

Working with chemicals : Waste management

Description

This topic works with government statistics to raise issues about waste recycling. It would work well as a cross curricular topic working with science colleagues to understand both the chemical and the energy issues involved in waste disposal.

Activity 1: Getting rid of waste

Activity 2: Changing UK habits

The worksheet **Getting rid of waste** presents data from 15 EU countries. The task is to use the clues to identify which country is which. Some clues lead to immediate identification whereas others need to be used in conjunction with information contained in different clues. Pupils will notice that different countries have very different patterns of waste disposal, some much greener than others.

This sets the frame for **Changing UK habits**. Here information related to the UK and England is presented and pupils are asked to produce a poster, based on the graphical information available, which encourages recycling. Pupils will need to know about the hazards associated with landfill, the energy loss associated with incineration and the benefits associated with recycling, re-using and composting. Recycling saves more energy than incineration yields and there are problems of toxicity and of methane production associated with biodegradable waste in landfill. Composting keeps biodegradable waste relatively benign.

Further information about waste and its disposal is readily available on the Internet.



The Mathematics

In this topic pupils read and interpret statistical data portrayed graphically through the use of bar charts and pie charts.