



# A Resource Guide of Solid Waste Educational Materials



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# Introduction

Solid waste issues are an important part of many science and environmental education classes. To help teachers and students identify resources for teaching and learning about solid waste, the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Solid Waste compiled this guide of nearly 50 solid waste-related educational materials. The materials were developed by industry associations, educational institutes, state governments, environmental groups, and other organizations.

The guide includes curricula, activity guides, videos, and Internet sites that contain information on a variety of solid waste topics such as source reduction, recycling, reuse, household hazardous waste, and composting (see the Index by Key Word for a complete list of solid waste topic areas covered). All of the materials can be used in a classroom or after-school setting by teachers and students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

In evaluating materials to include in the bibliography, EPA used the following criteria:

- Contains information on key solid waste topic areas
- Contains recent information (i.e., 1990 or later)
- Contains information for teachers and students

EPA would like to learn from you of additional solid waste-related educational materials. Feel free to send a review copy of an educational material to EPA's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Information Center at the address below. EPA will periodically update this bibliography to include additional materials that meet the above criteria.

RCRA Information Center (5305W)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, SW.  
Washington, DC 20460  
E-mail: rcra-docket@epamail.epa.gov

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## Solid Waste Educational Materials

**Title:** **Bill Nye the Science Guy: Garbage**

**Publisher:** Disney Educational Productions  
105 Terry Drive, Suite 120  
Newton, PA 18940-3425  
800 295-5010

**Date Published:** 1996

**Cost:** \$49.95

**Audience:** Students in grades 3 through 8

**Format:** Video

**Key Words:** Composting, hazardous waste, household hazardous waste, industrial waste, littering, packaging issues, product life cycle, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction

**Abstract:** In this video, Bill Nye and his troop of young scientists tackle the issue of garbage during 26 minutes of fast-paced practical information. The participants explain how all living things produce waste, but that the amount and the type of waste that humans produce pose a threat to other organisms. Nye distinguishes between biodegradable and nonbiodegradable waste and advises viewers on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle before filling more landfill space. The program covers a wide range of related topics, including pollution, hazardous waste disposal, and threatened animals. The video concludes with a clever parody of Aretha Franklin's song, "RESPECT," entitled "RECYCLE." The tape also includes an episode on biodiversity.

**Title:** **Closing the Loop: Integrated Waste Management Activities for School and Home (K through 12 Edition)**

**Publisher:** Chadbourne & Chadbourne, Inc.  
18554 Haskins Road  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023-1823  
216 543-7303 or 800 484-7949+1993

**Date Published:** 1993

**Cost:** \$32 plus \$3 shipping and handling

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12

**Format:** Curriculum

**Key Words:** Composting, hazardous waste, household hazardous waste, littering, packaging issues, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction

**Abstract:** This comprehensive 439-page curriculum includes activities that can be adjusted for different grade levels and across subject areas. Activities cover issues such as solid waste; alternatives to incineration and landfilling; developing a school reduction, reuse, and recycling program; and ozone depletion. The curriculum also includes several activities that students can perform at home to learn about waste management. It can be used in conjunction with the Administrator's Manual (\$14), a handbook for schools to use in planning, designing, and implementing a waste management program. The curriculum is also available in Spanish.

**Title:** **Come Along to Trash-to-Treasure Land**

**Publisher:** Environmental Hazards Management Institute  
10 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
603 868-1496 or 800 558-EHMI

**Date Published:** 1996

**Cost:** \$0.75 each; minimum order of 100

**Audience:** Students in grades K through 3

**Format:** Coloring book/Activity guide

**Key Words:** Composting, recycling, reuse, source reduction

**Abstract:** This 12-page coloring and activity book introduces children to reducing, reusing, and recycling. It includes a crossword puzzle, word search, maze, and space for children to draw their own pictures.

**Title:** **Community Activity Sheets**

**Publisher:** Steel Recycling Institute  
Foster Plaza, Number 10  
680 Andersen Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220-2700  
800 876-SCRI

**Date Published:** 1997

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Teachers and students in grades K through 6, community groups

**Format:** Activity guide

**Key Words:** Recycling

**Abstract:** These sheets lead young people through various exercises, games, and explanations that help them learn about recycling steel and other materials.

**Title: Composting Matters**

**Publisher:** Environmental Hazards Management Institute  
10 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
603 868-1496 or 800 558-EHMI

**Date Published:** 1995

**Cost:** \$0.75; minimum order of 100

**Audience:** Students in grades K through 3

**Format:** Coloring book/Activity guide

**Key Words:** Composting

**Abstract:** This 12-page coloring and activity book includes information about what can and cannot be composted, how compost piles should be maintained, and what can be done with finished compost.

**Title: Cornell Composting/Composting in Schools**

**Publisher:** The Cornell Waste Management Institute  
Cornell Center for the Environment  
<http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/compost/schools.html>

**Date Published:** April 1997

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Teachers and students in grades K through 12

**Format:** Internet site

**Key Words:** Composting, recycling

**Abstract:** This Web site provides a variety of resources for teachers and students. For teachers, it provides background information on composting, lab activities for the classroom (such as monitoring the composting process or observing compost invertebrates), information on indoor composting (such as classroom activities involving worm composting). It also suggests activities to incorporate composting lessons into language arts, math, sciences, geography, social studies, and other subject areas. For students, this site provides fun and interesting sites such as information about “weird and unusual composting.”

- Title:** **Cycles for Science: Materials for High School Science**
- Publisher:** Steel Recycling Institute  
Foster Plaza, Number 10  
680 Andersen Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220-2700  
800 876-SCRI
- Date Published:** 1996
- Cost:** \$12.75 each
- Audience:** Teachers of grades 9 through 12
- Format:** Curriculum
- Key Words:** Composting, recycling
- Abstract:** This high-school curriculum supplement targets different subject areas, including biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics. Topics include composting with worms, sorting commingled metals, and prospecting for ore. The series also includes information about community volunteer projects, such as school recycling, appliance recycling, and food salvage.
- 
- Title:** **Development and Environmental Education Curriculum Directory**
- Publisher:** The American Forum for Global Education  
<http://eelink.umich.edu/ncode/html.dir/>
- Date Published:** 1995
- Cost:** \$4 to \$8
- Audience:** Teachers and students in grades K through 12
- Format:** Internet site
- Key Words:** Household hazardous waste, recycling, solid waste management
- Abstract:** This site includes a list of environmental education resources in science, social studies, arts, and other subject areas. Many of these resources deal with global interrelated environmental issues and discuss waste or resource use. Only a few resources under the heading "social studies" are directly related to waste, however. These resources include documents that can be ordered about household wastes, recycling, and space garbage. Resources listed also include books and multimedia materials produced by a variety of publishers, including Concern, Inc., and Cornell University.



**Title:** **E2: Environment and Education/Environmental ACTION**

**Publisher:** E2: Environment and Education  
800 872-1100  
Fax: 914 328-5487  
<http://www.enviroaction.org/action.html>

**Date Published:** 1997

**Cost:** \$5.95 per book for student and \$13.95 per book for teacher. (Discounts provided for quantity orders.)

**Audience:** Teachers of grades 5 through 12

**Format:** Curriculum

**Key Words:** Composting, household hazardous waste, recycled or green products, recycling, reuse, source reduction

**Abstract:** Environmental ACTION is a science-based interdisciplinary environmental curriculum for middle and secondary school students. The curriculum provides students and teachers with a step-by-step process for learning about environmental issues and their impact on human health and environmental quality. The program contains six modules. One of these, "Waste Reduction," covers recycling, composting, waste reduction, and waste management. Another, "Chemicals: Choosing Wisely," covers household hazardous wastes and environmentally friendly alternatives to them. Each module includes a teacher's resource guide and student edition. Information for teachers includes how to use the program, time requirements, crosscurricular activities, and more (click on "Teacher Information"). Student information also is provided, including one section on "Buying Green." Users of the page can learn how to purchase the curriculum by clicking on "Ordering Information."

**Title:** **EarthAware: Environmental Awareness Software**

**Publisher:** EnviroAccount Software  
605 Sunset Court  
Davis, CA 95616  
<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/earthaware/>

**Date Published:** 1995

**Cost:** \$49.95 (Macintosh) or \$69.96 (Windows). Software can be ordered via the Internet address. (Discounts provided for quantity orders.)

**Audience:** Teachers and students in grades 7 through 12

**Format:** Computer software

**Key Words:** Hazardous waste, household hazardous waste, packaging issues, product life cycle, recycled or green products, solid waste management

**Abstract:** EarthAware inspires students to think about their resource use through a series of activities relevant to the environment. This program has six sections, including “Consumerism” and “Waste.” Each section contains questions with answers, information, and resources. After each section, an analysis screen summarizes the EarthAware score. Each user receives a score, a rating, a carbon dioxide budget, and recommendations for areas to be improved. This software is described and advertised on the Web site listed above.

**Title:** **Eco-Detectives: Teaching About the Economics of the Environment**

**Publisher:** National Council on Economics Education  
1140 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036  
800 338-1192  
<http://www.perc.org/eco.htm>

**Date Published:** 1996

**Cost:** \$15

**Audience:** Teachers and students in grades 7 through 12

**Format:** Curriculum

**Key Words:** Recycling, reuse, solid waste management

**Abstract:** Eco-Detectives is an 18-lesson curriculum that introduces students to a productive way of thinking about environmental problems, including solid waste. The lessons address environmental problems as mysteries worthy of investigation. A sample chapter is provided on the Web site listed above.

**Title:** **ENC Resource Finder**

**Publisher:** Eisenhower National Clearinghouse  
<http://www.enc.org/>

**Date Published:** No date provided

**Cost:** Varies

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12

**Format:** Internet site

**Key Words:** Composting, hazardous waste, packaging issues, recycling, reuse, solid waste management

**Abstract:** Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, this clearinghouse is a repository for information on math and science curriculum materials. Upon reaching this site, users should type “waste” into the search engine. What follows is a list of more than

400 resources, although not every one is about waste. Those that cover waste are produced by a variety of sources including industry, teacher associations, and local or state governments. Resources include multimedia products (including CD-ROMs) print publications, and posters that cover a wide variety of subject areas. For example, one resource is a lesson developed for grades 8 through 11 that teaches students how to safely dispose of a hazardous waste by using pertinent data on the chemical's physical and hazardous properties obtained from Material Data Safety Sheets or personal observation. Other topics include underground storage tanks, recycling at school, landfills (including making an edible landfill), composting, recycling, and reuse. Each listing provides a description of the resource, the grades it targets, the cost for ordering, and other information.

**Title:** **Environmental Education: Compendium for Integrated Waste Management**

**Publisher:** California Integrated Waste Management Board  
8800 Cal Center Drive, MS 12  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
916 255-2826

**Publication No.:** 50253001

**Date Published:** 1993

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12

**Format:** Compendium

**Key Words:** Household hazardous waste, recycling, solid waste management

**Abstract:** This 100-page compendium of waste management instructional materials contains information that aids teachers in acquiring accurate and up-to-date curricula that portray the waste management challenges and dilemmas facing many communities. In addition to providing ordering information, this compendium includes summaries of the educational exercises involved in each curriculum, teacher/peer review report cards or evaluations of the curriculum, and samples of some of the activities for students. The book is divided into categories of educational materials appropriate for different grade levels. Materials may require some degree of adaptation for use depending on the students' geographical location.

**Title:** **Environmental Protection on Native American Lands**

**Publisher:** The Center for Indian Community Development  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA 95521  
707 826-3711

**Date Published:** 1995

**Cost:** \$25 donation requested

**Audience:** Teachers of grades 1 through 12

**Format:** Curriculum

**Key Words:** Composting, hazardous waste, history of garbage, household hazardous waste, packaging issues, recycled or green products, recycling, solid waste management, source reduction, sustainability

**Abstract:** This 300-page curriculum is targeted at teachers of Native American children on rural tribal lands. It includes 52 lessons and related activities on various topics, including solid waste, hazardous waste, recycling, composting, and vermiculture. It also includes lessons on air and water pollution. Student worksheets, “problem” sheets, and survey forms are included, as are suggested curriculum areas, teaching times, and materials required for each lesson or activity.

**Title:** **E Patrol**

**Publisher:** E Patrol Foundation (International Organization for Kids)  
<http://www.sprint.com/epatrol/>

**Date Published:** 1995

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Teachers and students in grades K through 12

**Format:** Internet site

**Key Words:** Recycling

**Abstract:** The E Patrol Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organization created to help teach children how to solve and prevent environmental problems. Through identification with this international group, students can share information and successful programs and be recognized for their efforts. This Web site offers the opportunity for students to test their knowledge on waste reduction issues. It also allows teachers to request information, including an extensive environmental curriculum now being used in camps, youth organizations, and schools.

**Title:** "Garbage Grows Great Plants" in *Science and Children*, Vol. 33, No. 7, pp. 20-22, 35

**Publisher:** National Science Teachers Association  
1840 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201-3000  
800 722-NSTA

**Date Published:** April 1996

**Cost:** \$6.50 to \$7 for back issue (limited quantity). Call for permission to photocopy for other than classroom use.

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12

**Format:** Article

**Key Words:** Composting

**Abstract:** This four-page magazine article provides a recipe for teaching students about compost in the classroom. A teacher recounts his experience setting up a composting lesson with his eighth grade class. He describes introducing the students to the concepts of recycling and composting, relating the subject of composting to lesson plans in sixth through eighth grade, discussing what composting is used for, developing a recipe for materials to use in compost, bringing in materials and using materials generated at school for compost, and recording scientific observations in changes in the compost pile. The author also explains how his students used the final product on landscaped areas at school.

**Title:** **Garbology: Activities for Students K through 12**

**Publisher:** Office of Environmental Education  
Florida Gulfcoast University  
1311 Paul Russell Road, Suite 201A  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850 487-7900

**Date Published:** 1990

**Cost:** No cost for one copy

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12

**Format:** Activity book

**Key Words:** Composting, reuse, solid waste management

**Abstract:** This 50-page book provides step-by-step instructions for classroom-tested approaches to hands-on teaching. It provides a number of activities using plastic beverage bottles, including constructing bottle greenhouses, terrariums, and aquariums. The book also provides activities that deal specifically with solid waste,

such as a compost column and mini-landfills. The premise is to reuse items for teaching science.

**Title:** **The Global Thinking Project**

**Publisher:** Department of Middle/Secondary Education and Instructional Technology  
Georgia State University  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404 651-2518  
<http://teaparty.terc.edu/comweb/globalthinking/home/globthinking.htm>

**Date Published:** No date provided

**Cost:** \$75 per school year. Teacher's Guide is \$35.

**Audience:** Teachers and students in grades 5 through 12, after-school leaders

**Format:** Project kit

**Key Words:** Solid waste management

**Abstract:** The Global Thinking Project (GTP) is a “hands across the globe” education project that provides students and teachers with the opportunity to participate in environmental study and to communicate with students and teachers in other countries. During the course of the project, students learn to monitor and analyze important physical and biological aspects of their environment such as weather, climate change, air pollution, acid rain, ozone, solid waste management, and global warming. They are given a kit to help them conduct these activities. Teachers can use GTP in a variety of settings, including science and social studies classes, after-school or club activities, and community groups such as the Girl Scouts. GTP has created cross-cultural teaching materials that have been field tested in more than 100 schools and with thousands of students over the past 7 years.

**Title:** **The Great Minnesota Garbage Game**

**Publisher:** Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance  
520 Lafayette Road North, Second Floor  
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4100  
612 215-0232 or 800 877-6300  
Fax: 612 215-0246

**Date Published:** 1992

**Cost:** No cost for a 2-week loan. Borrower pays return postage.

**Audience:** Students in grades 7 through 12

**Format:** Video

**Key Words:** Composting, hazardous waste, household hazardous waste, littering, packaging issues, product life cycle, recycled products, recycling, recycling economics, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction

**Abstract:** This 16-minute video is a companion piece to the Office of Environmental Assistance's "What a Waste" curriculum for the secondary grades (see page 25). In a game format, the narrator presents students with five waste management problems and then challenges them to find solutions. The problems include methods of garbage disposal, ways to reduce packaging, and requirements for running a recycling program. The interactive format assigns point values for either individual or group participants and rewards students for creative responses.

**Title:** **The HenryCycle Special**

**Publisher:** The Media Guild  
11722 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite E  
San Diego, CA 92121  
800 886-9191 or 619 755-9191  
Fax: 619 755-4931

**Publication No.:** 99822

**Date Published:** 1996

**Cost:** \$225 (Discounts provided for quantity orders.)

**Audience:** Students in grades K through 4

**Format:** Video

**Key Words:** Composting, packaging issues, recycled products, recycling, recycling economics, reuse, source reduction

**Abstract:** This award-winning 23-minute animated video features the adventures of HenryCycle, "the superhero of recycling." Henry and the colorful characters of Ima Hippo and Brown Derby Burglar show how purchasing peanut butter in larger jars or switching from paper plates to china can make a difference. The video is an entertaining story for younger elementary students that offers tips on recycling, shows how to cut down on waste around the house and in the yard, and gives ideas to reduce waste on every trip to the store.

**Title:** **"Ideas: Recycling" in *Arithmetic-Teacher*, Vol. 41, No. 9, pp. 534-543**

**Publisher:** National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
1906 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 20191-1593  
800 235-7566

**Date Published:** May 1994  
**Cost:** \$4 for article reprint, plus \$3 shipping and handling  
**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 8  
**Format:** Article  
**Key Words:** Recycling  
**Abstract:** This 10-page article focuses on the connections among mathematics, the environment, and the conservation of natural resources. Each activity provides opportunities for communicating, reasoning, and problem solving as students become personally involved in conserving natural resources. The activities help students incorporate aspects of sorting, graphing, measuring, and collecting into their work. Students will also learn to interpret data, evaluate consumer habits, and apply the concepts they have learned.

**Title:** **Innovations for Science Classrooms**  
**Publisher:** *Science and the Environment*  
Voyage Publishing  
901 North Columbus Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703 299-9575  
<http://www.voyagepub.com/publish/innovate.htm>

**Date Published:** No date provided  
**Cost:** No cost  
**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12  
**Format:** Internet site  
**Key Words:** Hazardous waste, solid waste management  
**Abstract:** This site presents five educational activities that can be implemented as 1- to 2-week units or 2- to 3-day mini-units. The principal idea behind each of these environmental activities is to elicit critical thinking skills (imagination, analysis, synthesis, and integration) from students through an interactive environment. Activities include a debate, a problem and solution exercise, a geographic game, an exercise about consumer choices and the environment, and environmental “Jeopardy.” Each of these exercises can be used to teach about any environmental topic, including any aspect of solid or hazardous waste.



- Title:** Kidswheel™ on Hazardous Household Products
- Publisher:** Environmental Hazards Management Institute  
10 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
603 868-1496 or 800 558-EHMI
- Date Published:** 1995
- Cost:** \$1.59; minimum order 10
- Audience:** Students in grades 4 through 6
- Format:** Information wheel
- Key Words:** Household hazardous waste
- Abstract:** This colorful wheel educates students about potentially hazardous products at home and school, including paints, arts and crafts products, pesticides, and household cleaners. Information about the products' hazardous properties is included, as well as suggestions for less toxic alternatives. The wheel emphasizes the necessity of reading product labels to identify hazardous properties.
- 
- Title:** "A Lesson Plan on Recycling" in *EPA Journal*, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 54-56
- Publisher:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, SW.  
Washington, DC 20460  
800 424-9346 or 703 412-9810
- Publication No.:** EPA530-K-95-007
- Date Published:** July/August 1992
- Cost:** No cost
- Audience:** Teachers of grades 7 through 12
- Format:** Curriculum
- Key Words:** Recycling, solid waste management
- Abstract:** This three-page lesson plan covers some of the major topics regarding recycling and solid waste management, including defining municipal solid waste (MSW), discussing the disposal of MSW, defining recycling, and discussing what materials are recyclable. It provides instructions and suggestions for the teacher, such as how to explain the recycling symbol, as well as ideas for conducting classroom activities.

**Title:** **Less Waste in the First Place: Six Lessons on Packaging and Source Reduction**

**Publisher:** Flexible Packaging Educational Foundation  
Attention: Publication Manager  
1090 Vermont Avenue, NW., Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005-4960  
202 842-3880

**Date Published:** 1994

**Cost:** \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers, free to classroom instructors

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12

**Format:** Activity guide

**Key Words:** Packaging issues, product life cycle, source reduction

**Abstract:** The lessons contained in this 48-page guide provide students with a basic understanding of the scientific and environmental principles that govern package design and development. By completing the activities that accompany each of the lesson plans, students will be able to define a package and describe its functions, differentiate among types of packages, describe how modern packaging evolved, understand the scientific, social, and environmental considerations that affect the design of a package, discuss how packaging helps consumers reduce the amount of garbage they throw away, define and identify different types of barriers to reducing waste, and define source reduction. The lessons are intended to supplement existing curricula in science, ecology, and home economics.

**Title:** **MOBIUS Curriculum: Understanding the Waste Cycle (Third Edition)**

**Publisher:** Browning-Ferris Industries  
Attention: Community Affairs  
757 North Eldridge  
P.O. Box 3151  
Houston, TX 77253  
281 870-7461

**Date Published:** 1995

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Teachers of grades 4 through 6

**Format:** Curriculum

**Key Words:** Composting, history of garbage, packaging issues, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction, sustainability

helps students learn about the cyclical nature of the environment. Students learn about landfills, incinerators, composting, recycling, groundwater contamination, the history of garbage, and packaging choices. The curriculum provides lessons for each topic area that outline the concepts and skills addressed, materials needed, materials supplied, and instructions. It also provides topics for class discussion, science activities, and math and logic problems. It also includes team-building and leadership activities.

**Title:** **The Museum of Solid Waste and Energy**

**Publisher:** National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project Headquarters  
P.O. Box 2518  
Reston, VA 20195  
703 471-6263

**Date Published:** 1997

**Cost:** \$3.50

**Audience:** Teachers of grades 5 through 9

**Format:** Activity book

**Key Words:** Composting, packaging issues, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction

**Abstract:** The NEED Project is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to educating students, teachers, and the community about energy and environmental issues. Using this 60-page activity guide, students create a museum with eight exhibits, or “stations,” on different solid waste and energy topics. They work in small groups of two to four students to prepare each exhibit. Background information on each of the topics is provided; students decide which displays to include and write scripts for how the displays will be presented to other students.

**Title:** **Nature’s for Me**

**Publisher:** Steel Recycling Institute  
Foster Plaza, Number 10  
680 Andersen Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220-2700  
800 876-SCRI

**Date Published:** 1994

**Cost:** \$12

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 3

**Format:** Activity guide

- Key Words:** Recycling
- Abstract:** Geared towards young children, this activity guide provides interactive exercises, reference materials, and extension activities (including crafts, poetry, and songs) that give children the opportunity to develop skills in classification, numbers, representation, time, and spacial relations. Items relevant to solid waste include two recycling coloring activities and recycling awareness lesson plans.
- 
- Title:** **Nature's Recyclers**
- Publisher:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Education Section  
Recycling Publications CE/6  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707  
608 266-2711
- Publication No.:** IE043
- Date Published:** 1991
- Cost:** No cost for one copy
- Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12
- Format:** Activity guide
- Key Words:** Composting, recycling
- Abstract:** This 30-page activity guide introduces students to the notion that recycling is a part of nature. Activities help students draw the connection between natural and human recycling and illustrate the role people play in recycling natural resources. Activities are designed for both home and school. Games, crafts, and plays are also included. A coloring book (publication number IE042) is also available.
- 
- Title:** **Newton's Apple: Garbage**
- Publisher:** KTCA Twin Cities Public Television, 3M, and National Science Teachers Association  
<http://www.ktca.org/newtons/11/garbage.html>
- Date Published:** 1996
- Cost:** No cost
- Audience:** Teachers and students in grades K through 12
- Format:** Internet site
- Key Words:** History of garbage, packaging issues, recycling, reuse, solid waste management
- Abstract:** This classroom exercise provides general information about garbage, municipal solid waste, recycling, and disposal. It presents thought questions, a list of

vocabulary words, additional sources of information, materials needed for the exercise, and instructions. It also suggests ideas for other activities.

**Title:** **Newton's Apple: Hazardous Materials**

**Publisher:** KTCA Twin Cities Public Television, 3M, and National Science Teachers Association  
<http://www.ktca.org/newtons/13/hazmat.html>

**Date Published:** 1996

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Teachers and students in grades K through 12

**Format:** Internet site

**Key Words:** Hazardous waste

**Abstract:** This classroom exercise presents information about spills and hazardous wastes, discussion questions, key words and definitions, additional resources, and a classroom activity in which students build a lakeshore and try to stop hazardous waste from spreading through it. The activity includes a list of materials needed and instructions. Additional classroom ideas are presented as well.

**Title:** **The No Waste Anthology: A Teacher's Guide to Environmental Activities, K through 12**

**Publisher:** California Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Office of External Affairs  
PO Box 806 (HQ-5)  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806  
916 324-3614

**Date Published:** 1991

**Cost:** \$10

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12

**Format:** Activity book

**Key Words:** Composting, hazardous waste, household hazardous waste, littering, packaging issues, recycling, reuse, source reduction

**Abstract:** This 320-page teacher's manual is organized into three sections: natural resources and pollution, solid waste, and hazardous waste. Numerous activities covering a range of solid and hazardous waste topics appear in each section. Each activity provides background information, procedures, and discussion questions. Goals, subjects covered, classroom time needed, and materials required are also presented.

Several of the activities are taken from other sources (several of which predate 1990), and all of the activities have been field tested and peer reviewed.

**Title:** “Primary Place: Math Projects that Count” in *Instructor*, Vol. 102, No. 8, pp. 56 and 63

**Publisher:** Scholastic, Inc.  
Attn: Marilyn Small  
555 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012-3999  
800 325-6149

**Date Published:** May/June 1993

**Cost:** Write for permission to photocopy

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 4

**Format:** Article

**Key Words:** Recycling, reuse

**Abstract:** This two-page article describes three simple projects that integrate elementary arithmetic principles with recycling and reuse activities. Two of the projects involve estimating, measuring, and the use of graph paper; the third project teaches how to use commonly found recyclables to construct an object. The goals of these exercises are to combine mathematics skills and recycling knowledge and also to encourage recycling if the classroom is currently not participating in recycling efforts.

**Title:** “Project Reconstruct” in *Science and Children*, Vol. 31, No. 7, pp. 25-28

**Publisher:** National Science Teachers Association  
1840 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201-3000  
800 722-NSTA

**Date Published:** April 1994

**Cost:** \$6.50 to \$7.00 for back issue. Call for permission to photocopy.

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 8

**Format:** Article

**Key Words:** Packaging issues, recycling, reuse

**Abstract:** This four-page article presents a hands-on classroom activity. It is a multidisciplinary unit that integrates language, science, mathematics, computers, and artistic expression. Students monitor their use of trash, input and analyze information with a database and computerized graphics, and reconstruct extinct or

endangered animals. Students are asked to monitor certain recyclable items generated by their household for 1 week. These data are entered into the database for analysis with bar charts and pie graphs. In the end, students use recyclable materials to create an art project. The article describes the process used to teach a second-grade class about extinct and endangered animals; the human impact on the environment; and the role of packaging, recycling, and reuse in protecting the environment.

**Title:** **Recycle City**

**Publisher:** EPA Region 9  
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/recyclecity/>

**Date Published:** 1997

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Students in grades K through 12

**Format:** Internet site

**Key Words:** Composting, hazardous waste, industrial waste, recycled or green products, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction, unit pricing

**Abstract:** This site provides a graphic of a town. Users can click on different parts of the town—such as the hazardous waste center, auto wrecking yard, or manufacturing plant—to learn detailed information about many aspects of recycling, reuse, and waste reduction. This site also provides a game in which students are responsible for managing and cleaning up Dumptown to turn it into Recycle City. Students learn about the current waste stream, recovered waste, and a variety of hazardous waste management programs. They also learn about municipal budgeting. All of the games and locations have been designed to enable a teacher to match different goals with lessons being taught in class. The “Activities” section recommends ways to use this site in the classroom.

**Title:** **Recycle This!**

**Publisher:** The Dow Chemical Company  
2040 Dow Center  
Midland, MI 48674  
800 441-4369

**Date Published:** 1990

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Students in grades 4 through 12

**Format:** Video

- Key Words:** Recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction
- Abstract:** This 37-minute video uses music, skits, and a game show entitled “Environmental Jeopardy” to discuss the dangers of rapidly depleting landfill space. Beginning with the theme song of “We Didn’t Start the Landfills,” the film presents statistics on plastic, glass, and aluminum recycling as well as information on biodegradable substances and their contribution to landfill space. Although the music and movie references are slightly outdated for students currently in grades 4 through 12, the format is fun and engaging. Actors play several different characters on a high school stage and involve their student audience in the production.
- Title:** **Recycling Slide Show**
- Publisher:** Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology  
and Waste Management, Inc.  
<http://crest.org/environment/gotwh/general/recycle-slides/index.html>
- Date Published:** December 1995
- Cost:** No cost
- Audience:** Teachers and students in grades K through 12
- Format:** Slides
- Key Words:** History of garbage, recycled or green products, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction
- Abstract:** This 176-slide presentation is an introduction to recycling. It is image-intensive, with photographs and charts that teach children about recycling. It provides an annotation for each slide, but the teacher can include additional information as well. The slide show presents information about recyclable materials, collection, landfills, policy, and education. It promotes the benefits of recycling in an easy-to-understand manner and also explains the hierarchy of waste management. Text and slides appear on the Web site listed above.



**Title:** **Recycling Study Guide (Third Edition)**

**Publisher:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Education Section  
Recycling Publications CE/6  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707  
608 266-2711

**Publication No.:** IE020

**Date Published:** 1993

**Cost:** No cost for one copy

**Audience:** Teachers of grades 4 through 12

**Format:** Activity guide

**Key Words:** Composting, packaging issues, product life cycle, recycling, recycling economics, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction

**Abstract:** This 36-page guide includes information and activities on the amount of solid waste generated by residents of Wisconsin, strategies for preventing waste and conserving natural resources, and a discussion of how solid waste is disposed of. Several activities in the guide closely examine packaging issues, encouraging students to investigate the purpose of packaging and to examine how products can be packaged differently to minimize waste. A historical perspective on solid waste is also presented. The guide encourages students to consider how changing technologies and lifestyles over time affect the amount of waste generated.

**Title:** **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: It's Elementary**

**Publisher:** Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs  
Information and Distribution Center  
620 East Adams Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
217 785-0310  
Fax: 217 785-6454

**Date Published:** 1991

**Cost:** Available on loan

**Audience:** Students in grades K through 6

**Format:** Video

**Key Words:** Composting, packaging issues, product life cycle, recycled or green products, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction

**Abstract:** This 20-minute video examines the solid waste problem, particularly in the state of Illinois. It discusses the "NIMBY" (Not In My Backyard) attitude and provides

some solutions to the problem. The video focuses on an elementary classroom presentation with visual explanations of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. It gives some examples of recycling and composting efforts at specific elementary schools. It also provides tips for setting up a school recycling program, emphasizing student involvement.

**Title:** Ring Leader Recycling

**Publisher:** ITW Hi-Cone  
<http://www.ringleader.com/menu/program.html>

**Date Published:** 1995

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Teachers and students in grades K through 12

**Format:** Educational program

**Key Words:** Recycling

**Abstract:** The Ring Leader Recycling Program is an educational program designed for implementation in both formal and informal educational environments to allow students to learn about and participate in “closed-loop” recycling, or recycling a used product into a new product of the same type. Teachers can order a Ring Leader Recycling Kit and join the Ring Leader Recycling Program (along with 8,500 other schools). At the bottom of the page, users can choose “The Quest” for a student cyber-adventure called “The Quest of the Ring Leaders.” This is an environmental education program set in an adventure game format to help students gain an understanding about the current environmental problems and the preventative measures to stop environmental degradation. Classroom supplements are available for free download to members of the Ring Leader Recycling Program. Supplements include overheads, worksheets, certificates, lesson plans, and activities designed to enhance the Quest of the Ring Leaders, the Ring Leader Recycling Program, and other environmental education activities.

**Title:** Safe House, Safe Me

**Publisher:** California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Public Affairs Office  
8800 Cal Center Drive, MS 12  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
916 255-2826

**Publication No.:** 50094046

**Date Published:** 1994

**Cost:** No cost

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 3  
**Format:** Coloring book  
**Key Words:** Household hazardous waste, solid waste management  
**Abstract:** This easy-to-read 12-page coloring book focuses on the proper use, storage, and disposal of hazardous household products. Children color in pictures of people and animals affected by or involved in hazardous product management. Activities are designed to demonstrate proper handling and disposal practices. Large and clear lettering is used to aid in reading and understanding.

**Title:** **Searching SEEK (Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge)**  
**Publisher:** State of Minnesota  
<http://www.seek.state.mn.us/search/search.cfm>  
**Date Published:** No date provided  
**Cost:** Varies  
**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12  
**Format:** Internet site  
**Key Words:** Composting, hazardous waste, history of garbage, household hazardous waste, recycling, reuse, source reduction  
**Abstract:** This is a clearinghouse for environmental education resources. The user can click on "Individual Quick Searches" and then, under "Title or Abstract Keyword," type "Waste." What follows is a list of educational resources, many of which are about solid waste. Examples include "A-Way With Waste: A Waste Management Curriculum for Schools," from the Washington State Department of Ecology, which is a comprehensive, multilesson waste management curriculum for grades K through 12; a video with Bill Nye the Science Guy about garbage; and a video presentation of the play, "Mama Earth and the Rockin' Rs," which is an interactive forum for information on the 3 Rs and how children can make a difference in their world. Ordering, price, and contact information is provided.

**Title:** **Waste in Time**  
**Publisher:** The Media Guild  
11722 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite E  
San Diego, CA 92121  
800 886-9191 or 619 755-9191  
Fax: 619 755-4931  
**Publication No.:** 99813  
**Date Published:** 1994

- Cost:** \$210 (Discounts provided for quantity orders.)
- Audience:** Students in grades 4 through 8
- Format:** Video
- Key Words:** Packaging issues, product life cycle, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction
- Abstract:** Juliette, a young teenager from the present, is magically transported to the underground world of a landfill. She is joined by two companions, one from the future and one from the past. Juliette finds that the most important thing she can do is prevent trash from being created in the first place. This 22-minute video emphasizes the importance of one person's efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle while tracing recycling from efforts in the 1970s to present-day capabilities.
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- Title:** **Waste Wise: Concepts in Waste Management: A Resource Guide for Teachers Using Concepts of Critical Thinking and Decision Making**
- Publisher:** Information Clearinghouse  
Aseptic Packaging Council  
P.O. Box 3794  
Washington, DC 20007  
800 277-8088  
<http://www.aseptic.org>
- Date Published:** 1995
- Cost:** No cost
- Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 12
- Format:** Activity guide
- Key Words:** Composting, packaging issues, product life cycle, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction
- Abstract:** Activities in this 48-page guide focus on the volume of waste generated in the United States, options for handling waste, the purpose of packaging, decisions about packaging, and the life cycle of the aseptic package. For example, students are given an opportunity to learn about the relationship between the weight of product and package, discuss the economics of packaging choices, and explore how products are marketed. Student handouts are also included.

**Title:** **What a Waste: A Teacher's Resource for Integrating the Solid Waste Crisis Into the Classroom**

**Publisher:** Southwest Connecticut Regional Recycling Operating Committee  
1410 Honeyspot Road Extension  
Stratford, CT 06497  
203 381-9571

**Date Published:** 1992

**Cost:** \$10.95, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling for one to five copies

**Audience:** Students in grades 3 through 6

**Format:** Curriculum

**Key Words:** Composting, packaging issues, recycling, reuse, solid waste management, source reduction

**Abstract:** This 100-page curriculum is divided into two sections. In the first section, students examine the root of the solid waste problem and learn about different waste management methods. The second section introduces students to concrete solutions and strategies they can use to reduce the amount of waste generated. For example, in one lesson students learn how to reduce waste by buying products with minimal or recyclable packaging. Lessons in the second section also describe how various materials are recycled and how composting works.

**Title:** **Worms Eat Our Garbage: Classroom Activities for a Better Environment**

**Publisher:** Flower Press  
10332 Shaver Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49002  
616 327-0108  
<http://www.wormwoman.com>

**Date Published:** 1993

**Cost:** \$21.95

**Audience:** Teachers and students in grades K through 12

**Format:** Curriculum guide/Activity book

**Key Words:** Composting, recycling, solid waste management

**Abstract:** This curriculum guide and activity book are designed to help elementary and middle school educators teach about composting with earthworms. The 215-page book teaches the physical characteristics, behaviors, needs, and habitat of the earthworm. It also teaches students how to set up and maintain a worm bin, understand the processes of vermicomposting, make and test hypotheses, record observations, interpret data, and arrive at conclusions. It provides worksheets with quizzes;

activities; questions and answers; and games that integrate science with art, reading, mathematics, geography, language arts, and history.

**Title:** **Yes, I CAN!**

**Publisher:** Steel Recycling Institute  
Foster Plaza, Number 10  
680 Andersen Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220-2700  
800 876-SCRI

**Date Published:** 1996

**Cost:** \$10.95

**Audience:** Teachers of grades K through 3

**Format:** Video

**Key Words:** Recycling

**Abstract:** This video relates a story about a steel can that is purchased, used, and either recycled or disposed of. An educator's guide accompanies the video and contains ideas for interactive exercises.

# Glossary

This glossary includes terms that appear in the key words in the above references and in the index on pages 29 to 35.

## **Composting**

The controlled decomposition of organic matter (such as food scraps and yard trimmings) in the presence of oxygen into a soil-like material.

## **Hazardous waste**

Waste with explosive, ignitable, corrosive, or toxic characteristics.

## **Household hazardous waste**

Products containing hazardous substances that are used and disposed of by individual rather than industrial consumers. These products include some paints, solvents, and pesticides.

## **Industrial waste**

Nonhazardous wastes produced during manufacturing operations.

## **Product life cycle**

All of the steps it takes to manufacture, distribute, use, and dispose of a product.

## **Recycling**

Separating, collecting, processing, marketing, and ultimately using a material that would have been thrown away.

## **Recycling economics**

The cost expenditures and savings associated with recycling and providing recycling services.

## **Reuse**

The use of a product more than once in its same form or for the same purpose or for different purposes, such as reusing a soft-drink bottle when it is returned to the bottling company for refilling, or reusing a coffee can as a container for nuts and bolts.

## **Source reduction**

The design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials to reduce the amount and/or toxicity of waste. Source reduction techniques include reusing items, minimizing the use of products that contain hazardous compounds, using only what is needed, extending the life of a product, and reducing unneeded packaging.

**Sustainability**

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

**Unit pricing**

A system whereby residents pay for municipal waste management services per unit of waste collected rather than through a fixed fee.



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Environmental Protection on Native American Lands  
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### Hazardous waste

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## **History of garbage**

Environmental Protection on Native American Lands  
MOBIUS Curriculum: Understanding the Waste Cycle (Third Edition)  
Newton's Apple: Garbage  
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## **Household hazardous waste**

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## **Industrial waste**

Bill Nye the Science Guy: Garbage  
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## **Littering**

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Closing the Loop: Integrated Waste Management Activities for School and Home (K through 12 Edition)  
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## **Packaging issues**

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### **Product life cycle**

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### **Recycled or green products**

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## **Recycling economics**

The Great Minnesota Garbage Game  
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## **Reuse**

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## **Solid waste management**

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## **Sustainability**

Environmental Protection on Native American Lands

MOBIUS Curriculum: Understanding the Waste Cycle (Third Edition)

## **Unit pricing**

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Newton's Apple: Hazardous Materials  
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## **Other**

EarthAware: Environmental Awareness Software  
The Global Thinking Project (project kit)  
Recycling Slide Show  
Ring Leader Recycling (multi-media program)