

## UNDERSTANDING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

<b>RATIONALE:</b>	Most students (and citizens) do not have a full understanding of their communities' present or future solid waste management practices.
<b>SUBJECTS:</b>	Social Studies, Science, Home Economics
<b>GRADES:</b>	9-12
<b>LEARNING OUTCOME:</b>	Students will evaluate both the current solid waste disposal practices and the future solid waste disposal plans in their community.
<b>LEARNING PROCEDURE:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By email, phone or website, contact recyclers, landfill site managers, disposal company representatives, sanitation department officials, county environmental health officers, and planning officials. (Contact the Center for Environmental Research and Service for assistance if needed). Find out the following as it applies to your community:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Quantities and types of materials discarded</li> <li>b. Where materials are finally disposed of</li> <li>c. Quantities and types of materials recycled, reused, and recovered</li> <li>d. Expense of solid waste disposal</li> </ol> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Other resources for this project may be:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Speakers – local government (city, county), Alabama Department of Environmental Management's Solid Waste Division, Center for Environmental Research and Service, etc.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Government Publications and Webpages – Contact local, state, and federal agencies for information.</p> </li> <li>2. Determine your community's plans for future solid waste disposal by asking:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How and where will solid waste be handled/disposed of in the future (landfills, energy production, recycling, etc.?)</li> <li>b. How will future sites be chosen?</li> <li>c. What quantities of solid wastes will be generated in the future (more or less than present)?</li> <li>d. What will happen to the cost of solid waste disposal in the future?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Evaluate your findings regarding your community's plans for solid waste disposal:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. From your perceptions of the solid waste disposal situation, at the present and in the future, do you feel that your community has made adequate preparations for the future?</li> <li>b. If <u>you</u> had the ability to change any aspects of the plan for the future of solid waste disposal in your community, what would you do?</li> <li>c. From your research, make recommendations on how individuals in your community might become involved in determining future courses of action regarding solid waste disposal.</li> <li>d. What individual action might you take to alleviate the problem of solid waste in your community?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<b>PRE &amp; POST QUESTIONS:</b>	Where does your waste material go for disposal? What is the cost of disposal for your household? How much does your city/county pay for disposal, including pickup, hauling, and landfilling?
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