

Think Green

Grade

9

Topic: Waste
Grade: 9
Course: Geography, Applied
Code: CGC1P
Duration: 2 x 75 minutes

Students will be introduced to the opportunity of working with an organization that recycles printer cartridges. They will review this as a potential project by examining the effect it will have on the environment and as a possible school fundraiser.

Curriculum Expectations

- HE1.02B: Demonstrate an understating of how human activities affect the environment
- HE2.05B: Research and report on ways of improving the balance between human needs and natural systems

Background Information

The THINKGREEN Cartridge Collection Program is a community-based program that allows businesses and schools to collect used inkjet and laser print cartridges from the community and bring them to one convenient collection point. THINKGREEN is good for the environment as you help divert used cartridges that can take up to 500 years to decay from landfills. In addition, through our partnership with The Tree Canada Foundation (which plants nearly two million trees each year) THINKGREEN will sponsor the planting of one tree on behalf of your organization for every 12 recyclable cartridges returned.

Accountability

Students, teachers and community members need to be aware of options for the disposal of printer cartridges and for the potential of fund raising.

Teacher Notes

1. Students will need to access the Internet. Visit www.greentec.com and www.thinkgreen.com
2. Read the Case Study about Assumption Secondary School in Burlington, Ontario (attached).
3. Students are to work in groups of three.
4. Each group will write a report answering the following questions.
 - a. What are the goals of the THINKGREEN Cartridge Collection Program?
 - b. How could THINKGREEN be good for the environment?
 - c. How can THINKGREEN be good for your school and community?
 - d. Name and describe three of THINKGREEN's partners
 - e. How can this event support fund-raising in your school?
 - f. How many cartridges does your school dispose of each week?
 - g. List the drop-off locations near your school.

- h. Make recommendations to encourage your school to register with the THINKGREEN project.
5. The report will be orally presented to the class the following day.
6. After all reports are presented, as a class they will prepare one proposal, including the best ideas presented.
7. This proposal will be submitted to the EarthCARE team for consideration in registering with the THINKGREEN project.

Home Extension

What is happening to the used printer cartridges produced in your home? What should be happening to these?

Lesson Comments

1. A representative from THINKGREEN will come to present to your students. See website for details.

THINKGREEN Case Study

Assumption Catholic Secondary School

Assumption Secondary in Burlington, Ontario, has embraced the THINKGREEN Program as a powerful funding channel for their 25th anniversary fundraising efforts. Principal Fiammetta Mazzetti was instrumental in helping to introduce the program by first having a staff meeting to make the school administration aware of the program and then by appointing the role of program advocate to her vice-principal Rick Naciuk.

Business Head Steve Ashworth helped to get the program up and running by taking Rick's suggestion to implement THINKGREEN through the business department and setting a funding goal of \$1000. The grade 12 Business Marketing class was given a detailed presentation highlighting the program aspects and benefits. The class was then divided into two teams "Captain Planet" and "Green Machine". Each team was given a program guide, recyclable cartridge listing and THINKGREEN Brochure. Mr Ashworth laid out performance metrics, with the division of the class into teams to foster friendly competition. Greentec International supplied all of the collection materials for the class by providing posters and THINKGREEN collection bins.

Both teams were off and running putting up posters around the school and giving presentations to their peers in the school cafeteria. Students were able to solicit the local business community involved by informing professionals of Assumption's fund raising efforts. According to the students of the class, local businesses were more than happy to participate in the fundraiser by donating their cartridges. Every business found different reasons for wanting to support THINKGREEN and Assumption Secondary. Some were very motivated to help plant trees through cartridge donation while others recognized the positive impact of diverting the plastics from landfill. Everyone wanted to be a part of a fundraiser, which provided powerful support to local schools. Some businesses were even surprised to hear that the cartridges themselves could be recycled!

Over time the students became experts at collecting cartridges, earning funds and helping the environment. In fact the students demonstrated their expertise by collecting a staggering 400 recyclable cartridges in only three weeks and reaching their initial goal of \$1000! Congratulations to Mr Ashworth and his students for helping to make a world of difference in their community!