

# Don't Waste It! North Carolina

## Lesson List



This follows are the descriptions for the *Don't Waste It!* lessons. Primarily suitable grades are provided in parentheses; extensions and adaptations for other grades are provided in each lesson. An approximate time to complete the activity is also provided.

### Theme 1: Municipal Solid Waste

**Lesson 1: Introduction to Waste-** In this introductory lesson, students will learn about municipal solid waste (MSW) with a general overview of the various processes involved in waste management. (Grades 3-5; 30-40 minutes)

**Lesson 2: Eco Picnic-** This lesson, full of crafts and eco-friendly fun, will teach students the best way to be responsible with their waste: not produce it in the first place! (Grades 2-4; 45 minutes or could be split into multiple sessions)

### Theme 2: Recycling

**Lesson 3: Sort it Out!**- If you or your students are unsure how to recycle, you came to the right place! This lesson will take students through a series of activities that will introduce them to recycling. They will follow the adventures of an aluminum can and a plastic bottle, and have an opportunity to create helpful signs for your classroom or school. (Grades K-5; 30-45 minutes)

**Lesson 4: The Economy of Recycling-** In this project-based lesson, students will be introduced to the value of recycling and other economic factors that influence waste management. With solid waste service costs on the rise, we must begin to think creatively about how we should react. (Grades 5-8; time can be adjusted to fit one or multiple 50-minute sessions)

### Theme 3: Plastics

**Lesson 5: Plastic Ocean-** The activities in this lesson will introduce students to the state of our planet's oceans as it relates to plastic. It will give them a glimpse into how plastic gets into the ocean and the ways in which people are working to clean it up, as well as how it affects marine life. (Grades 3-5; 50 minutes)

**Lesson 6: Plastic Investigations-** In this lesson, students will learn about how plastic is made, what it is used for, different kinds of plastic, and its life cycle. (Grades 3-5; 60 minutes)

### Theme 4: Composting

**Lesson 7: Composting Basics-** In this lesson, students will learn the basics of composting, the nutrient cycle, and what it means for something to decompose versus biodegrade. (Grades 3-5; 50 minutes)

**Lesson 8: Vermicomposting-** In this lesson, students will be exposed to the wonders of worms and get to watch first-hand as they turn trash into treasure! (Grades K-2; lesson can be divided into multiple sessions)

## **Theme 5: Landfills**

**Lesson 9: Where Does My Garbage Go?** - This lesson will familiarize students with the management of municipal solid waste at the community level. They will consider the effectiveness of programs and study their own city or county's solid waste system. (Grades 5-8; lesson can be divided into multiple sessions)

**Lesson 10: Zero Heroes-** In this lesson, students will have the opportunity to learn about zero waste and all it encompasses, from business practices to personal lifestyle choices. They will be challenged to implement zero waste initiatives in their own lives. (Grades 6-8; can be adjusted to fit one or multiple sessions or project based)

**Lesson 11: Household Hazardous Waste-** The activities in this lesson will introduce students to the concept of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), how it is created, and what can be done to minimize its impact on people and the environment. (Grades 6-12; 50 minutes)