

Rethinking Recycling



Out of sight, out of mind

How can teachers support students to 'unlearn' what they know about waste & recycling and reconstruct how it relates to justice and human rights?

At a workshop at the **WWGS Teacher Conference 2025**, teachers told us:

- Examine facts & statistics, not just opinions
- Compare different practices around the world.
- Research the value of your bin. How much is that worth to a waste exporter?
- Challenge their knowledge with MCQs or walking debates



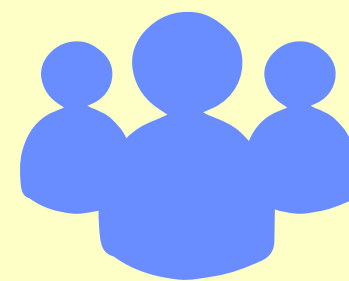
Learn in class



Think in systems

- Make them aware of the strategies used by big corporations to make individuals responsible and divert awareness from systemic problems.
- Explore systems, not just statistics.
- Let them see the flaws in the system

- Get support from school management
- Hold student-led competitions aiming to reduce school waste.
- Find other ways to deal with school waste, e.g. worm composting



Take whole-school action



Beware of burnout

- Look at positive stories of change or new ways to do things
- Get them to share their own positive stories from the internet / social media
- An action-focused approach stops students from getting despondent
- Work on topics in short bursts