

REAPS READER

Have you helped the environment today?



What's Waste?

When we think of waste - also known as garbage, trash, litter, rubbish, refuse - we think of yucky, smelly, messy stuff. It's the junk we consider worthless, and throw away. No one wants to think about it, much less deal with it.

Each week we put bags out by the curb and after the garbage truck comes rumbling down the street and takes it away, we think on it no more: out of sight = out of mind. But where does it go? And what would happen if nobody came to take the trash away? How fast would our homes fill up with unwanted, stinky things? We'd be forced to think about it, constantly. We'd have to take a closer look.

And when we really look at what we throw away, we can see that most of our garbage is reusable and recyclable materials. The smelly, messy stuff (rotting food) is just a

small part of our waste. Every garbage bag contains valuable resources and energy that we are throwing away.

Since we all produce garbage, we are all part of the problem. But we can also be part of the solution. Of all the environmental issues we face today, garbage is one each of us can (and should) do something about. It's all about making wise choices.

The choices we make every day affect the amount and types of garbage we toss. When we rethink the way we live, reduce what we buy, reuse things instead of getting new ones, recycle and compost; we not only make less waste, we also save valuable natural resources and energy, and create less pollution. Take responsibility for the waste you produce. Make a difference at home, school and when shopping. It's easy and every little bit helps!

Packaging Scavenger Hunt

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How much packaging is used to wrap the foods you eat? Conduct a packaging scavenger hunt at a local grocery store. Make a list of the foods you find with no wrapping, with one wrapping, with two wrappings and with three or more wrappings.

Dumpy's two cents worth!

"Hey guys! Don't forget about me and my over eating problem! Help keep me slim and fit by using the 3 R's.

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE!

Thanks!"

-Dumpy

