

Circular Economy and The UN's Sustainable Development Goals

Eco360 Jr.

Activity

Grade Level: 3-8



Main Objectives

Learners will learn about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Learners will explore how a circular economy for plastics helps with climate action.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this activity, learners will:

- Be able to identify and describe United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals
- Be able to explain how a circular economy for plastics should be an important aspect of the climate action goals of a country/the world
- Be able to explain Canada's climate action goals and strategy for tackling plastic waste

Length of Activity: 1.5 - 2 hours

Step 1+2: Intro to SDGs and its application to target plastic pollution

Step 3: SDG presentation

Materials Required

- Internet-enabled device

Activity

Step 1: Learn about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

Watch the video introducing the SDGs:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBxN9E5f7pc> (3 min)

Step 2: Discuss how these goals target plastic pollution

As a class or individually, explore the UN's sustainable development goals website (20 min)

 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Pay close attention to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Goal 6:** Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
- **Goal 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production
- **Goal 14:** Life below water: conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
- **Goal 15:** Life on land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Briefly discuss how plastic pollution affects each of these goals. (15 min)

Grades 3-5

As a class, watch this video that explains Sustainable Development Goal #12 (Responsible Consumption and Production):

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MxKrGXAYH8> (1:41 min)

Step 3: Presentations

In small groups, have learners work together to answer the following questions:

oHow does this goal target the problem of plastics in our environment?

oHow can we, as learners and kids, help to reach this goal (what are the things we can do in our everyday lives?)

1. Discuss as a group. (15 min)
2. Research and put information into a PowerPoint or Google Slides. (45 min)
3. Present to the class. (20 min)

Grades 6-8

- As a class, explore the Plastic Bank website and watch the Ted Talk
- Case study: Plastic Bank (visit website for 10 min)



- Ted Talk:



- Activity: After a class discussion, individually, write a few paragraphs about plastic bank and the UN SDGs (60 Min)
 - Explain what Plastic Bank is trying to do
 - How does Plastic Bank fit into a circular economy?
 - Which of the UN's sustainable development goals does Plastic Bank target? How does Plastic Bank help reach these goals?

Marking guide for educators:

1. Does the writing outline Plastic Bank's goal to reduce plastic waste as well as targeting poverty?
2. Does the writing show the connection between reducing plastic waste and circular economy? (i.e., companies will buy the plastic that Plastic Bank buys from individuals to re-purpose)
3. Does the writing identify a link to one or more of the UN's SDGs? (i.e., the goals listed above, or possibly others)