

**ECO**

**TALK**

# RECYCLING



**textiles**



**batteries**



**cardboard**



**glass**



**kitchen  
waste**



**metals**



**paper**



**plastic bottles**



**printer  
cartridges**

**Discussion Cards To Build Language Skills  
And Environmental Awareness**



# RECYCLING



ECO TALK cards contain images, information and activities to increase awareness of global and environmental issues for students working in a cross-curricular context. The focus is on discussion in small groups as well as at whole class level, using the CD-ROM supplied in this pack to facilitate projection onto a whiteboard.

## CONTENTS

- Card 1     What Happens To Our Waste?**
- Card 2     Landfill**
- Card 3     Recycling At Home**
- Card 4     Recycling At School**
- Card 5     Recycling Glass**
- Card 6     Recycling Paper**
- Card 7     Recycling Metal Cans**
- Card 8     Recycling Plastics**
- Card 9     Recycling Computers**
- Card 10    Recycling Phones**
- Card 11    Recycling Textiles**
- Card 12    Recycling Wood**
- Card 13    Recycling Vehicles**
- Card 14    Recycling Water**
- Card 15    Saving Water - What Can You Do?**
- Card 16    Composting**

### **Acknowledgements**

© Les Ray and Malcolm Watson    Published by ECO Publishing International Ltd., 2010

ISBN 978-1-907049-16-3

The right of Les Ray to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted by her in accordance with the copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any form or any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except pages marked 'copiable page' which can be photocopied for use within the purchasing institution only. Requests for permission to reproduce any part of this publication must be obtained in writing from the publisher.

The publisher can be contacted by Email at [info@ecopublishinginternational.com](mailto:info@ecopublishinginternational.com)

Every effort has been made to trace copyright holders and obtain their permission for the use of copyright material. The publisher will gladly receive information enabling them to rectify any error or omission in subsequent editions.     Printed on recycled paper.



# RECYCLING

## What Happens To Our Waste?

### What's the issue?

- Our waste is either incinerated (burned), put in landfill or recycled. Some is dumped at sea.
- These can all have negative effects on the environment.
- Everyone can help by producing less waste and following the 'three Rs' – reduce, re-use, recycle.

### What you need to know ...

Recycling saves more energy than is generated by burning waste because it means making fewer new things from raw materials. It also means less pollution in the air. Deprived of air and water, even organic wastes degrade slowly in a landfill. Decaying waste in landfill can produce weak acidic chemicals called leachate and landfill gas.

Landfill gases contain methane and carbon dioxide, which can add to global warming. Dumping waste at sea can cause more damage to the environment.

### Let's talk about it ...

- Look at the picture. What kind of waste can you see?
- Should this waste be there?
- What is the effect on our environment that waste has been 'fly-tipped' here?
- Why is it dangerous?
- Who has put it here and why?
- How do we stop fly-tipping?
- Would it be better to put this waste into landfill? Why? Why not?
- Would it have been better to burn this waste? Why? Why not?
- Where should this waste have been put?

### Now try this ...

1. Plan and write a story around a sequence of events, e.g. a piece of waste from disposal to recycling.
2. Argue the case for and against the 3Rs.
3. Investigate food cycles and how polluting the environment may affect these.
4. In geography, look at what kinds of pollution can affect life in the ocean if waste is dumped there.
5. Create posters to encourage people to adopt the 3Rs.
6. Analyse how much is re-used or recycled in school during the week.



# RECYCLING

# Landfill

## What's the issue?

- Historically, landfills have been the most common method of organised waste disposal and remain so in many places around the world.
- Management of the by-products of landfill is essential. Liquids and gases need to be contained and reprocessed.
- For some products, there is no alternative but to bury them safely in landfill.

## What you need to know ...

A landfill is like a tightly-sealed storage container and is designed to slow down degradation to protect the environment from contamination. Deprived of air and water, even organic wastes like paper and grass clippings, degrade very slowly in a landfill. Decaying waste in landfill can produce weak acidic chemicals called leachate, as well as landfill gases (methane and carbon dioxide). To prevent leachate contaminating streams, it is collected and disposed of at a waste-water treatment plant.

## Let's talk about it ...

- What materials can you see in the picture?
- What is the vehicle doing to the waste?
- Why are there so many birds around this landfill site?
- Why do you think people object to having a landfill site near to where they live?
- In the picture, what you would you smell and hear?
- What his happening to the buried waste underground?
- What are the effects on the environment of landfill sites?

## Now try this ...

1. Make a 'landfill dictionary' of relevant words and their meanings, e.g. leachate, toxic, aquifer.
2. Use persuasive language. Create an advertising leaflet, proposing good points about landfill sites.
3. Write newspaper or magazine articles giving a sense of why people do not like landfill sites, but how they can be useful.
4. Find out more about how methane gas is created and what it can be used for.
5. Find data from other countries about waste put into landfill.

