

WASTE MANAGEMENT – REPLACE THE WORDS

Pupils are given a sheet on which is some information about the global impact of waste. Some key words are missing but provided at the bottom of the sheet. Pupils use their knowledge and common sense to put the right words in the right places.

Purpose:

Pupils reinforce learning about both waste and climate change. Pupils make links between waste issues and climate change and their effect on the whole planet.

Timing:

10 minutes for the completion of the sheets.

15 minutes for the provision of answers.

Resources:

Photocopied worksheets (one per child or one per small group).

Pens/pencils etc.

Q&A / discussion on any of the issues in the activity can follow.

THE IMPACT OF WASTE ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

“Everyone knows that (1) _____ waste is good for the environment because it (2) _____ natural resources. What many people don't know is that solid waste reduction and recycling also have an impact on global (3) _____ change.

The manufacture, (4) _____, and use of products as well as management of the resulting waste all result in greenhouse gas (5) _____. Greenhouse gases, which (6) _____ heat in the upper (7) _____ occur naturally and help create climates that sustain life on our planet. Increased (8) _____ of these gases can contribute to (9) _____ global temperatures, sea (10) _____ changes, and other climate changes.

Waste prevention and recycling - jointly referred to as (11) _____ help us better manage the solid waste we generate. But reducing waste is a potent strategy for reducing greenhouse gases because it can:

(a) *Reduce emissions from energy consumption.* Recycling (12) _____ energy. Manufacturing goods from recycled materials typically requires (13) _____ energy than producing goods from virgin materials. When people reuse goods or when products are made with less material, less energy is needed to (14) _____ transport and process (15) _____ materials and to manufacture products. When energy demand decreases, fewer (16) _____ fuels are burned and less carbon (17) _____ is emitted into the atmosphere.

(b) *Reduce emissions from incinerators.* Recycling and waste prevention divert materials from incinerators and thus reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste (18) _____.

(c) *Reduce* (19) _____ *emissions from landfills*. Waste prevention and recycling (including composting) divert organic wastes from landfills, reducing the methane that would be released if these materials (20) _____ in a landfill.

(d) *Increase storage of carbon in* (21) _____. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood in a process called "carbon (22) _____." Waste prevention and recycling paper products allows (23) _____ trees to remain standing in the forest, where they can continue to (24) _____ carbon dioxide from the atmosphere."

(From the United States Environmental Protection Agency website).

http://waste.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/waste.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php

The missing words and terms:

level - less - more - reducing - rising - conserves -
climate distribution - emissions - trap - atmosphere
concentrations - dioxide - methane - sequestration - raw
- extract - combustion - remove - saves - decomposed
- fossil - waste reduction - forests

The answers

(1) reducing (2) conserves (3) climate (4) distribution (5) emissions (6) trap
(7) atmosphere (8) concentrations (9) rising (10) level (11) waste reduction
(12) saves (13) less (14) extract (15) raw (16) fossil (17) dioxide (18)
combustion (19) methane (20) decomposed (21) forests (22) sequestration
(23) more (24) remove