



Instituto de Ensino Secundario Val Miñor






Erasmus+
 Cooperative teaching and learning
 to change behaviours

REDUCING WASTE. AUDIT OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE

ACTIVITY 1.

The night before the garbage is collected, list all the garbage, including what is in the recycling and green waste bins.

- Sort the garbage into the following categories: – compostable – recyclable – reusable – landfill.
- Calculate (estimate) a percentage of each category.
- Record this information in percentages using the chart below. Compare your results with the rest of the groups. Discuss and note the practices of those households with low landfill percentages. Write a list of recommendations for families to ensure best practice waste disposal methods are used.
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| Type of waste | Compostable | Recyclable | Reusable | Landfill. |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|-----------|
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ACTIVITY 2. REDUCING LANDFILL COSTS ¹

Read the letter from the Mayor of your community and summarise in your own words the reasons given for the introduction of the Green Waste Service:

There has been a lot written recently about the new Green Waste Service to be introduced by Council. Some of the debate has been based on a lack of understanding of the issues involved, and I need to clarify some of the issues.

Capacity of our Landfills

As a community we create a huge amount of rubbish. As a result space to tip rubbish in our landfills is reducing quickly. That is why all Councils are trying to reduce the total amount of rubbish going into landfill. This can be done in a combination of ways, including diverting recyclable material. Investigation has shown that a high percent of the rubbish collected from households and deposited in our landfill is Green Waste. This can be removed from the waste stream by the Green Waste Service, and recycled. The result is a significant reduction in waste going into landfill.

Landfill Costs

Our current landfill will be full in 12 to 18 months. We own this landfill. Our current disposal costs are less than charged by private landfills. The cost charged by private landfills will increase steadily in future years as the availability of space reduces (the simple principle of demand and supply). The City's cost to send waste to landfill will be increasing up to double when our current tip is filled early next year. Reducing the amount of rubbish going to landfill will reduce the exposure of residents to these increasing costs.

The Environment

The green waste that goes to landfill creates greenhouse gases as it breaks down over the years. These gases escape into the atmosphere, compounding an already significant problem. Governments at all levels are trying to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases created. Green waste is a valuable resource that can be recycled into compost. The recovery of the green waste will make the City a more sustainable community into the future.

a) Working in small groups, imagine you are the NEW ADVISORS OF THE Mayor for your Local Council. You know waste is a problem as you are running out of room to put it. Your options include:

- paying to have the rubbish sent elsewhere
- digging deeper landfills
- putting in more kerbside recycling
- working with the packaging people to reduce packaging on popular foods and items
- educating the people living in the area to encourage them to recycle. Write a plan for your council explaining what measures you want to put in place. Remember the 7 Rs!

B) Analyse pros and cons of each option and make a decision about the best waste management.

- what are our feelings about the options?
- where can we get more information from?
- how can we generate some creative ideas?
- what's good about our ideas?
- what's bad about our ideas?
- what other types of thinking could we use?

B) Write a poster or report with your piece of advise

¹ Modified from Consuming Planet Earth, consumer.vic.gov.au.