



FIELD TRIP TO SWACO

GRADE

1st – 12th & institutions of higher learning

PLACE

SWACO

DURATION

90 minutes

OVERVIEW

Students will hear a presentation about the design, engineering, regulations and monitoring of a modern-day sanitary landfill. Students will also learn about the importance of recycling and how SWACO diverts materials from the landfill and protects public health. Additional discussion topics include how to effectively recycle in Franklin County, natural resource conservation, local alternatives to throwing materials in the trash, and making better choices.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will learn how sanitary landfills are engineered & constructed.
- Students will learn about what is accepted for recycling locally and why it is important to Rethink, Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.
- Students will learn about the waste stream and other alternate methods of disposal to reduce what is sent to the landfill.

TEACHER TIPS

Teachers may want to speak to the class before the field trip about why sanitary landfills are necessary. Let them know that unlined "garbage dumps" are illegal and that most of the materials sent to SWACO's landfill are reusable and/or recyclable.

Students in grades 3 and up should understand natural resources and the corresponding recyclable products produced from some natural resources, e.g. paper (trees), plastic (petroleum), glass (sand) & metal (ore).



TEACHER PREP

Schedule field trip to SWACO and make bussing arrangements. Additional information can be found at:
<https://www.swaco.org/204/SWACO-Tour-Policy>

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- A minimum of 10 people is required before arranging a field trip.
- SWACO can accommodate a maximum of 50 visitors in one group and one bus per trip.
- Schedule a date and time with SWACO and make necessary arrangements for a bus.
- The number of field trips per school may be limited to accommodate the large number of requests received during the school year.
- Up to \$220.00 per trip in bus reimbursement is available to all Franklin County schools.
- Field trips are provided throughout the year and are scheduled between the hours of 9:00am - 3:00pm.
- Field trips cannot be scheduled more than 90 days in advance.

PLACE:

SWACO Resource Center
4239 London Groveport Rd.
Grove City, OH 43123
Ph-614.871.5100

DURATION:

Approximately 2.5 hours with travel time from most Franklin County schools. On-site A SWACO should take approximately 1.5 hours with approximate ½ drive time each way.

KEY TERMS

Rethink - it's not enough just to put recyclables in the bin; you must rethink about what you can do to root out unnecessary wastefulness. Think about items that you are purchasing and ask yourself "Is this product over packaged? Is it made from recycled-content? Is it repairable? Is it accepted for recycling?" If the answer is "No" to any of these questions, you should Rethink the purchase.



Reduce - A process of elimination that involves diminishing the amount of waste produced to eliminate the generation of wasted materials.

Reuse - Reuse can be practiced easily by reusing an item over and over again. You can breathe new life into many common household objects by discovering new and innovative ways of reusing them. Before you throw it away, take a moment and learn useful tips that will allow you to repurpose and reuse numerous items found in your home.

Recycle – The act of collecting and separating materials and products from the solid waste stream and reusing them as raw materials in manufacturing processes. Remember: you’re not truly recycling until you buy recycled goods! By purchasing recycled-goods you are helping to close the recycling loop.

Natural resource – Material extracted from nature, not made by humans. Material such as: ores, plants, animals. The source of all consumer products made of paper, plastic, steel, aluminum, glass, etc.

Renewable Natural Resource – Renewable natural resources can grow again or never run out. They can be replenished fast enough as being used.

Non-renewable Natural Resource – Nonrenewable natural resources can run out or be used up. They usually come from the ground and cannot be readily replaced by natural means on a level that is equal to consumption.

Consumer - A person who purchases goods and services for personal use.

Product Life-cycle analysis – A method of accounting for all the environmental impacts from a single-product.

Throw-away society - The throw-away society is a human society strongly influenced by consumerism. The term describes a critical view of overconsumption and excessive production of short-lived or disposable items over durable goods that can be repaired.

Circular Economy – Circular Economy – A regenerative system in which resource input and waste, emission, and energy leakage are minimized by slowing, closing, and narrowing energy and material loops; this can be achieved through long-lasting design, maintenance, repair, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing, recycling, and upcycling. This is in contrast to a linear economy which is a 'take, make, dispose' model of production

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- **SWACO’s 4r’s PP presentation** - teachers can discuss in class with students.
- **Home Recycling Questionnaire student activity** - students take the questionnaire home to discuss with parents.
- **Personal Waste Inventory student activity** - students track their waste for 1 week and then sort
- **Natural Resources kit** - included in the 4R’s teacher kit. Teacher kit may be retrieved while on field trip to SWACO. Please check with Education Specialist In advance. Arrangements will need to be made to bring it back SWACO.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

Search You Tube for videos of a Material Recovery Facility and a Composting Facility to share with students.