**Rethink wants, reduce waste**

**Grade 8 Virtual Waste Workshop**

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| **Overview:** Want it, buy it, own it, use it, hate it, toss it, then repeat it. Consumerism impacts various aspects of the environment and sustainability. It drives demand for products and influences the materials economy- from resource extraction to production and transportation, use and disposal. Through exploring consumerism and life cycle analysis, students will compare consumer needs with marketing strategies and learn how to make smart consumer choices that value the planet’s resources and promote sustainability.  |
| **Grade Focus:** Grade 8 | **Duration:** 60 minutes |
| **Curriculum Connections:***Grade 8 Geography - Global Settlement: Patterns and Sustainability*A3.5 describe various ways in which human settlement has affected the environment (e.g., water pollution from industry, agriculture, human waste; air pollution from vehicle and industrial emissions; soil contamination from pesticides, industrial by-products, garbage dumps; deforestation and loss of habitat from expanding settlement…) A3.6 describe some practices that individuals and communities have adopted to help make human settlements more sustainable (e.g.… increasing recycling and composting)*Grade 8 Science and Technology - Understanding Structures and Mechanisms** 1. assess the personal, social, and/or environmental impacts of a system, and evaluate improvements to a system and/or alternative ways of meeting the same needs
	2. assess the impact on individuals, society, and the environment of alternative ways of meeting needs that are currently met by existing systems, taking different points of view into consideration
	3. Identify social factors that influence the evolution of a system
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| **Topics of Focus:*** Applying the 3Rs to reduce waste generations at home and school
	+ Through workshop activities, students will learn reduce, reuse and recycling strategies
* Landfill
	+ In the workshop introduction, students will learn about where garbage goes, the environmental impacts of waste, and what can be done to divert waste from landfills
* Product life cycles
	+ Through this workshop, students will virtually explore the life cycle of various types of food packing, learning about the resources and associated impacts at each stage.
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| **Key Messages:** * Landfills and the environment
* 3Rs of waste reduction
* Proper use of garbage, recycling and green bins
* Region of Peel waste diversion programs
* Impacts of processed food and packaging and energy needed for production
* Resource conservation and consumer practices
* Region of Peel waste reduction programs
* Benefits of recycling
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| **Platform(s) Used:** A Prezi presentation will be casted virtually for participants using Google Classroom. |
| **Interactive Components:*** Follow along worksheet (optional)
* Virtual waste sorting game
* Virtual grocery shop
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| **Preparation and Set-up:** Virtual workshops may take place in a classroom with access to a computer with internet as well as a Smartboard or projector. The virtual workshop may also take place from the homes of participants once a link to the Google classroom session is provided. Teachers will be provided with a follow along worksheet to distribute to all students prior to the start of the workshop. |
| **Outline:***Introduction (5 mins)** Introduction of Educator, Region of Peel, and Ecosource
* Virtual workshop guidelines
* Review follow along worksheet with students

*Guided Questions (15 mins)** Waste bins, 3 R’s, landfill

 *Activity #1: “Sorting Activity” (10 mins)** This activity will challenge students to a timed waste sorting game. One by one, items on the screen will fall from the top of the screen and before the item reaches the bottom they will have to guess if the item belongs in the garbage or recycling.

*Activity #2: “Food Eco Footprint” (25 mins)** For this activity, students will be asked to make varying food purchases through a virtual grocery store. Down each virtual grocery store aisle, students will choose 1 item to purchase while making their decisions based on the information provided (i.e. ingredients, price, where it is sourced). Once the students have made their decisions, the environmental impacts of the food product will be revealed using a bar graph. Students will then be encouraged to compare and discuss the environmental impact of each product including cost, energy, GHG emissions, waste, processed vs. whole foods, etc. Using a globe, students will be able to visually see the environmental impacts that their food choices have in different places around the world.

*Debrief (5mins)** Recap of learning and question period
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| **Takeaways:** At the end of the presentation, students will be provided with a fun and educational worksheet related to the workshop content to help reinforce key messages and extend classroom learning. Teachers will be provided with a lesson plan related to the workshop to extend learning. |

*The components of this lesson may be modified during delivery at the discretion of our educators. To book with us, please visit:* [https://ecosource.ca/waste-reduction-workshops/](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fecosource.ca%2Fwaste-reduction-workshops%2F&data=02%7C01%7Claura.lane%40peelregion.ca%7C896441cd7daf4703b71708d838ad3ff1%7C356f99f39d8647a182033b41b1cb0c68%7C0%7C0%7C637321664057394866&sdata=uTbVeIL7qRWNxqIS0L%2BBzEff%2FH34v5OIddnBBXIekSs%3D&reserved=0).