

Teacher Notes/Key Ideas

Waste Management

- “Waste Management” is the term given to the systems involved with managing rubbish. An integrated programme for waste management starts with reducing the generation of rubbish, the promotion of “reuse and recycle” ethics, the collection and processing of the material and its final disposal in an approved disposal facility.
- Young people need to gain an awareness into the adverse effects on the environment of excess waste disposal and the long-term costs to future generations.
- In 1996 821,000 tonnes of rubbish was generated in the Auckland region. In one month it would fill a rugby field to the height of a ten-storey building.
- Curbside recycling schemes in some areas are endeavouring to combat this growing problem.
- Children are an important part of this waste reduction scheme as they take the important messages home to their families. Saving landfill space and natural resources are important factors for them to learn and understand.
- The Reduce, Reuse, Recycle ethic is the flagship of all waste reduction strategies.

Waste Reduction

- Explain to students what waste reduction means. How does reducing waste before we create it help preserve resources and landfill space?
- Here are some ways to reduce waste:
 - **Share copies**
 - **Use blackboard whenever possible**

- **Start a "reuse-it box" for scrap paper**
- **Use refillable pens**
- **Use old exercise book paper for drawing**
- **Use both sides of paper**
- **Use refillable items for juice bottles, lunch boxes**

A Waste Free School

- Develop an overall plan for the school to reduce waste (including energy, paper, food, wrappers, litter), introducing separation and recycling schemes, checking litter, composting garden and food wastes, incorporating environmental education into all areas of the curriculum.

Promote a Waste Week

Our School Cut Out Waste!

- Promote a waste reduction campaign around the school with poster, logos, slogans, displays, songs.

ReUse 100 and More!

Take a common item of rubbish e.g. a PET plastic bottle or aluminium can, and get your class to brain-storm as many uses as possible for this item, for example: the kitchen, workshop, garden shed, sports etc.

New Treasures from Old

- Have a competition within the class - who can make useful articles, presents, toys, ornaments from discarded plastic - or set up a “use-it-again” box for the classroom, where students place all materials that can be used again.
- Have students create collages, models, sculptures etc. with any leftover materials.
- Display the reused items in the school library, assembly hall or classroom.



ReCycle

- Have your own “waste week”. The whole school concentrates on waste, waste prevention, waste reduction, reusing, recycling and litter.

Recycling Monster

- Design a “monster” out of junk materials.

Posters and More Posters

- Encourage students to recycle at school with a poster or pamphlet contest. Then display the best posters in the school foyer or hall.

Curriculum

Science:	Making Sense of the Living World Making Sense of the Material World
English:	Speaking, Listening, Writing & Presenting
Social Studies:	Place & Environment
Links to:	Art, Music
Levels 2-4	