

August 2006

GobarTimes

Green Schools Network

ACTIVITY SHEET

Why talk about waste?



Because that's what we find everywhere around and that's what most of us want to get rid of?

But does a problem end once we get rid of it, especially waste, which continues to float in our ecosystem for years and sometimes centuries.

Managing waste has become a major problem in urban and even rural areas as human 'civilisation' evolves. Ya! There is vermicomposting and waste reuse and we make models for our school exhibition. But before doing these you need to segregate waste and engage in an analysis of waste disposal and usage i.e waste management. Lets find out how waste is managed in our school and in our community? Ask questions to people and to ourselves. Explore waste management!

Name.....

Class.....Date.....

ACTIVITY 1: MY SCHOOL

Let us trace the path of waste inside our own school. Finding out the dustbin inside your classroom is not a difficult job to do. One day come early to school and talk to the person who takes away the waste from your classroom. Or better go to your school office and enquire who gets the waste from your classroom. Identify the person and interview him or her. Ask

Name/s of the person interviewed: _____

Where is the waste transferred from the classrooms and corridors- where does it land finally in the school?

Does the school have segregated dustbins for bio - degradable and non-biodegradable waste? If no, make a group in your class and seek an appointment with the principal and enquire why there is no segregation of waste?

Does the staff segregate the waste into different categories? If yes, what categories

Where does the waste finally go from the school? Is it dumped somewhere? Who/which department takes away the waste from the school?

Ask your teacher to take you on a tour as to how does waste travel across the city and where does it finally land up? It is one thing to read about that place and another to be there? Lets be there!



Hi!

I am Pandit Gobar Ganesh.

You will find me in Gobar Times—a magazine that tells you how your everyday life is linked to the world around you. Hooked, huh? If you want to know more about me and GobarTimes visit us at www.gobartimes.org

GOBAR GYAN: Segregation of waste means assorting it and putting like things together. The primary segregation is on the basis of biodegradable and non-biodegradable. The kinds of waste, which decay easily biologically are biodegradable eg. Food materials, garden waste etc. Those which do not decompose biologically are non-biodegradable eg. Plastic materials, glass etc.



Segregation is the first step towards successful waste management. No plans of vermicomposting, composting or recycle or reuse can work until you get clearly tangible materials for composting, recycle and reuse. You cannot obviously put food material mixed with plastic for composting or recycle plastic mixed with paper.



Activity 2: My Home

Find out how is waste managed in your home? Leave the school- is waste segregated in your house? If no, ask your parents, why? Write their answers here. Compare notes with your classmates?

Does anyone collect waste from your house or do you go to the nearest dustbin to dispose waste?

Just have a look at your dustbin everyday and guess what percentage of waste is biodegradable and how much is non-biodegradable?

Visit the big dustbin of your locality and note its situation. Describe it here?

Ask your parents for help and find out who collects the waste from this big dustbin and how? Is it collected by a truck? Ask the truck driver, where does he head for after that?



If your waste tour of the city did not materialize in school. Ask your parents to take you on one, sometime. Describe here what you got to know after reaching the place where all the waste of the city is collected. Talk to a few people around. Describe the place

GOBAR GYAN: Did you know that people picking up waste at dustbins and landfills are one of the key people engaged in recycling and reuse – and play a key role in waste management. But how? Find out for yourself. A whole economy thrives on waste material how? Perhaps an interaction with a ragpicker might give you insights into the same.

Activity 3: Look around and you would find people collecting some material in the dustbins around your locality? Interview one such fellow- there may be some children also doing the same. Infact, you can make a team of friends and go around doing this project- It would be much more fun this way. But do remember to inform your parents about the project and take ideas from them

What kinds of waste do they collect from the waste?

What do they do with the waste they collect? Where do they take it?

Any other interesting information you got to know about the people who pick waste?

Read the May 2002 issue of Gobar Times. Log on to http://www.gobartimes.org/gt20020515/gt_covfeature.htm to know everything

Activity 4: If your school has a vermicomposting unit, you must have already visited it. Find out the worms used. What is their scientific name?

What kinds of waste can you put in a vermicomposting unit?

If your school does not have a vermicomposting or composting unit? Ask your teacher to arrange one for you to a place nearby? Read pg. No.73 of the Green Schools Programme Manual to make your own vermicomposting unit at school or at home.



Did you find this activity sheet interesting?
E-mail us at eeu@cseindia.org or write to:

**Activity Sheet, Centre for Science and Environment, 41 Tughlaqabad Institutional Area,
New Delhi-110062 or Call 29955124 Extension 219**