
▶ WASTE MINIMIZATION – GRADE 4

Big Ecological Idea #1:

Materials used in the production and construction of the things we use (inputs) and their disposal (outputs) alter the landscape.

- a) Canada is among the world's highest waste-generating nations.
- b) Waste in communities affects the local landscape in a variety of ways (landfill sites, litter, air quality, water quality, transportation).
- c) Significant *inputs* include natural resources (trees from forests, minerals from mines, oil from oil fields) and transportation systems (highways) to move materials.
- d) Significant *outputs* include landfill sites and the transportation systems required to move waste to them.
- e) Communities can reduce the need for landfill space by helping people to reuse and recycle things and to compost food and garden waste (e.g., recycling programs for paper and cardboard, aluminum, plastic, glass, and milk cartons; some communities also collect garden and food waste for composting).

Clustering of Expectations

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY—Understanding Earth and Space Systems: Rocks and Minerals (2007)

- 1.1 assess the social and environmental costs and benefits of using objects in the built environment that are made from rocks and minerals
- 1.2 analyse the impact on society and the environment of extracting and refining rocks and minerals for human use, taking different perspectives into account

Suggested Resource Websites

Wherever possible, the material from these websites has also been archived on the Ontario EcoSchools site at www.ontarioecoschools.org

UNWRAPPING PACKAGING

The students will be able to examine product packaging to determine whether packaging is excessive and whether it is recyclable. The students will be able to identify waste reduction techniques.

http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/enved/Rec_Lessons/unwrap.htm

SAFE DISPOSAL OF WASTE – MINI LANDFILLS: WHERE IS “AWAY”?

Where does most of our waste go? And what happens to it then? Students will be able to answer these questions and consider alternatives after building their own miniature landfill jars to study different kinds of waste. Organic and inorganic, biodegradable and non-biodegradable, and ideas for reduction are some of the topics covered in this exercise. (United States Environmental Protection Agency, produced by the Purdue Research Foundation)

<http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/housewaste/quiz/wisc1.htm>
