

Environmental Education: 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

Garbage Habits at Home Survey

Background Information

In order to extend the life of our landfill we must work together to reduce the amount of garbage we throw away. With current rates of disposal, Hartland Landfill will be full in about 25 years. Our regional goal is to reduce per capital garbage disposal from 380kg to 250kg per person, per year, and extend the life of Hartland Landfill to 2100.

Activity Instructions

Complete the survey to get an idea of ways you may (or may not) be diverting waste from the landfill. Check all the boxes that apply to your family's waste habits. Don't worry if, in some questions, none of the answers apply to you. Just leave that question blank and go on to the next.

Garbage

1. In the last week my family threw out _____ cans or bags of garbage.

Recycling

2. Where I live:

- We recycle in our own blue box and blue recycling bag
- We recycle in big recycling totes or bins
- We take some or all of our recyclables to a recycling depot
- We return recyclable beverage containers for a refund
- Other (explain) _____

3. At home we recycle:

- Newspapers, magazines, writing paper, envelopes, junk mail and other papers
- Cardboard and paperboard boxes (like cereal or shoe boxes)
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic milk jugs
- Cartons and polycoat containers (like soup boxes, milk cartons, ice cream containers, to-go cups)
- Pizza boxes
- Plastic containers (like shampoo bottles, cleaning products and yogurt containers)
- Metal cans
- Clean aluminum plates and foil
- Other items such as _____

4. We take the following items to a recycle drop-off or collection depot:

- Plastic shopping bags
- Plastic overwrap (bread bags, produce bags, plastic wrapping from paper towels or soft drink flats)
- Foam packaging (like meat trays, foam egg cartons, foam cushion packaging)
- Flexible plastics (frozen food zipper pouches, chip bags, candy bar wrappers, cereal bags, dry pasta packaging, net produce bags, bubble wrap)

Organics (Kitchen Scraps and Yard and Garden)

5. As far as composting goes in my home, we have:

_____ A curbside kitchen scraps tote _____ A worm compost bin _____ A backyard compost bin

6. We compost the following items:

- _____ Fruit and vegetable scraps
- _____ Food leftovers, plate scrapings
- _____ Coffee grounds and tea leaves
- _____ Eggshells and seafood shells
- _____ Meat and fish bones
- _____ Soiled paper food packaging
- _____ Used paper cups and plates
- _____ Butcher and parchment papers
- _____ Solidified fats and grease
- _____ Wooden stir sticks and chop sticks
- _____ Certified compostable food waste bags
- _____ Houseplants, cut and dried flowers

7. When we mow the lawn or clean up the garden we:

- _____ Leave the grass clippings on the lawn
- _____ Put grass and garden trimmings in our backyard compost bin
- _____ Take grass and garden trimmings to a drop-off facility

Household Hazardous Waste

8. We take the following items to a recycling or disposal depot:

- _____ Paint, paint thinners and solvents
- _____ Pesticides
- _____ Motor oil and oil filters
- _____ Batteries (household and lead-acid)
- _____ Automotive fluids
- _____ Cleaners
- _____ Swimming pool and spa/hot tub chemicals
- _____ Empty propane tanks
- _____ Thermostats and smoke detectors
- _____ Cell phones
- _____ Lightbulbs
- _____ Unused or expired medicine

Did you know?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any waste from your home that you consider to be dangerous or think might be dangerous.

It includes any leftover household product that is marked flammable, corrosive, explosive or poison.

For more information visit crd.bc.ca/hhw



Reducing and Rethinking

9. When I pack meals I use:

- _____ A reusable lunch bag
- _____ A thermos or reusable bottle
- _____ Reusable containers
- _____ Reusable cutlery

10. Before I buy something, I ask myself:

- _____ Do I really need this?
- _____ Can I buy it with less packaging?
- _____ Can it be used again and again?
- _____ Can someone else use it when I'm finished with it?
- _____ Can it be recycled after I'm finished with it?