a Net Zero Hero by emailing thefortpolk-guardian@yahoo.com.



Isabelle Hernandez shows off one of her hair bow creations.



Isabelle Hernandez, 12, demonstrates how she makes her snack bag hair bows. She says the idea came to her when she started twisting a candy wrapper and made her first bow. Hernandez hopes to expand her reusable materials crafting to create other items such as bags.



Try duplex printing, copying to save paper at Fort Polk

NET ZERO WASTE

FORT POLK, La. — Despite the movement to transition to an all-electronic communication system, paper is still a viable and necessary component of information exchange. You have to use paper for some things but there are ways to conserve it.

An almost painless way to reduce your paper usage by close to 50 percent is to print or copy on both sides of the paper. Double-sided printing and copying is known as duplex printing. Today this requires the computer or copy machine

user to make an extra effort. However, soon this will change at Fort Polk.

Fort Polk's Net Zero Waste initiative and Network Enterprise Center have teamed up to develop plans to change all networked printers to print to double-sided as a default.

Users will not be prevented from printing single-sided. However, just as it takes some extra effort to print double-sided today, in the near future it will take the same amount of effort to print single-sided.

NEC is putting together a simple guide to explain how single-sided printing will be done, when needed, in the future. This guide will be available prior to changing the default settings of the net-

worked printers.

You do not have to wait to implement this cost- and resource-saving idea. You can begin printing and copying double-sided immediately. If you already know how to print double-sided, you can do a search on your computer to find instructions on how to switch to duplex printing. If you need additional help call NEC at (866) 335-2769.

Your efforts in using both sides of the paper can make a noticeable difference in the amount of paper consumed at Fort Polk. This is in direct support of the Net Zero Waste initiative to reduce landfill waste by 2020. Please remember, at Fort Polk, "Everything is a Resource."

If you have ideas on how to change processes in accordance with the Net Zero Waste effort, or if you would like to become involved, call 531-6008.

