Recycle Activity

- Introduce awareness of the many opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle garbage in the CRD
- make local garbage and recycling information “real” for students and their families

Garbage Habits at Home (2-7)

**Intro:** Every year, in the Capital Regional District, about 140,000 tonnes of garbage is sent to the Hartland Landfill. Every person, every household, every business, every school, every construction and demolition project adds to that garbage every day. As individuals, we can reduce the amount of garbage by practicing the 3R’s and taking advantage of the waste diversion programs available in the capital region.

**Materials:**
- copies of the Student Survey “Garbage Habits at Home” for distribution to the class (copy double-sided)

**Activity:** In small groups or as a class discuss, “What I know now about garbage and recycling” and “What I want to know about garbage and recycling”. Talk about the need to reduce garbage in the Capital Regional District. Have students share the ways they presently reduce garbage at home and at school. Give each student a survey and discuss. Emphasize the importance of completing the survey at home and returning it to school.

After all surveys are complete, ask the students to create bar graphs or calculate percentages to demonstrate the ways in which members of the class recycle at home, the number of families recycling different materials, the number of families who compost, and so on. Discuss each question, drawing on students’ answers and ideas about what they do now or could do in the future to reduce garbage.

Have students compute the amount of garbage they are personally responsible for making in one year with this simple exercise (taken from the book *Trash Attack*).

- In one week, my family threw out _____ cans or bags of garbage.
- There are _____ people in my home
- My share of this garbage is the number of cans or bags divided by the number of people in my home. That means I make about _____ cans or bags of garbage each week.
- There are 52 weeks in a year. If I multiply 52 by the number of cans or bags of garbage I make each week it equals _____. That’s how much garbage I make in one year.

**IRP outcomes**

*It is expected that students will:*

- [SS] Evaluate effects of technology on lifestyles and environments (6)
- [SS] Describe their responsibility to the local environment (2-3)
- [SS] Formulate strategies to address problems or issues (3-4)
- [SS] Apply critical thinking skills (3-7)
- [PP] Explain how various factors influence personal and group goal achievement (4)
- [PP] Practice responsible decision-making (7)
- [PP] Describe the influence of family and peers on their attitudes and values (2-3)
- [SC] Determine how personal choices and actions have environmental consequences (4)
- [MA] Demonstrate an understanding of division and multiplication (4-7)
Recycle Activity

Garbage Habits at Home

Student Survey

Check all the boxes that apply to your family’s garbage 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. These are all the things we recycle at home:
   _____ Newspapers
   _____ Magazines, writing paper, envelopes, (even with windows), junk mail and other papers
   _____ Cardboard and paperboard boxes (like cereal or shoe boxes)
   _____ Glass bottles and jars
   _____ Plastic milk jugs
   _____ Polycoat containers (like soup boxes and cartons of juice)
   _____ Pizza boxes
   _____ Rigid plastic containers (like shampoo bottles, cleaning products and yogurt containers)
   _____ Metal cans
   _____ Clean aluminum plates and foil
   _____ Other items such as_________________________________

4. As far as composting goes in my home, we have
   _____ A curbside kitchen scraps tote  _____ A worm compost bin
   _____ A backyard compost bin  _____ A backyard digester bin

5. We compost the following items:
   _____ Orange peels and apple cores
   _____ Coffee grounds and tea bags
   _____ Washed eggshells
   _____ Grass clippings
   _____ Dead flowers
   _____ Other (explain)_________________________________

Parent’s note
This survey is part of our classroom’s commitment to learn more about how we can reduce garbage and make recycling information “real” for your child. We’ll discuss the classroom data as a whole (no individual results) so that children gain insight into what everyone does to reduce garbage.

Did you know?

Recycling makes a measurable difference.

Since the beginning of the CRD Blue Box program, residents have recycled more than 200,000 tonnes of material.

For more information, visit: www.crd.bc.ca/recycle

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Recycle Activity

Yard and Garden Trimmings
6. 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
7. We take the following items to an approved 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
   _____ Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs)
   _____ Unused or expired medicine

Rethinking
8. When I pack my lunch I use:
   _____ A reusable lunch bag
   _____ A thermos or reusable bottle for my drink
   _____ Reusable containers to hold my food
   _____ Other (explain)_____________________________________

9. Before I buy something, I ask myself:
   _____ Do I really need this or can I use something I already have?
   _____ 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?
   _____ Other (explain)_____________________________________

10. I encourage other people in my home to reduce, reuse and recycle:
    _____ All the time
    _____ Sometimes

11. Here are three things I will do to reduce garbage in my house:
    1. _______________________________________________
    2. _______________________________________________
    3. _______________________________________________

Did you know?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any waste from your home that you consider to be dangerous or of which you are unsure.

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

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