

Recycling Training Course Agenda

Aim: Educate participants on Recycling including the benefits, the process, and other factors that may contribute to an individual's awareness of Recycling.

Lesson One: Intro to Recycling

Objective: PWBAT (Participants Will Be Able To) understand the concept of recycling; both mechanical and chemical. They will also view and understand the process of recycling from their garbage cans to the recycling plant.

Activity:

- Create a list of non-recyclable and recyclable materials. Include 10 different materials for both DO and DO NOT recycle. In this list also include 5 materials that need to be properly handled at another facility, that are not either recyclable and cannot be taken to a waste treatment facility whether landfill or incineration. Include images to represent the materials. Share the list you have created with your friends, family, neighbors, and post the list in the home near your waste bins.

Handout(s) and Link(s) to Refer To:

- Recycling Plant in Germany: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_fUpP-hq3A
- Recycling Plant in USA: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjNv_iTsXn8
- Programs that Pay You for Your Recyclable Materials: <https://harmony1.com/make-money-recycling/>
- Mechanical Recycling Diagram: <https://www.ifpenergiesnouvelles.com/innovation-and-industry/our-expertise/climate-environment-and-circular-economy/plastics-recycling>
- Chemical Recycling Diagram: <https://thisisplastics.com/environment/recycling-101-chemical-recycling/>
- Recyclable materials printable sheet labeled as 'Recyclable Materials List'

Lesson Two: Recycling in Your Community

Objective: PWBAT (Participants Will Be Able To) understand the pros and cons of recycling. They will observe the importance of recycling by watching PSAs and going to different locations to view the mistreatment of plastic in the community. Participants will also use the EJ Screening and Mapping Tool to compare different environmental issues affecting the affluent and poor neighborhoods in their vicinity.

Activity:

- Use EJ Screening and Mapping Tool to screen your community and compare neighborhoods with predominantly minority populations and majority populations.
- Walk the streets of your neighborhood, city, and local park and snap pictures of the spaces that are littered.
 - Question yourself: Were you searching for the trash or did you locate the trash with ease?

Handout(s) and Link(s) to Refer To:

- PSA 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DEc16dEMns>
- PSA 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmbOizXQtSY>
- Article on Pros and Cons of Recycling:
<https://smartasset.com/insights/the-pros-and-cons-of-recycling>
- EPA EJ Screening and Mapping Tool: <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

Lesson Three: The 5 R's

Objective: PWBAT (Participants Will Be Able To) articulate the multi or singular use of plastic. They will be able to understand the five R's: rethink, refuse, recycle, reuse, and reduce. Participants will also recognize the significance of fast-food restaurants and plastic packaging on the environment.

Activity: Choose three activities to complete from the listed three R groups listed below:

- Reduce:
 - Throughout the day use less water (brushing your teeth, taking a shower, wash only full dish and laundry loads), and cut the lights off when you leave the room. If you forget to do something, add another day.
- Reuse:
 - Swap clothes with a friend or family member
 - Host a Clothes Swapping Party
 - Purchase a reusable water bottle
 - Cook at home and do not order take out for the day (delivery/pickup)
- Recycle:
 - Choose an item from the list in this link:
 - Earth Day Crafts:
<https://www.weareteachers.com/earth-day-crafts-classroom-activities/>
 - Reuse Plastic Grocery Bags:
<https://www.familyhandyman.com/list/15-brilliant-ways-to-reuse-plastic-grocery-bags/>
 -
 - Create your own idea for waste and recyclable materials

- Travel to a Recycling for Monies program facility

Handout(s) and Link(s) to Refer To:

- Fast Food Bans:
<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/global-fast-food-plastic-survey>
- Trader Joes Commitment to Reducing Plastic Packaging:
<https://www.traderjoes.com/announcement/2019-sustainability-progress>

Lesson Four: Bans and Recycling Fraud

Objective: PWBAT (Participants Will Be Able To) compare the different recycling protocols in their community after learning about the various environmental banning laws that are enforced in particular states. Participants will also be informed of the concept: recycling fraud.

Activity:

- Research the banning of environmental laws that are associated with recycling in your city/state and summarize the ban and answer the following questions in a minimum 200-word essay. Answer the following questions: What are your thoughts on the ban? Do you agree or disagree with the ban? Are they effective? What are the pros and cons of the ban?
- Send a letter to your nearby grocery store and ask about their efforts to reduce plastic waste. Ask, “Would you force the companies that you are purchasing from to change their packaging to be environmentally friendly? If they refuse, will you discontinue purchasing from them?”

Handout(s) and Link(s) to Refer To:

- State Plastic Bag Legislation:
<https://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/plastic-bag-legislation.aspx>
- Tracking your plastic: Exposing recycling myths (Marketplace):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8aVYb-a7Uw>

Lesson Five: Sharing is Caring

Objective: PWBAT (Participants Will Be Able To) share their findings with their community, family, and friends through social media.

Activity:

- Create at least one post on social media sharing an interesting fact or takeaway that you have learned from the training course.