Recycle Activity

• understand what is required to properly prepare recyclables for collection
• understand the importance of properly preparing recyclables for collection

Make It Fit! (2-3)

Intro: Properly preparing all recyclables for collection helps to ensure a successful recycling program. By flattening milk jugs, other plastic containers and boxes, more recyclables can fit in each recycling truck. Each recycling truck in Victoria stops at about 460 houses per day. The more materials each truck can hold, the more efficient and effective the recycling program becomes.

Materials:
• rubber gloves
• empty polycoat containers (milk carton, soup or juice boxes)
• 1 litre ice-cream container

Activity: Divide the students into small working groups. Each group is given the challenge of seeing how many polycoat containers they can fit into a 1 litre ice-cream container. Using rubber gloves (possibly done outside to avoid a mess), have the students take the polycoat containers from the recycling containers and begin the challenge. Once finished, students can weigh the containers to determine mass.

Conclusion/Discussion: What strategies did your group use to make the polycoat containers smaller and to make room for more boxes? For example, remove all contents, unfold sides then flatten the box. What other containers do the students have at home? List. Can any of them be flattened? Which ones? For a complete list of materials accepted for recycling in the CRD’s Blue Box program, refer to the CRD’s website: www.crd.bc.ca/recycling. Remember the 3R’s. Could any of these items be reduced (avoided) or reused before being recycled?

Extension Activities: ■ Tour a recycling depot. ■ Create a poster to remind others how to prepare various items for recycling. If your school is not participating in the Encorp School Recycling Program*, register on-line at: www.encorp.ca/youth or call 1.800.330.9767.

*Encorp Pacific is a non-profit organization that manages B.C.’s non-alcoholic beverage container recovery system. In 2000, Encorp operated a pilot program in the Burnaby School District and determined that an average elementary school can raise approximately $50- $100 per month by collecting refundable beverage containers. This program is now extended to all schools in British Columbia. The program is free of charge to schools and schools will receive full deposits on all collected containers.