

Classroom Waste Education Package – Guide

Water & Waste Services – City of Whitehorse 2022

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Activity Overview & Instructions

- I. Waste Sort Activity Sheet: Can you guess what goes where? This colorful activity sheet challenges student's waste sorting skills by asking them to decide what type of waste belongs in which bin – Black for garbage, Green for compost or Blue for recycling. Please refer to V. and VI. Our City Organics and Waste Sorting Guides for more examples.

Waste Sort Answers:

Black Bin (Garbage)	Green Bin (Compost)	Blue Bin (Recycling)
Glass jar – City currently landfills all glass products. Raven Recycling also no longer accepts glass jars.	Flowers	Paper bundle
Pet waste – City recommends bag it and place in your black bin.	Leftover sandwich	Used paper or Post-It notes
Disposable face mask	Orange peel	Used water bottle
Styrofoam coffee cups	Apple core	Empty juice box
	Used teabag	Tin cans
	Toilet paper/tissues	

- II. Waste Diversion Word Search: Keep your eyes peeled for these waste related words! Can you find “Sandwich”? How about “Cardboard?” Refer to the word bank on the right hand side of the word search and cross off words as you find them. We recommend using a highlighter or coloured pen to help identify words that you find!

*** Note there is a master sheet attached labelled “Waste Diversion Word Search Answer Key” for teacher reference!

- III. Recollect Sorting Game Lesson Plan: Recollect is a waste technology and education company that provides a number of programs and products to municipalities, businesses and other organizations. They provide the software for the City of Whitehorse’s *What Goes Where?* app (See VIII. Below). Their *Sorting Game* document outlines a waste sort that can be done in any classroom as a table top activity or in a gym or hallway as a relay game. The main premise is to test students learning of waste sorting categories. This activity can be done in small groups or by dividing the class into two teams and creating a competition! The key learning outcome is to determine what types of waste students struggle to sort and where clarification is needed (ie. Placing leftover sandwiches in the garbage or fruit cups full of fruit in the recycling – fruit goes in the compost bin and the clean plastic cup can be recycled).
- IV. Recollect Reducing Landfill Emissions Lesson Plan: Recollect provides a template for classroom activities that older students (Grades 5+) can enjoy as part of their Science classes. Organic material is a big contributor to Landfill Gases such as methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas and is up to 25x more powerful than CO₂. It is therefore integral that modern landfills divert organic waste wherever possible. The City of Whitehorse has adopted its own organics program including a commercial and residential collection service for food and organic waste. All the organic waste in your green bin helps the City produce valuable compost – ideal for gardening or large scale agriculture projects, and reducing GHG emissions at the local waste management facility! Refer to this lesson guide for some suggested activities you can do with your students. City compost is also available for purchase through Whitehorse.ca/organics if you would like to use some as part of a class garden or activity.
- V. Blue Tarp Waste Audit: This is another great waste sort activity but can be done on a larger scale – perhaps with a neighboring class or as a school. This audit examines the waste from your whole school, one or more classrooms or certain areas of the school or office. You will need a large blue or clear tarp, disposable gloves, a weigh scale and enough space to conduct the audit – such as the gym. The main goal of this

activity is to identify how well or how poorly your class or school is doing at waste diversion! Weigh garbage bag(s) before you sort then have students empty the bag(s) and begin identify items that should've been diverted into either compost or recycling streams. Take the final weights and then its time for some math! You can use graphs, pie charts or other methods to display the numbers and determine what percent of your garbage is actually compostable or recyclable!

- VI. City of Whitehorse Organics Sorting Guide: This printable poster outlines City of Whitehorse examples of what belongs in your green cart. If not already displayed, add these to classroom or school compost areas to give students more visual examples of compostable products.
- VII. City of Whitehorse Waste Sorting Guide: This printable poster outlines City of Whitehorse examples of waste sorting at our Waste Management Facility. It gives students a helpful visual of how waste is sorted at the landfill and the many categories of waste that exist.
- VIII. *Don't Sink Your Grease!* Poster: Save your pipes and protect our City sewer and waste water systems. This helpful poster highlights liquids to keep out of the sink and alternative disposal methods. Great guide for students when deciding what to put down the sink when they're at home!
- IX. *What Goes Where?* App: Available on Android and Apple devices, download our City waste sorting app today! Never miss a collection day, get updates for important events like Household Hazardous Waste Day and use our waste sorting wizard for those products that are confusing (ie. What to do with those greasy pizza boxes?).