

Communicating Waste Law



INTRODUCTION

The lesson plan encourages research in laws related to various aspects of waste from local to global and their wider dissemination. Awareness about laws is an important tool for better compliance and enforcement.

Also, the exercise gives students an opportunity in advocacy amongst various stakeholders.

Objective:

Students will be able to

- create an inventory of laws related to waste.
- explain the purpose and importance of putting in place these global policies.
- write an article or conduct a video interview describing the different types of laws and their importance.

YRE steps: Investigate, Research Solution, Report, Disseminate

Curriculum Linkage: Science/ Environmental Studies/Social Science

Time required/ Duration:

- **Classroom session 1:** 45 minutes for the teacher to do a background introduction on waste and law.
- **Group Assignment 1:** six hours over a week for students to undertake internet based research and identify different laws pertaining to waste.
- **Classroom Session 2:** 45 minutes for the teacher to help students organise the data.
- **Group Assignment 2:** Five hours over a week for writing an article or conduct a video interview.

Resources Required:

- Resource 1 (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act)
- Resource 2 (Laws pertaining to waste)
- Internet
- Writing materials
- Mobile or video camera for shooting the video.



15-18
Years



Activity

Classroom session **1**

- Start with a discussion introducing students to waste and law.
- Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students.
- Guide the students to undertake internet based search on the different types of laws and legislations pertaining to waste. Different groups can be assigned different aspects so as to avoid overlaps
 - Laws could be pertaining to category of waste.
 - Laws could be pertaining to collection of waste.
 - Laws could be pertaining to disposal of waste - how and where?
- Help students to summarise research work and guide the groups to organise their information collected. Resource 2 should be used for the same.

Group Assignment **1**

- Ask students to compile their findings in the form of an article or conducting a video interview.
 - Guide students to cover some aspects in their reports including
 - purpose and importance of putting in place these global policies
 - different types of laws and their importance
- For article: Refer Lesson Plan 1 from chapter “Learning to be an Environmental Journalist”
- For video: Refer Lesson Plan 5 from chapter “Learning to be an Environmental Journalist”

Evaluation:

Student reports could be evaluated for effectiveness of communication of issues of the selected topic and communications skills.

Resource 1

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act — commonly referred to as RCRA — is United States primary law governing the disposal of solid and hazardous waste. Congress passed RCRA on October 21, 1976 to address the increasing problems the nation faced from our growing volume of municipal and industrial waste. RCRA, which amended the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965, set national goals for:

- Protecting human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal.
- Conserving energy and natural resources.
- Reducing the amount of waste generated.
- Ensuring that wastes are managed in an environmentally-sound manner.

To achieve these goals, RCRA established three distinct, yet interrelated, programs:

- The solid waste program, under RCRA Subtitle D, encourages states to develop comprehensive plans to manage nonhazardous industrial solid waste and municipal solid waste, sets criteria for municipal solid waste landfills and other solid waste disposal facilities, and prohibits the open dumping of solid waste.
- The hazardous waste program, under RCRA Subtitle C, establishes a system for controlling hazardous waste from the time it is generated until its ultimate disposal — in effect, from “cradle to grave.”
- The underground storage tank (UST) program, under RCRA Subtitle I, regulates underground storage tanks containing hazardous substances and petroleum products.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/history/epa-history-resource-conservation-and-recovery-act>

Resource 2

Laws pertaining to waste

Country/ State/ City	Topic	Year of enforcement	Enforcement related (awareness, penalty, etc)	Jurisdiction of enforcement

References

(<https://www.fda.gov/Cosmetics/GuidanceRegulation/LawsRegulations/ucm531849.htm>)