

Weighing In (cont.)

PROCEDURE (cont.)

5. The HANDOUT shows 20% of the waste being Yard Organics. Students should take their total waste generated figure calculated in Step 4 and multiply it by 0.20. This will provide an estimate of the yard waste the student would produce in a week. By adding the yard organic figure just calculated to the answer from Step 4 a student will arrive at his or her final waste production figure.
6. The students now separate their individual garbage into the categories found on the HANDOUT: **Waste In Ontario** (A45). Weigh the items in each category and compare it to the totals to determine the percentage of each type of waste.
7. Instruct the class to compare their individual percentages to the provincial averages.
8. All collected waste should be separated into items that could be reduced, reused, or recycled. Briefly explain to the class how composting can reduce most of their organic material. For the purpose of the exercise all of the food collected can be considered compostable; a more detailed explanation of material suitable for composting is found in the Compost chapter (section E).
9. Any waste that can not be diverted using the 3 R's and composting should be weighed. This amount should be used to calculate the potential diversion of each student. For example, if a student produced 10kg and 2kg could not be diverted then their diversion would be 8kg or 80%.

EXTENSION:

1. Add all the class totals and rework the exercise to see how the class would compare to the provincial averages.
2. Prepare a report about the class results and present it to the local Municipal Council to demonstrate how individuals can make a difference in preserving the Earth.
3. If the tipping fee at the local landfill is \$50 per tonne how much money could be saved by the class in landfill costs by utilizing the 3 R's?

EVALUATION:

1. If there were any students who could not reduce their waste significantly, discuss why? (Neglect or the fact that they had already developed "Earth Friendly Habits"?)
2. If this exercise was extended to the community at large would the Ontario Provincial goal of a 50% reduction, in waste going to landfill, by the year 2000 be possible?
3. If the average Canadian produces 1 kg of waste per day how does the students total waste generated in a week measurement and total waste generated after the 3 R's compare? Calculate any differences in percentages (i.e. the student was 30% above the national average waste production of 1kg per day).