



# KNOW YOUR



# WASTE



# LEAFLET ON WASTE REDUCTION FOR CHILDREN



The sad situation of today is that our waste bins are getting bigger and bigger as we produce more and more waste. It can be found everywhere: in our homes, in the schools, on the streets and even in the forests... Soon we won't know where to put all this waste. Wherever we go, a day doesn't go by without throwing out something. Or to be honest: a lot of something. But where is that away when you throw something away?

## TO THE RIGHT PLACE?

Have you ever thought about where does all the waste you put in the bin go? Every now and then a truck picks it up and takes it away somewhere far from your home, so you don't have to see it or smell it. This place is called a landfill where they dump all the waste. It sounds like a solution, but the truth is it is very bad for the environment and for the health of the people and wildlife. It pollutes the air you breathe, the water you drink and the soil in which your food is produced. Moreover, it is very wasteful.

All the energy and materials – for example oil, minerals, wood - from which all the goods, you throw out, are made of, will be gone. Therefore new and new materials have to be mined depleting the resources of our planet Earth, taking it away from future generations and leaving instead huge mountains of garbage for them.



LANDFILL IS A PLACE WHERE  
GARBAGE IS DUMPED. FIND OUT,  
WHERE IS THE NEAREST LANDFILL  
TO YOUR HOME!



# WHERE DOES ALL THE WASTE COME FROM?

Waste is basically all the things we throw out after usage. It can be anything: toys, clothes, food scraps, paper or packaging. The more stuff we buy and have, the more waste is produced. That is why nowadays we produce more waste than a couple of generations ago. With consumerism not only can we buy more things, but there are new types of materials, for example plastic.

Plastic poses a huge problem, because it stays with us for hundreds of years polluting the oceans and threatening wildlife. It cannot decompose like paper or organic materials (leaves, vegetable peels, fruit stumps) which was the component of an average garbage long time ago. Consumer society is based on more and more: more goods, more packaging, more waste. Most products are made for a few-minute-long lifespan thus enlarging the garbage piles.







*Look into your waste bin at home! What do you find in it, where did it come from?*

*Ask your parents, grandparents how their childhood looked like! How much garbage did they produce and what was it mostly made of?*

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

*The best you can do for the environment is to make less waste. You can do it for example by*

-  *using your things as long as possible*
-  *repairing what is broken instead of throwing it out*
-  *giving away or exchange things (e.g. clothes, toys) you don't need, but are in good condition*
-  *borrowing things you only need for a short time and sharing what you have with others*

This is called prevention, because by reusing and repairing your things you reduce the amount of waste. It is better for us and for the wildlife as less waste needs to be cared of thus saving energy, resources and not polluting the environment.

In many countries all around the world waste is collected separately by materials like paper, metal, plastic, glass. This way they can be recycled meaning making new products out of old ones thus saving resources.



*Write a list of the things you can share with others and discuss it with your friends!*

*Look around at home! How many things do you have you haven't used for a long time, but is still in good condition? To whom could you give it for further use?*



# GIVING IT BACK TO NATURE

Big part of our bin is still made of organics that are produced in the garden and/or kitchen. This so called biowaste causes huge problems on the landfills: they take up a lot of space and methane – which worsens climate change - is produced while they rot. Ideally it should be composted how it is done normally in nature.



In the forest leaves fall from the trees, they decompose and become soil from which new trees grow. It's the natural circle of life. With composting we let nature do its work. What do you need for it? A corner in the garden, a bin which lets the air flow, biowaste and "workers" that will help turn the heap into soil (mostly microorganisms, earth worms and other soil organisms).



You will find that after one year the organic waste you have put in the compost bin will become dark brown soil called humus. This soil is very rich in nutrients and can be used as natural fertilizer in the garden. Try it out by planting in it. You will see that plants love it. You will also find that by composting the organic part of your waste, the size of your household waste will reduce drastically.

The leaflet is the outcome of an international project between NGOs from Visegrad countries and Armenia. The main aims are knowledge sharing and capacity building in the field of waste management, composting and organic agriculture, furthermore to create network of direct cooperation between farmers and consumers with support of local authorities and NGOs. Partners: Polish Ecological Club Gliwice Chapter (Poland), Sosna (Slovakia), Humusz (Hungary), Sdruzeni SPLAV (Czech Republic) and Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (Armenia)

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