

Recycling Activities

Recycling activities to be used in conjunction with sustainability curriculum.

1. **Classroom Bins** – Class discussions about what waste products can be placed into the worm and chicken scrap buckets, as well as the recycling bin and non recycling bin.
2. **Waste Audit** – Conduct a waste audit of the large green lidded non recycling wheelie bins. Classify waste into groups. Weigh the waste in each classification group. After implementing bins into classrooms conduct another waste audit several months later and see if the amount of waste in the green wheelie bins has decreased.
3. **Waste Decomposition** – Place different types of waste into glass jars full of water and place a lid on top. Plastic, banana skin, cardboard, leaves, alfoil chip packet, see which type of waste starts to decompose and how fast it takes. Discuss what happens in landfill and the different problems that arise from putting recyclable products in landfill.
4. **Mobile and Battery Muster** – Organise and conduct a mobile and battery muster. Research where they need to be sent and what happens to them after they have been sent to recycling plant. Involve local community and contact newspapers to place advertisement using school as a collection point.
5. **Recycling Plant** – Research how a recycling plant works and how they sort the different materials. Organise an excursion to a recycling plant and write a recount of how it operates.
6. **Litter Survey** – Conduct a litter survey of the school or local waterways. Classify waste into recyclable items and non recyclable items. Create an informational pamphlet for the community that includes information about what they should be doing with specific types of waste.
7. **Environmentally Friendly Shopping Bags** – Plan, design and create environmentally friendly bags to be used for shopping. Approach local supermarkets and stores to see if they will replace their plastic bags with their environmentally friendly bags. Organise a collection point for plastic shopping bags for reuse or appropriate removal. Research ideas for the reuse or recycling possibilities of plastic bags.
8. **Plastic Bags** – Conduct a science experiment to see how long plastic bags take to break down. Place bags in water, soil, green waste material etc. Observe changes that occur.
9. **Recycling Robots** – Create recycling robots using materials that would usually go into the waste bins.

10. **Zero Waste Lunches** - Organise students to bring food and packages for their lunches that can be recycled, composted or reused. Have a competition between the classes to count the class with the least amount of waste per head. Research how children brought food to school and how they ate lunch over the decades in Australia.
11. **Packaging Changes**- Research packaging changes for staple foods such as milk bottles and bread packages. How have people's actions changed over the years and why has this affected the packages that our food comes in. For example milk being delivered daily in glass bottles and people baking their own bread.
12. **Waste Paper Note Pads** - Make scrap paper notepads from one sided photocopy paper. Investigate the possibility of selling them in local newspaper stores.
13. **Paper Making** - Using recycled waste paper students can make their own recycled paper. Investigate selling as cards. Students can mix seeds in to the paper mix and then plant the paper and the seeds will germinate and grow.
14. **Paper Bricks** - Students recycle paper by making paper bricks that can be used instead of wood in fires. The ash is then used on gardens as a part of the composting and mulching process.
15. **Paper Shredding** - Students can shred paper that can then be used in the worm farm. They can then investigate giving the shredded paper to transport companies to use as packaging to protect goods.
16. **Mural Posters** - Create informational murals and posters that include actual pieces of waste displayed as recyclable and non recyclable products.
17. **Throw Away Societies** - Investigate the concept of a throw away society and how society has changed over the years. Research different cultures and third world countries and how they view waste and if it is viewed as waste at all. (Time, Continuity and Change, Cultures)
18. **CD and DVD Animal Deterrents** - Create wind mobiles using shiny CD's and DVD's to keep animals such as birds away from fruit and vegetable gardens.
19. **Scarecrows** - Use old clothes and straw/stuffing to create scarecrows. They can be life sized or the smaller versions.
20. **Plastic Bottles and Ice cream Containers** - Reuse plastic bottles and ice cream containers to store worm liquid fertiliser and castings to later sell as products. Give customers a discount if they bring back the plastic bottles for refills.