



Source Reduction*

Activity M.o

GRADE LEVELS: 7 - 8

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this lesson your students should be able to:

Describe the role of source reduction.

List five ways that waste can be reduced in packaging.

Find at least three examples of source-reduced products.

Provide examples of seven important roles that food packaging plays in assuring food quality.

OVERVIEW:

“Shared responsibility” means that all of us – private citizens, government, and industry – have a role to play in solving the solid waste problem. One area in which business is taking the lead is, logically enough, the first step in the EPA approach: source reduction. This lesson will discuss how business has responded to this first priority.

PROCEDURE:

1. Distribute and discuss Student Handout 1.
2. Later, distribute Student Handout 2, “Supermarket Search,” to your students. Have them fill it out while shopping with their parents, identifying source-reduced products and packaging, and comparing the packaging of similar products. Have your students bring in examples of source reduced products from the store or from home.
3. Distribute and have your class complete Student Handout 3.

EXTENSIONS:

Packaging design decisions often involve trade-offs. A package that is source-reduced, for example, will sometimes be less convenient to use. Distribute and discuss Student Handout 4 which identifies some of these trade-offs.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

Many companies and trade associations have produced their own brochures on what they are doing to solve the solid waste problem. In the back of this book is a list of organizations that can provide materials on solid waste topics. You or your students can write some of the companies and trade associations identified. (These organizations are especially likely to have materials available on the topic of source reduction.)

*Source: Kraft General Foods Environmental Institute Solid Thinking About Solid Waste