

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

Low-waste nutrition and packaging

ACTIVITY: Bring some breakfast from home for a "trash breakfast" together with your classmates. During the breakfast, pile up all your trash on one side of the table. Afterwards separate the trash into two categories: packaging materials and organic waste.

TASK 1: Which packaging is necessary (e.g., for hygienic reasons), which packaging is wasteful, and which packaging is completely unnecessary?

List the amount in the statistical overview below and compare the results!

Trash Statistics

Can be recycled/reused

	Number	Yes	No
Necessary packaging	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wasteful packaging	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unnecessary packaging	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

TASK 2: Discuss with your classmates about what role you think this packaging serves and if/how one could avoid using this kind of packaging.

My opinion:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Did you know?

Yogurt cups don't need to be washed out before they are recycled. Before the recycling process begins, they will already be thoroughly cleaned. Therefore, instead of washing them, you can save the water, energy, and dishwashing liquid!

CHECK YOUR WAY TO SCHOOL!

Littering and trash receptacles around the school!

ACTIVITY: As a group, collect or photograph the litter and trash you find on your way to school (on one day / throughout one week). Spread the photographs or the trash across a surface and separate them according to type (paper, plastic packaging, glass, organic waste, chewing gum, other).

TASK 1: Discuss the individual trash types in order:

Which materials did you find in trash cans, which trash was simply lying on the ground?

.....

Which materials have their special trash receptacles? For which trash articles does the school lack proper disposal possibilities (e.g., batteries, chemicals)?

TASK 2: Find out who in your school is responsible for waste disposal. Interview him/her and ask:

Which materials can be recycled or reused?

.....

What is made from these materials?

.....

What happens to things that aren't recycled?

.....

How is our trash disposed of further?

ACTIVITY 3: Organize a trash slam! Divide up into a few teams and use 10 minutes to develop interesting ideas of how you want to decrease the quantity of trash and litter at your school. Afterwards, present your tips and ideas to your classmates.

The rules: each team gets 3 minutes to name as many recommendations as possible. Whichever team can present the most ideas, wins the competition.

Did you know?

143,556,000 tons of household waste is accrued per year in Germany. That means that each person throws away an average of 1.5 kg of trash each day. If one were to pile up the total household waste of a single year onto a soccer field, it would be a trash mountain almost 6,000 meters high!

Source: German Federal Statistics Office
2010 Waste Balance, Wiesbaden 2012

YOUR TRASH IS MY WORK

The disposal pathways of everyday items

Hi! I'm Gregory and I've been working for the past twelve years for the city's waste management services. In this time I've learned a thing or two about how people deal with trash. People throw away so many things and many of these items are practically new and reusable. For instance, technical equipment, clothing, furniture, and a lot of food. I sometimes ask myself why people don't just donate, repair, or sell these things. My branch, the waste management sector, has already adjusted to the steadily increasing amounts of trash: waste is separated by machines, cleaned, and then recycled depending on the trash type. It makes our work considerably easier when people already pre-sort their trash and throw it into the proper trash receptacle.

TASK 1: What happens to things when they are no longer needed?
Match the pictures to Gregory's descriptions:

This thing is quite valuable as a raw material! My colleague Jenny is an expert when it comes to disposing of these items. As soon as she receives them at the recycling station, she examines them with her colleagues to see if the items are still functioning.

The recycling process is started in the melting furnace only once it is determined that the individual components cannot be reused.

Oh man, this item is rather stubborn. We have to use high-pressure equipment and chemicals to deal with this stuff. But people can easily dispose of these properly on their own, it's not that complicated: just wrap it after use in a piece of paper and throw it in the trash bin.

There are so many of these lying around on the streets, even though there have been special containers for these in Germany for decades – even separated based on the item's color! If the materials land in the right container, then they are recycled.

Many people don't know that there is a legal obligation to return this item after use. Similarly, each store that sells these products must also accept them back. However, I often still come across these things in the normal trash container. They are sorted out by my colleagues on the assembly line and are sent straight to the recycling center.

Did you know?

The word *recycling* means "to bring back into circulation." Recycling helps to reduce trash amounts and to save our precious natural resources.

TASK 2: Imagine there is a massive employee strike by the street cleaners, the trash collectors, and city cleaning personnel. Describe how your surroundings would look. How would one have to behave to prevent trash from accruing?

PURE NATURE ?

How nature processes plastics

Everybody has seen it: the pictures of marine animals that mistake plastic trash with food and thus suffer a tragic death. Also on beaches and on streets one finds plastic bags, food packaging, and Styrofoam cups that will take decades to decompose. That is, unless they are properly disposed of and converted into reusable plastics by means of recycling processes. Plastic in our oceans and on land is also dangerous for humans: due to friction, the effects of ultraviolet radiation and evaporating plasticizers makes plastic trash disintegrate into smaller and smaller parts. The tiny plastic micro-particles are then eaten by animals and by the end of the food chain they land right on our dinner table.

TASK 1: Try to develop a compost system together with your biology teacher. Conduct an experiment in a 1.5 liter bottle and see how quickly paper towels, banana peels, chewing gum, plastic, and other substances decompose in organic waste. To learn more about how to conduct the experiment, visit our website at www.zeitbild.de/abfall.

TASK 2: Due to the fact that people want to use plastic shopping bags "once in a while" to bring their groceries home, the material is here to stay. It takes many decades for plastic to biologically decompose.

Think about other alternatives for items made from plastic. What tools and materials do you need to avoid using plastic altogether?

Did you know?

At the 2009 premiere of a movie regarding the topic of plastic, audience volunteers gave blood samples. And traces of plastic were actually found in their blood!

...AND ACTION!

Trash and littering behaviors in the group

ACTIVITY: Produce a film, a theater piece, or a photo story that depicts typical situations from your everyday life that deal with the topic of trash and littering. Imagine, for example:

"Finally summer, finally vacation. You spent the whole day hanging out with friends in the park, had a picnic, and played Frisbee. Now the day is coming to an end and it's almost time to go home. But what are you guys going to do with all the trash that piled up over the course of the day? There isn't a single trash can nearby where you and your friends can discard your bottles, drinks, wrappers, and bags! But then Sven had an idea..."

TASK 1: Do you recognize this situation? What would you do in their position? Share your experiences regarding how you handle trash. If you are out with your friends or on a school field trip – do you then dispose of your trash more or less, more thoroughly or more carelessly? What behavior of others have you noticed? Develop recommendations regarding how to avoid trash and how you can keep public spaces clean.

TASK 2: Now continue working on your screenplay. Incorporate your experiences and ideas that you worked on in Task 1. This includes: main characters, the time and place of the situation, a situation conflict / problem, a climax, and the solution of the conflict. You can submit your finished product to the "Young Reporters for the Environment" www.junge-reporter.org.

**" WITH OWNERSHIP
COMES RESPONSIBILITY!"**

This is a well-known rule of behavior in the business world. Does that also relate to the packaging of an item that you call your own?

ADVERTISE, TEXT, INFORM

Creativity and communication in dealing with trash and littering

ACTIVITY: There are often large amounts of litter around street food vendors, in pedestrian zones, and outside schools. As a consumer, one is forced to pay for this trash twice! You pay for the packaging when you buy the item and then you pay once more for the removing cost of the carelessly littered trash. Imagine you are a project manager at an advertising agency and you are commissioned to develop an anti-littering campaign. The campaign should contribute to decreasing the amount of trash that is littered in the city center.

RETHINK, REFUSE, REDUCE, RE-USE, REPAIR, RECYCLE

These six words have served as a general rule for sustainable and responsible consumption and prevention of trash.

CLEAN IS COOL

TASK 1: Conduct online research for actions, campaigns, and press articles that have been published online regarding the topic of trash and littering. What slogans or sayings can you find? Do you think your campaign is convincing?



TASK 2: Now think of your own advertising slogans for a possible anti-littering campaign and hang them up on the classroom wall. While brainstorming, remember that communication approaches can include both classic offline media such as television, newspapers, and billboards, but also online media can be used, i.e., websites, social media channels, and blogs. The target groups and the attention of the public are very different depending on what media you select.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE TRASH CYCLE

LITTER LOOKING FOR TRASH CAN

THINK  TWICE