



Trace Your Waste*

Activity E.s

GRADE LEVELS: 4-6

OBJECTIVE:

To make students aware of where their own waste ends up and realize that this has an impact on the quality of our lives.

MATERIALS:

Map of town or county

Paper, pencil

Telephone

Resource people:

- County government
- Board of Supervisors
- Recycling coordinator
- Department of Public Works
- County planners

Places:

- Landfill
- Incineration plant
- Recycling facility
- Composting facility
- Other waste disposal facility

CONCEPT:

Youth can explore their community by finding out what is done with the waste they produce, e.g. trash, and sewage.

PROCEDURE:

1. Identify all the waste disposal options in your community.
2. Mark them on a map.
3. Decide where various types of garbage can go. Each item may have several options.
4. Think about what recycling and composting options are available in your community. Are there others that would be desirable? If so, make recommendations to the appropriate local government authorities.
5. Optional: Use the information you gather to write a report on waste disposal or create a bulletin board or exhibit.

* Adapted from Cornell Waste Management Institute: Trash Goes to School