



Who Recycles In Your County or Community?

Grade Level : 7

Subjects:

Science 2.4, 4.2, 5.1,
6.8
Communication Skills
2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.2

Time:

two to three class peri-
ods

Setting:

classroom

Materials:

county or city maps,
copies of Waste Reduc-
tion policies and recy-
cling schedules for
location

Skills:

communicate, classify-
ing, inferring

Vocabulary:

Bottle Bill, compostable

Source:

Watauga County
Recycling Curriculum
Committee

Summary: Students will survey businesses in the county/city as to their involvement in the community's recycling and reduction programs. Once the survey is complete, students will recognize businesses that participate in waste reduction programs by writing thank you letters. Businesses that are not participating will receive a letter requesting that they consider recycling and waste reduction as a company policy.

Objective: Students will become aware of response of businesses to local recycling program. Students will learn interview procedures and practice letter writing skills.

Background: Many counties and cities have recycling facilities in convenient locations to encourage citizen participation.

Ten states have a "Bottle Bill." When a bottled drink is sold, a 5-15 cent deposit is charged which the consumer regains when the bottle is returned for recycling. North Carolina does not have such a bill.

Leading Question: Do your parents' employers participate in the local recycling program?

Procedure:

1. Make a list of all employers represented in the class.
2. Identify enough businesses so that each student has at least two places to interview. This should be their parents' employer and one other business.
3. Demonstrate proper interviewing techniques then allow students to practice by role playing. (Student should always state name and purpose.)
4. Assign students to complete interview. (See attached)
5. Compile results.
6. Write letters thanking businesses who participate in the community's recycling program and write letters of request for participation to businesses who do not recycle.
7. Using local maps, locate all recycling services within your area. Encourage parents to volunteer to start a recycling program in their place of employment.

Who Recycles In Your County or Community? (continued)**What Now?**

1. What percent of businesses interviewed recycle?
2. Should businesses be required to recycle?
3. Who pays the increased disposal cost when businesses fail to recycle?
4. Make a list of businesses who participate. Call local newspaper to publish your results.
5. Make flyers, banners, etc., (on recycled paper) to honor businesses who are good recyclers. Display these in the school and in other public places.
6. Fax a copy of your results to all businesses interviewed.

***Note:** Interview should be done with someone in management only. Students should always conduct the interview in person if possible. A phone interview would be second choice, with mail interview being last choice.