

Recycling Lesson Plan- Recycling Investigations

The Recycling Investigations Lesson document is a more text driven lesson and is available at [Recycling Investigations](#) or on our website. The lesson aligns to WV CSOs, addresses content literacy, includes text dependent questions, provides graphical representations of data, prompts students with investigations, and may be used in the curriculum instruction.



Students may work in small groups and be assigned different parts of the document. Each group will read informational text, answer the text dependent questions, and pursue the investigation for the section (s) they are assigned. Follow-up may be a jig-saw activity as each group teach the others what they learned. It may be informal class discourse as each group takes its turn leading the discussion or multi-media presentations which include content specific language.

Getting the Most Out of Compost, some recommended websites:

- [Composting 101](#)– the basics.
- [Anytime Lesson Plan, Composting: A Scientific Investigation](#)—an indoor investigation.
- [The GreenTeam Compost Lesson Plan](#)– an outdoor investigation.

Recycling Competitions

Recycling Coalition of West Virginia [Coalition Programs and Competitions](#).

Recycling Coalition of West Virginia [Youth Contests](#) .

RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities at <http://recyclemania.org/> .

The initiation of [Keep America Beautiful Recycle-Bowl Competition](#) for K-12 schools, has received an enthusiastic response from over 1,200 schools. These schools have taken advantage of the platform and resources to promote recycling awareness, education and performance.





Additional Information

For more than thirty years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been collecting data on the generation and disposal of waste in the United States. Waste reduction and recycling programs across the country are measured and used to determine the amount of waste generated. In 2015, Americans generated about 262 million tons of trash and recycled and composted over 91 million tons of material, which is equivalent to a recycling rate of 34.7 percent. On average of the 4.48 pounds of solid waste generated by every person each day, we recycle or compost about 1.56 pounds of that waste.

Recycling is the process of turning used waste and materials into new products. This prevents potentially useful materials from being wasted, as well as reduces energy use and pollution.

The energy required to convert raw materials such as minerals, oil, and trees into metals, plastics, and paper is far greater than the amount of energy required to collect and recycle our paper, bottles, and cans into new products.

A wide variety of different materials can be recycled, including paper, plastic, glass, metal, textiles and electronic equipment. Historical evidence shows that humans have been recycling various materials for thousands of years.

Recycling Resources

Find recyclers at earth911.com/ or www.recyclingcenters.org/ .

West Virginia Solid Waste Management Board or Solid Waste Authority Contact Information at www.state.wv.us/swmb/ .

The Recycling Economic Information Report aims to increase the understanding of the economic implications of material reuse and recycling. www.epa.gov/smm/recycling-economic-information-rei-report

TerraCycle - Recycling systems for previously non-[recyclable](#) or hard-to-recycle waste. www.terracycle.com/en-US/

www.facingthefuture.org/ A nonprofit leader whose mission is to create tools for educators that equip and motivate students to develop critical thinking skills, build global awareness and engage in positive solutions for a sustainable future.

www.epa.gov/recycle/ Learn how reducing, reusing, and recycling can help you, your community, and the environment by saving money, energy, and natural resources.

Characterization fact sheet and data tables provide the most recent available data on annual US waste generation, recycling, and disposal, as well as the benefits of recycling. <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling> .

American Forest & Paper Association recovery, 2016. www.paperrecycles.org/statistics/paper-paperboard-recovery

2015 report on high density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP) bottles collected and the rate of recycling. www.plastics.americanchemistry.com/2015-United-States-National-Postconsumer-Plastic-Bottle-Recycling-Report.pdf

Can Manufacturers Institute's educational curriculum www.cancentral.com/curriculumSelect.cfm