**Curb Your Organics**

**Grade 3 VIRTUAL Waste Workshop**

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| **Overview:** When food has gone bad, or when we throw our food waste out, is the garbage cart the best place to throw it? A lot of our nutritious food comes from the soil, and we can do our part to help complete the food life cycle by properly disposing of food waste! Students will uncover composting methods in the Region of Peel, investigate different stages of decomposition, and learn how decomposers play an important role in reducing our waste by turning organics into magical compost! |
| **Grade Focus:** Grade 3 | **Duration:** 60 minutes |
| **Curriculum Connections:***Grade 3 Science and Technology: Understanding Earth and Space Systems- Growth and Changes in Plants*1.0assess the impact of soils on society and the environment, and of society and the environment on soils1.1 assess the impact of soils on society and the environment, and suggest ways in which humans can enhance positive effects and/or lessen or prevent harmful effects1.2 assess the impact of human action on soils, and suggest ways in which humans can affect soils positively and/or lessen or prevent harmful effects on soils1.3 investigate the process of composting, and explain some advantages and disadvantages of composting |
| **Topics of Focus:*** Composting
	+ Brief explanation of the composting process in the Region of Peel and the benefits of compost (e.g., topsoil for home gardening, farming)
	+ ROT or NOT activity emphasizes appropriate food waste disposal through composting
* Product Lifecycle
	+ Through discussion and the virtual food lifecycle journey activity, participants are guided through the process an apple goes through with comparisons between landfills and composting
* Applying the 3Rs
	+ Participants learn about what can be done to divert common waste items so they can be composted or recycled
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| **Key Messages:** * Landfills and the environment
* 3Rs of waste reduction
* Proper use of garbage, recycling and green bins
* Reduction of food waste
* Region of Peel composting programs
* Process and benefits of composting
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| **Platform(s) Used:** A Prezi presentation will be casted virtually for participants using Google Classroom. |
| **Interactive Components:*** Follow along worksheet (optional)
* Virtual Sorting Game
* Pick your own virtual apple adventure
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| **Preparation and Set-up:** Virtual workshops may take place in a classroom with access to a computer with internet as well as a Smartboard or projector. The virtual workshop may also take place from the homes of participants once a link to the Google classroom session is provided. Teachers will be provided with a follow along worksheet to distribute to all students prior to the start of the workshop. |
| **Outline:***Introduction (10 mins)** Introduction of Educator, Region of Peel, and Ecosource
* Virtual workshop guidelines
* Review follow along worksheet with students

*Guided Questions (10 mins)** Waste bins, 3 R’s, landfill

 *Activity #1: “The Apple Journey” (15 mins)** During this activity, students will follow the virtual journey of an apple to compare the disposal of food scraps in a garbage and those that are composted. Using a choose your own adventure model, students will pick whether to follow the apple along the garbage journey or compost journey.

*Activity #2: “Rot or Not” (15 mins)** Students will be challenged to guess if certain items can decompose or not and compare items and their decomposition rates. Images of the items will fall from the top of the screen and students will have until the item reaches the bottom to guess if the item can decompose or not. Facilitators will then do a verbal poll as to how long they think that item will take to decompose.

*Debrief (10 mins)** Recap of learning and question period
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| **Takeaways:** At the end of the presentation, students will be provided with a related worksheet to apply their learning from the lifecycle of compost, including how they can take action. Teachers will be provided with a lesson plan related to the workshop to extend learning on the importance of using the green cart and participating in the Region of Peel’s compost program. |

*The components of this lesson may be modified during delivery at the discretion of our educators. To book with us, please visit:* [https://ecosource.ca/waste-reduction-workshops/](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fecosource.ca%2Fwaste-reduction-workshops%2F&data=02%7C01%7Claura.lane%40peelregion.ca%7C896441cd7daf4703b71708d838ad3ff1%7C356f99f39d8647a182033b41b1cb0c68%7C0%7C0%7C637321664057394866&sdata=uTbVeIL7qRWNxqIS0L%2BBzEff%2FH34v5OIddnBBXIekSs%3D&reserved=0).