



Learning Trunk Engagement Guide – Packaging Waste Event Display

Objective:

This kit is provided as a waste education tool for the area of food and beverage packaging. It is designed to demonstrate the differences in cost and packaging waste when purchasing single-serve items versus those packaged in bulk or concentrate. It also addresses packaging recyclability. Use this engagement guide for facilitating discussion about this topic at events. The activity engagement guides discuss how to use this as an activity with youth or adult groups.

Audience:

Residents of all ages, with a focus on those who purchase and use products for their homes.

Background:

You probably don't go to the store saying, "I think I'll buy some garbage today." But depending on which products you choose, that is at least partly what you're doing. By purchasing stuff that's over-packaged, disposable, or of poor quality, your cash can soon end up as trash.

Barriers:

To be most effective using the learning trunks, you need to analyze your audience and identify barriers.

Barriers participants might have related to packaging waste reduction include:

- "Convenience is worth the additional waste"
- "I am always in a rush"
- "I don't know what to buy"

To overcome barriers, make sure participants:

1. Are aware of a problem.
2. Know specifically what they can do about the problem.
3. Desire to do the action.
4. Believe they are capable of doing it and that it is worthwhile.

Discussion questions:

- What did you learn about packaging waste? What did you learn that you want to share with someone else?
- Why should we care about the products we use?
- What do you want to do about this issue?
- What do you want to learn more about?

Tips on Reducing Packaging Waste

- Purchase reusable and refillable containers.
- Purchase beverages and other items in concentrate or powder form and add your own water.
- Fill a reusable bottle when you need it. Not only will you save money and reduce waste, you will have less weight to carry home from the grocery store.
- Avoid purchasing single-serve and 'snack size' portions in favor of larger servings or buying in bulk. Make your own single-serve portion with a reusable container.
- Look for recycled content in packaging and packaging that can be recycled.
- Purchase products with the least amount of packaging, avoiding individually-wrapped or 'double-wrapped' items.



Hennepin County

Public Works

Environment and Energy Department
701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1842

612-348-3777, Phone
612-348-8532, Fax
www.hennepin.us/environment

Contact information

- Contact Angie Ziobro at 612-348-9850 or Angela.Ziobro@hennepin.us
- Call 612-348-3777 if you have questions on the day you return the learning trunk.

Additional resources

- Environmental education toolkits - www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation
- Additional Learning Trunks – www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation
- Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities brochure
– www.hennepin.us/~media/hennepinus/residents/recycling/documents/DropOffFacilities.pdf
- Hennepin County Green Disposal Guide– <http://www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide>
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – www.pca.state.mn.us search: reduce trash when you shop
- **Hold the Mail -**
- Reducing waste and recycling during your move— http://www.hennepin.us/~media/hennepinus/Business/work-with-hennepin-county/Environmental%20literature/MovingGuide_WasteRecycling.pdf



Hennepin County
Public Works

Environment and Energy Department
701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1842

612-348-3777, Phone
612-348-8532, Fax
www.hennepin.us/environment

Product Display Poster Information:

Product	High Waste Option	Medium Waste Option	Low Waste Option	Percentage of money saved with low waste option
Gold Fish Crackers	Gold Fish Travel to-go bags		Gold Fish Box	41%
Keebler Fudge Cookies	100 Calorie Pack of Keebler Fudge Cookies		Package of Keebler Fudge Cookies	65%
Applesauce	Individual applesauce pouches	Individual applesauce cups	Applesauce jar	53%
Yogurt	Individual yogurt cups		Large yogurt tub	89%
Cheez-It crackers	Cheez-It snack packs		Cheez-It box	53%
Coffee	Box of K-Cups		Coffee bag	70%
Gatorade	Gatorade bottles		Gatorade powder canister	60%
Oatmeal	Individual oatmeal cups		Oatmeal canister	83%
Peanut butter	Jiff to-go packs		Jiff jar	25%
Average percentage of money saved with low waste option				60%