

Worksheet #7 – Waste Management

Use this worksheet to learn about how you can help manage your waste.

Why should you be concerned?

- The millions of tonnes of garbage produced in our communities every year quickly fill up existing landfill sites.
- It is increasingly difficult to place new landfill sites. No one wants to live near one.
- If a municipality's landfill site is full and a new nearby location cannot be obtained, residents must pay more to have their waste transported elsewhere.
- Recycling saves natural resources, energy, and water by using already manufactured items instead of more natural resources.
- Durable products may initially be more expensive, but they are generally a better investment in the long run and they stay out of landfill sites longer.
- There is the potential that leachate from landfill sites may contaminate groundwater.
- Open burning of garbage in barrels, woodstoves, fireplaces, outdoor furnaces, or open pits releases a large number of pollutants. Burning of garbage at home, cottage, and farm is one of the largest known sources of dioxins and furans in Ontario.

What can you do?

1. Consider how you can personally generate less waste.
2. Inform yourself of initiatives and companies that are redesigning products, packaging, and manufacturing processes to reduce waste. Support them through your purchasing power.
3. Recycle effectively. Contact your local municipality to learn what items can be recycled in your community and how you should prepare them for recycling (i.e. rinse, bundle, sort, etc.)
4. Compost food and yard wastes. Don't use kitchen sink garbage disposals such as garborators.
5. Use refillable and reusable containers and products as much as possible and purchase durable products that won't need short-term replacement.
6. Watch for Hazardous Waste Disposal Days in your community. Encourage your local municipality to have green tags and support recycling programs.

Waste Management: How do you rate?

Topic	Best 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Your Rating
MINIMIZING THE WASTE THAT COMES 'IN'					
1 Purchases	<p>Instead of buying, always attempt to borrow, rent or share any items possible,</p> <p>OR purchase used items.</p>	<p>Purchase or use only what you need and avoid accumulating unused products.</p>	<p>Purchase more than is necessary,</p> <p>AND recycling as much as possible, including donating items.</p>	<p>Purchase more than is necessary,</p> <p>OR throw unwanted items into regular household garbage.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>tip</p> <p>Items that bear the EcoLogo symbol are manufactured in a way that minimizes the use of hazardous by-products.</p> 	<p>Preference given to items that are durable, reusable, and/or recyclable and can be recycled locally,</p> <p>AND take-out or disposable food/beverage containers are seldom used.</p>	<p>Preference given to items that are durable, reusable, and/or recyclable and can be recycled locally,</p> <p>OR recyclables are collected or taken to a recycling centre.</p>	<p>Disposable or single serving items purchased even when alternatives available,</p> <p>AND minimal effort made to recycle or reuse.</p>	<p>Frequently purchase disposable, or single serving items,</p> <p>OR no effort to recycle or reuse.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>Choose items that have no packaging,</p> <p>AND always re-use carry-out grocery bags or bring a reusable tote bag.</p>	<p>Choose items that have minimal packaging,</p> <p>OR always re-use carry out grocery bags or bring a reusable tote.</p>	<p>Choose items with packaging that is recyclable in your municipality.</p>	<p>No consideration given to product packaging,</p> <p>OR plastic carry-out bags are accepted and then discarded.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>tip</p> <p>Use your purchasing power to help minimize waste and protect water quality.</p>					

Topic	Best 4	Good 3	Fair 2	Poor 1	Your Rating
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MINIMIZING THE WASTE THAT GOES 'OUT'

2 Re-using and Recycling

Reduce the number of items you use.

Reuse as many items as possible.

Recycle as many items as possible.

All garbage is taken to local landfill, dumped, or burned.

Both sides of a sheet of paper are used,

Both sides of a sheet of paper are used,

Most paper is recycled and all paper purchased contains some recycled content.

Paper is not recycled.

AND all paper is recycled.

OR all paper is recycled.

Check with local municipality to learn what items are recyclable and how they should be prepared for recycling,

Most recyclable items are recycled.

Little or no attempt made to participate in local recycling programs,

AND comply with all applicable recycling practices in your community.

OR waste is burned/ a burn barrel is used.*

Food scraps and yard wastes are properly composted regularly, on site.

Food scraps and yard wastes are composted occasionally.

Food scraps or yard wastes are thrown in regular household garbage,

OR a garborator or garbage disposal is used.

tip

To reduce packaging, buy larger volumes (more product for less packaging) bulk or concentrated products.

tip

Redirect or place your subscriptions on hold while you are away from home.

* These conditions may violate provincial legislation or municipal by-laws.

Additional Information

Recycling

Know your numbers....



PETE

beverage and food bottles



HDPE

beverage and food bottles, detergent and ice cream containers



V

Clear deli food packaging, vegetable oil bottles



LDPE

carry-out grocery bags, bread bags, frozen food bags



PP

margarine and yogurt containers



PS

foam cups, trays, and foam take-out containers



OTHER

Bottles containing several resins

Check with your municipality to learn which numbers can be recycled in your local program. Look on the bottom of plastic containers to learn what number they are.

Resources List

Waste Management

For more information...

Ontario Ministry of Environment

- Household Waste and Recycling
ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/category/waste_recycling/index.htm
- Green Tips: vermi-composting (pub no. 3633e)
ene.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@ene/@resources/documents/resource/std01_079364.pdf
- Be a Garbage Transformer. Brochure. For children aged 9-11. PIBS 1013b. Closing the Loop: The 3Rs of Waste Management. Booklet. ISBN 0-7729-6931-0. PIBS 1012b.
- Ontario's Waste Reduction Action Plan: Background. Information sheet. PIBS 1600b.
- The Road to a Conserver Society. Booklet. PIBS 1630b.
- The Waste Reduction Office. Information sheet. PIBS 1717e.
- Your Seven Day Waste Reduction Diary. Booklet. PIBS 2189e.
- A Down-to-Earth Guide to Composting and Vermicomposting. *in* Environmental Living: Protecting the Environment... in Your Lawn and Garden. Vol.2. ISBN 0-7778-1070-0, PIBS 2316e
- Environmental Living: Protecting the Environment... in Your Home. Vol. 1. ISBN 0-7778-1069-7, PIBS 2315e

Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention

Great Lakes Trash and Open Burning Website
glrppr.org/contacts/fullrecord.cfm?sectordocid=103010

Environment Canada

ec.gc.ca (search "open burning brochure")

Environmental Choice Program

Ecological Labeling
ecologo.org/en/

Recycling Facilities

For local municipal recycling and compost facilities, contact your local municipality by consulting the internet or the *Blue Pages* in your telephone directory.

Waste Burning

For local municipal regulations, contact your local municipality by consulting the internet.