

- 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)

### 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)*

**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.

## 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](http://www.crd.bc.ca/recycle)

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

For more information, visit:

[www.crd.bc.ca/hhw](http://www.crd.bc.ca/hhw)

## 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. \_\_\_\_\_