



Ideas of inspiration

Enhance student learning and get creative using these suggestions as a starting point to incorporate waste management across the curriculum and in various software platforms.

Microsoft Word/Google Docs

Persuasive writing exercise: Which side will you take?

- Recycling doesn't make that big a difference; besides, I'm only one person.
- The green bin is smelly and disgusting. I'm not going to use it.
- Rinsing and sorting items for the blue box isn't important, that's someone else's job.

Comic strip:

Write a dialogue between people (for example a resident and collector, household members, friends at school) about recycling and/or waste management.

- What types of myths can you correct?
- Are there any disagreements people might have?

What's going on here:

Create a scenario that students have to interpret, analyze and then write their take on the scenario. The scenario could be a paragraph you write or an image that tells a story.

Scenario topics could include:

- Late placement
- Items left at the curb that are stickered
- Wrong collection day (your pick up day is Thursday but you put it out on Wednesday) or wrong program (it's garbage week not yard waste week)
- The landfill has been collecting for a long time. What should we do when it's full?

Scavenger hunt:

Create a scavenger hunt using our website.

- Students follow clues you create and navigate our website to discover the answers.
- They need to write down what they find.

Be a Waste Whiz Star!

- Create a list of items you don't know how to dispose of.
- Use our Waste Whiz search tool to figure out how to dispose of an item correctly and/or safely.
- Write down your findings. Were the answers and directions clear?

Calling all poets!

- Write a Haiku, rhyming couplet or free-style poem about waste, recycling or the three Rs.
- Recite your work to the class.
- Try using another poem writing style.

- Is one poetry style harder/easier than another?

Microsoft PowerPoint/Google Slides

Sort it out:

Create or obtain an image of a pile of waste items. A collage of individual images of waste items works too.

- All the items need to be disposed of. Where does it all go?
- Have students drag/drop images or write a list of which item goes where under program headings (blue box, green bin, garbage, etc.).

Examples:

Do the two-box sort:

- Which recyclable items go in which box?
- Do you know why/why not?

Green bin it right:

- Which item(s) do not belong in the green bin?
- Look through a collection of images to determine which items can't be accepted. Do you know why they aren't accepted?

From your home to the farmer's field:

So, you want to know how compost is made.

- Write the stages or source images for students to put in order.
- The correct sequence will result in compost that farmers can use in their fields and landscapers can use in their work.

Don't know the stages:

From the green bin: home – curb – green bin bunker – Guelph processing plant (processed inside via temperature and moisture controlled environment) – farmers/landscapers

From yard waste: home – curb – yard waste area in Cambridge (processed outside via windrows and natural exposure to weather/temperature) – free for residents to pick up at our transfer stations in Waterloo (Gate #2) and Cambridge

Visit our webpage: under green bin and yard waste for further details.

From a waste perspective:

- Build a waste management pyramid.
- What should we do more often? What should we do less often?

Various layers you can use are: refuse, reduce/repair, reuse, rot, recycle and landfill anything that's left.

Setting waste at the curb:

Create a curbside image. A collage of waste material like a blue box, green bin, yard waste bag/can, furniture, cardboard boxes, litter, etc. Maybe take a picture of your own curbside placement. Did you set it to the curb right?

Have students look at the picture of curbside placement.

- Does everything look like the collector should pick it up?
- Is there anything at the curb that the collector will not take?

Microsoft Excel/Google Forms

Collecting data:

- Go through various rooms in the home.
- What items are recyclable, which ones aren't?
- Are a large number of items non-recyclable?
- Are there items you can reuse, repurpose (DIY or upscale), repair or donate?
- What categories would you use to classify the items you found? Blue box, green bin or garbage?
- Does one room have more recyclables than another?
- Create a chart or graph that shows your findings for each room.
- How does your home compare/contrast to others?

Are you waste wise?

Create a multiple choice and/or true/false questionnaire to see just how familiar you are with our services and programs.

- Get a classmate to complete your questionnaire.
- How did they do?
- Share results. Is there an aspect of waste management that needs further exploration?

Trivia:

Create a game-like questionnaire that asks participants about the history of the blue box. Extend this activity by creating trivia about any of our other programs.

- Get your classmates to play along.
- Are there any trends in their responses?
- What aspects of waste management do they know well or not well?

Myths and mistakes:

Create a series of myths and mistakes for students to review.

- Can you dispel the myth with facts?
- Can you fix the mistakes?
- Choose the right answers from a list of options. To obtain answers visit our website.

Google Draw/Paper & drawing supplies

Create your own waste management poster:

- Pick a service or program that you would like to promote.
- Who is your target audience?
- What is your message?
- What is your call-to-action?

Comic strip:

Create your own message and storyline about the Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, repair, rot, etc.)

- How will you visually tell the story and capture an audience's attention?

Art about waste and/or art made with waste:

Design your own artwork about waste or use recyclable or non-recyclable material to create artwork.

- What material will you choose? Why?
- What topic/subject matter inspires you?
- What artistic styles, techniques and tools will you use?
- Take pictures and combine images electronically to create a class gallery that other students can see.
- What are the reactions of the other students?
- Can art inspire conversation and bring about change?

Google Meet/Video chat**Curbside Chat:**

- What time should waste materials be to the curb?
- Where should items be placed? Before or after the sidewalk? To the left or the right of the driveway apron?
- When will the truck or trucks come get items?
- Where does it go afterwards?

Ask away:

- Get your questions ready!
- Want something clarified or explained?
- Have an item you don't know what to do with?

Blue box blues

- Are you confused by the two-box sort?
- Unsure if it goes in the blue box or not?
- Does it all get recycled?
- Why are only certain plastics recyclable?

Green bin blunders:

- It can't all go in the green bin.
- Compostable versus biodegradable: what's the difference?
- What about the smell?