

**INFORMATION HANDOUT: LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE
OUR WATER, FIRE, EARTH AND AIR!**

At the start of each day give the students one of the following (cut out) combinations of interesting facts (or something you have found). Then discuss them amongst your students.

Let's start recycling the *Metals* we use in our daily lives!

1. There are 350, 000 aluminum cans manufactured each minute
2. It takes only six weeks for a recycled aluminum can to become a new can.
3. 50 000 aluminum cans are created in the time that it took you to complete reading this sentence.
4. An un-recycled aluminum can will still exist 500 years from now.
5. If you recycle ONE aluminum can, you SAVE energy.
 - The energy saved by recycling one aluminum can is enough to:
 - i. Watch TV for three hours
 - ii. Produce a half gallon of gasoline

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

Let's start recycling the *Metals* we use in our daily lives!

1. An aluminum can has the ability to be recycled infinite times!!!!
2. A long time ago, aluminum was worth more than gold.
3. Aluminum cans are being manufactured to weigh less.
 - In 1972, 1 pound of aluminum would create 22 cans.
 - Presently, 1 pound of aluminum creates 29 cans.
4. By recycling one pound of aluminum (29 cans), you can save enough electricity to run one 60 watt light bulb for more than a day.

5. The recycled steel in the USA saved enough energy to provide heat and light for 18 000 000 houses.

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

Let's start recycling the *Paper* we use in our daily lives!

1. 500 000 trees are cut down in order for the Sunday newspaper to be made.
2. If we recycled ONE day of the New York Times, we would save 75 000 trees.
3. The USA could save 25 000 000 trees a year if each person recycled one out of ten of all of their newspapers.
4. If we recycled all of our newspapers we could save 250 000 000 trees every year!
5. Think about this: You plant a tree, and once it has grown you have your tree made into grocery bags (paper bags). You can make around 700 grocery bags with your one tree. In one hour at the supermarket, all 700 of your grocery bags will have been used.

That means in one year, ONE supermarket uses 60 500 000 paper bags.

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

Let's start recycling the *Paper* we use in our daily lives!

1. If we recycled the paper and wood that we threw away every year, we could provide heat for up to 50 000 000 homes for twenty years.
2. About each person uses enough paper, wood, and other products to amount to seven trees in a year. This means that in the USA they use 2 000 000 000 trees every year.
3. Think of the smell a dump has. Did you know that smell is actually so distinct because of the paper?
4. In WW1, raw materials were hard to come by, and therefore recycling was common. During this time, 33% of paper used was recycled. However, this number has decreased significantly since.
5. The average residence throws away 13 000 pieces of paper (majority being packaging and junkmail) every year.

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

Let's start recycling the *Paper* we use in our daily lives!

1. For every ton of recycled paper, you can save:
 - o i. 17 trees
 - o ii. 380 gallons of oil
 - o iii. three cubic yards of landfill space
 - o iv. 4000 kilowatts of energy v. 7000 gallons of water
2. Which means: i. 64% energy savings ii. 58% water savings iii. 60 lbs less air pollution.
3. By saving those 17 trees, the saved 17 trees can eliminate 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air every year.
4. If we did not save those 17 trees, and burned the paper instead of recycling it, we would put 1500 pounds of carbon dioxide into the air.
5. The costs of constructing a paper mill intended to use recycled/waste paper is 50% to 80% less than the cost of a paper mill which uses new pulp.

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

Let's start recycling the *Plastic* we use in our daily lives!

1. Plastic waste (bags, garbage) that are found in oceans, have killed and continue to kill up to 1 000 000 sea creatures each year.
2. By recycling plastic instead of burning it (incinerating), we are able to double the energy savings.

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

Let's start recycling the *Glass* we use in our daily lives!

1. Think about a giant skyscraper. Now picture this giant skyscraper filled to the top with glass bottles. We throw out enough glass bottles to fill a giant skyscraper each month, despite the fact that glass bottles are recyclable.
2. It takes 4000 years for a glass bottle to decompose, if this glass bottle is in a landfill, it takes even longer.
3. What happens when we recycle one glass bottle instead of having a new glass bottle made?
 1. We can save enough energy to run a 100 watt light bulb for four hours.
 2. It decreases the amount of air pollution caused by that glass bottle by 20%
 3. It decreases the amount of water pollution caused by that glass bottle by 50%
 4. The waste materials which are created to produce new glass bottles (mining, transporting) is reduced by over 80% when a bottle is recycled instead.

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

Let's start recycling the *Water* we use in our daily lives!

1. 2.5% of the world's water supply is made up of freshwater lakes, rivers, ice, snow, and underground aquifers.
2. 97.5% of the world's water supply is made up of saltwater seas and oceans.
3. 7% of the world's renewable water supply comes from Canada
4. 33 million people are supported by Canada's Great Lakes
5. 8.5 million Canadians receive their drinking water from the Great Lakes.

(The Green Lane, 2008)

Let's start recycling the *Water* we use in our daily lives!

1. Presently, we are using 3800 cubic kilometers of fresh water every year! This is two times the amount of fresh water we used fifty years ago.
2. To grow 1 kilogram of potatoes you need to use around 1000 kilograms of water.

3. The use of water in Canadian homes is:
 1. 30% - toilet
 2. 35% - bath/shower
 3. 20% - laundry
 4. 10% - kitchen/drinking
 5. 5% - cleaning

(The Green Lane, 2008)

Let's start understanding the benefits of *water*

1. Everyone should drink 2 to three litres of water (liquids) every day.
2. 2 – 3 litres equals approximately 8 glasses

(The Green Lane, 2008)

Let's start understanding *Water*.

1. Around the world, primarily in developing countries, 1.8 million people pass away due to diarrhoeal diseases. 90% of the 1.8 million people are children under the age of five years.
2. One billion people worldwide do NOT have access to safe drinking water.
3. 2.4 billion people worldwide do NOT have access to adequate sanitation.
4. Improved sanitation can reduce diarrhea morbidity by 32%

(The Green Lane, 2008)

Let's start recycling: Recycling Facts.

1. We can recycle 75% of our garbage.
2. In 1898, the first recycling plant was built.
3. Approximately 1/3 of dumpsters are made up of recyclable packaging materials.

4. Each year in the USA, 1200 lbs of organic matter which is supposed to be composted is thrown out.
5. The USA makes up 5% of the world's population yet it produces 40% of the world's waste, with each person averaging 1609 lbs of trash.

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

Let's start recycling: Recycling Facts.

1. We throw away 5% – 15% hazardous substances.
2. Tinfoil is recyclable. 80 000 000 Hershey Kisses are wrapped in tin foil each day, that equals over 50 acres of recyclable tinfoil.
3. Presently, rainforests are being cleared at a rate of 100 acres per minute.
4. For every \$10 spent, \$1 is going towards the cost of the packaging. That means packaging costs 10% of the total product cost.
5. Cloth diapers cost only 3 cents to wash. Yet:
 - o i. Disposable diapers cost 22 cents each use
 - o ii. An average baby uses 10 000 diapers.

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

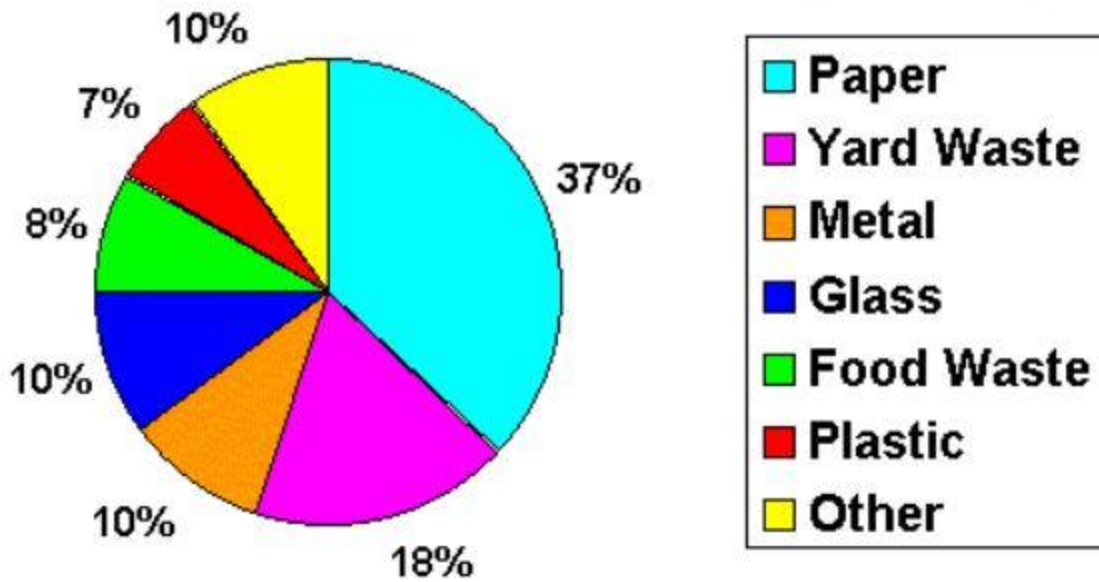
Let's start recycling: Recycling Facts.

1. On average, a family in the United States purchases and drinks:
 - o i. 26 gallons of bottled water
 - o ii. 29 gallons of juice
 - o iii. 104 gallons of milk
 - o iv. 182 gallons of pop.
 - o Remember to recycle these bottles!
2. One quart of motor oil can pollute around 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water.
3. 1/3 of water used in the majority of homes is used when you flush your toilet.

(The Recycling Revolution, 2008)

How much of the waste in an average dump can be recycled?

Composition of an Average Dump



(Recycling Fun Facts)

