

Activity 2: Waste and recycling

Waste – how much do we produce? How much of various resources do we use? How much waste is recycled? What do we do with the rest? This task looks at how much waste we produce in the UK and how much of it we recycle in various ways. It encourages students to ask questions about their own use of materials and how their community manages waste.

Starting points

This is an activity for small groups of students (about four is probably ideal) to work on together that will offer opportunities for collaborative learning. The set of statements in Figure 10.1 refer to the waste and recycling of a ‘typical’ family in the UK. Each piece of information is printed on a card and the cards are shared between the members of the group. The task is to identify the questions to be answered (there are two included on the cards) and then to use the information to solve them. The basic rule is that this must be done by talking about the information that each student has, rather than by ‘pooling’ all the cards. This helps ensure everyone in the group stays involved and has useful information to contribute.