

# Sorting Your Waste

Eco360 Jr.

Activity

Grade Level: 3-8



## Main Objectives

Learners will learn about waste management and how to sort waste correctly - learning how to identify which waste products go into their correct waste bin - i.e. recyclables, organics, garbage, etc.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this activity, learners will:

- Develop an understanding of plastic waste management in Canada
- Understand what their local municipalities are doing to manage plastic waste

### Length of Activity: 1 - 1.5 hours

**Step 1+2:** Introduction about where to put plastic waste and blue bin sorting

**Step 3:** Watch a video about recycling myths and/or complete a waste management activity

### Materials Required

- Internet-enabled device
- Learner worksheet

## Activity

### Step 1: Research Activity (20 minutes)

As a class, find out where your plastic waste goes. To do this, research your local waste management company or help your class contact your town or city by email (learners can write their own emails or you can write an email from the class altogether).

In small groups, discuss:

1. What do you think happens to waste in a linear economy?
2. What should happen to waste in a circular economy?

### Step 2: Blue Bin Activity (20 minutes)

Have the class look at your blue bin and complete the provided worksheet. This can be done individually or in small groups. Ask learners the following question:

1. What kinds of things are in there? Tally all of the items you find

Alternatively, you can use Ecoschool's Waste Audit:



<https://ecoschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/School-Waste-Audit-Fillable-1.pdf>

Now, have learners research what actually happens to one item. Where can they look to find out? (Hint: Google is a good place to start; their municipality's website may have a "waste wizard" that can tell them if their item is recyclable.) Have learners present their item to the class. They can present their findings in a short essay, PowerPoint or Google Slides. (1-2 min/learner)

### Step 3: Recycling Myth Activity

#### **Grades 6-8**

As a class, watch the video “Tracking your plastic: exposing recycling myths (Marketplace)”

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8aVYb-a7Uw> (20:31 min)

#### **Grades 3-5: Activity Worksheet**

Have some fun and have learners complete GreenLearning’s Waste Management Activity worksheet. (15 min)