



LESSON: SOLUTIONS TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

Activity 3: Design Your Own Plastic Pollution Solution

OVERVIEW

In this activity, participants will identify a local plastic pollution concern and design a potential solution.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

After completing this activity, participants will be able to:

- Apply critical thinking skills to prioritize plastic pollution issues of local significance.
- Apply problem-solving skills to a real-life problem.
- Work together to achieve a common goal.
- Present their ideas and communicate clearly to a group.

SETUP AND MATERIALS

This activity takes approximately
15 minutes.

- Print a copy of the worksheet (or recreate your own on scrap paper) and grab a pen or pencil.
- Print a copy of the **Supplementary Resources**.
- Gather up an assortment of arts and crafts materials (eg. playdough, scissors, glue, pipe cleaners, construction paper, markers, crayons, yarn, fabric, etc.)
- Print the blank Solutions Hierarchy Poster or display it on a nearby screen.
- Bonus Activity: Print Letter Template (or recreate your own on scrap paper)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Provide participants with a copy of the worksheet.

1. Review the Solutions Hierarchy.

- Explain that we're going to work together and put on our creative thinking caps to design our own local plastic pollution solution and to help us with our solutions, we're going to think back to the **Solutions Hierarchy** we learned about in Activity 1.
 - Show **Solutions Hierarchy poster** as a reference. Leave this visible as the activity continues.

2. Introduce plastic pollution scenarios that they will choose to design a solution for.

- Explain we're going to share some examples of plastic pollution and encourage them to design their unique solution for one of these problems or to suggest one of their own. Let participants know they can work individually or in small groups.
- Before sharing options, ask them to share if they have already thought about any potential plastic pollution solutions and to briefly describe them.
- Share list of examples with participants. Remind them that they are all great examples and any of them would be a great thing to design a solution for.
 - Too many food wrappers in the garbage bin (eg. chip bags, granola bar wrappers, candy wrappers).
 - Plastic cutlery in their takeout meals (or other single-use disposable items).
 - Litter in their community (local parks, rivers and other areas in the community).
 - Waste is sorted into the wrong bin (at school, home, their local community).
 - Create your own example: encourage them to add to this list if they have a specific issue that they want to design a solution for.



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INSTRUCTIONS (CONTINUED)

- Create your own example: encourage them to add to this list if they have a specific issue that they want to design a solution for.

3. Explain design activity.

- Provide participants with a worksheet to complete as they create their solution. This worksheet will ask them to describe their creation. It also shares some more information about different ways each group might play a role.
- Provide participants with the **Supplementary Resources sheet** with additional examples of existing solutions for inspiration.
- Share that to show their solution, we're going to provide them with an assortment of craft materials to represent and display their solution. Clarify that we aren't building the actual finished solution, but instead, we will be creating something to represent their plans. This could be a model, a drawing etc.
 - Note: This is meant to be a bit abstract to allow participants to be as creative as possible in how they represent their ideas.
- Ask them to write their choice of plastic pollution scenario on the first page of the worksheet.
- Give each participant (or small group) 15-30 minutes to work on their design and then about 5 minutes to share what they created.
- Remind participants that everyone can play a role in finding solutions to plastic pollution and working together is the best way to create change. Encourage them to keep the four different groups in mind (from activity 2 – Groups for Solutions) when describing how their solution works.
- Conclude by encouraging participants to continue to work on their solution designs and if possible, put them into action!
 - Putting your design into action? Let us know!

If participants are having challenge thinking of solutions, encourage them to refer to the section of the worksheet with examples of existing solutions and ideas for inspiration such as:

- *A new community initiative within the neighbourhood, or the school*
- *A new type of sustainable packaging*
- *Sharing library of "things" within their community or classroom*
- *An art project to bring awareness*
- *A letter-writing campaign. We have a template they can use! It's a bonus activity letter!*

FINAL REFLECTION

Now that you have completed all parts of the activity, it's time to reflect back on what participants have learned.

- Have participants return to the last page of their worksheet to answer the questions below.
 - What would be the next steps to make your plastic pollution solution a reality?

Congrats, you've now completed all activities in the Solutions to Plastic Pollution lesson!