



## 3Rs Challenge Mission STAGE 1: RESEARCH & BRAINSTORM

**STAGE OBJECTIVE:** In the **Investigate & Brainstorm** stage, your club will learn more about the 3Rs, the waste we produce and where it goes. They will then brainstorm a Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Challenge.

**STAGE LENGTH:** Approximately 4 meetings (+ any extra time needed to carry out investigations)

**SUGGESTED BREAKDOWN OF MEETINGS:**

### MEETING 1: Carbon footprint

**KEY FOCUS:** Waste management and its impact on the environment

1. To begin, talk about the 3Rs and your community. Here are some questions to get you started:
  - *What do you know about the 3Rs?*
  - *Why are they important?*
  - *How is waste managed in our community?*
  - *What can we recycle? How?*
2. Have the club research what happens to different materials in your local area, such as:
  - *Organic waste (vegetable peelings, food waste), paper, glass, metal, hazardous waste (chemicals, cleaning products, paint), electrical waste (old computers, televisions, cellphones), clothing, medication, tires*

#### Suggestions to enrich this mission....

If it is possible, your club can organize an outing to your local landfill and recycling centre. Get ready to ask questions and take photos.

Invite a guest speaker from your municipality to talk to you. Remind club members to prepare some questions for them in advance.

The website of your local community or [Recyclepedia](#) web tool and app can help. Search for the type of material and where it goes. For example, does it go to a landfill, is it recyclable, is it organic, e-waste or hazardous (such as partly-used tins of paint), etc.?

You can also check out the resources in **Annex 1**.

3. Talk about the results of their research, for example:

- *What do you know about the 3Rs?*
- *Why are they important?*
- *How is waste managed in our community?*
- *What can we recycle? How?*

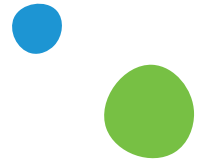
4. Explain that next time, you will begin investigating the impact of trash on your local area.

## MEETING 2:

# Trash in your community

**KEY FOCUS:** Creating tools to investigate waste type and production in your community

1. Explain to your club that to launch the best 3Rs Challenge possible, it is important to do some research to figure out what will have the greatest impact.
2. Have the group brainstorm the most appropriate way(s) to gather more information in your context, some possibilities include:
  - **An audit:** Carry out an audit in the place where your club meets.
  - **Interviews:** Interview several people of the place where your club meets, for example, custodians, users, young people, adults
  - **Surveys:** Create a survey to distribute, on paper or electronically, to get more information.
3. Make a plan of when and how to carry out your investigations.
4. As a club, prepare the materials your club needs. In Annex 1, you will find some examples your club can adapt and use for their investigations.



## MEETING 3: Investigations

### KEY FOCUS: Carrying out investigations

1. Before the club members undertake their investigations, review the plan, how to take notes, and any information they need to know such as handling garbage safely.
2. Have the club carry out their audit, interviews, surveys, or whatever else they have decided to do to learn more about trash in their community.

## MEETING 4: Results

**KEY FOCUS:** The results of the investigations

1. Have members discuss their investigations and what they discovered. The following questions can be used to prompt discussion:
  - *What different kinds of waste materials do we produce? Which ones are most common?*
  - *Are there recycling initiatives in place?*
  - *Where do these materials go after you put them in the garbage can or the recycle bin?*
  - *Which kinds of waste materials cause the most damage to the environment?*
  - *Are there some good examples of the 3Rs we can learn from?*
2. Discuss what could be focused on for a 3Rs Challenge, for example a challenge to encourage more people to recycle.
3. Explain that next time you will begin planning a 3Rs challenge.

Check out Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba's (MMSM) interactive digital platform, [www.simplyrecycle.ca](http://www.simplyrecycle.ca), to see if there are tips your club can use.



# ANNEX 1

## Useful Resources and Further Reading

### MULTI-MATERIAL STEWARDSHIP MANITOBA

Whether you live in Manitoba or elsewhere, the MMSM website has many useful resources for Earth Rangers Clubs members and leaders!

<https://simplyrecycle.ca/>

MMSM's interactive tour "A Tale of Recycling" takes kids on an animated tour to see what happens to a soup can when it's put in the recycling bin:

<http://simplyrecycleschools.ca/>

MMSM also has a number of lesson plans that can be downloaded here:

<https://simplyrecycle.ca/school-programs/lesson-plans/>

### RECYCLEPEDIA

A great tool to search for recyclable materials and learn more about what to do with them:

<http://simplyrecycle.ca/about/recyclepedia/>

### INVENTORY OF RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN CANADA

To find out what recycling programs are offered across Canada, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/overview-extended-producer-responsibility/inventory-recycling-programs.html>



## ANNEX 2

### Examples for Interviews/Surveys/Audits

#### INTERVIEWS

Talk to different people where your club meets, for example: the custodian, teachers or program instructors, kids, and any others who regularly deal with recycling, waste, and compost. By asking them questions, they can help you figure out which kind of waste materials are most common, and which ones might be easiest to tackle!

##### Sample questions for a custodian:

1. Please tell us about the work you do to deal with recycling and waste in the building.
2. In your opinion, what is the biggest problem in this building/school related to waste? Why?
3. What do you think our Club could do to help solve this problem?
4. Would you be willing to help us? How?

##### Sample questions for kids:

1. Do you separate waste from recycling and compost?
2. In your opinion, what is the biggest waste problem we have in our school/building? Why?
3. What do you think our Club could do to help solve this problem?
4. Would you be willing to help us? How?

#### SURVEY

Distribute a survey with some simple questions to find out what others think about waste and the 3Rs. Here are some sample questions:

- (1) *Do you think we are doing a good job recycling? YES / NO / Don't know*
- (2) *Do you think kids care about reducing waste? YES / NO / Don't know*
- (3) *What could we be doing better?*

#### AUDIT

Carry out an audit in the place where your club meets to find out what kinds of waste are produced over a day or a week, and how much of each type. Make sure you wear gloves and proper personal protection equipment. On the next two pages you will find audit templates.



# AUDIT WORKSHEET VERSION A

What kinds of waste do we produce? Look at the contents of the bins in your meeting location to see what's there and how much of each type. Make sure you wear gloves when handling the different materials!

materials to be sorted	# items	location found			possible actions
		Garbage can	Recycle bin	Compost bin	
Paper					
Cardboard					
Juice Boxes					
Milk Cartons					
Drink Cans					
Glass Bottles					
Yogurt Cups					
Plastic					
Food Waste					
Newspaper					
Flyers & Magazines					



# AUDIT WORKSHEET: VERSION B

What kinds of waste do we produce? Look at the contents of the bins in your meeting location to see what's there and how much of each type. Make sure you wear gloves when handling the different materials!

materials	# items	weight of 1 sample (in grams)	total weight (# x weight)	rank by # of items	rank by total weight	location(s) found (e.g. garbage, recycle or compost bin)	possible actions
Office paper							
Cardboard							
Juice Boxes							
Drink Cans							
Plastic Water Bottles							
Glass Bottles							
Yogurt Cups							
Plastic Wrapping							
Apple Cores							
Sandwich Remains							
Other							
Newspaper							
Flyers & Magazines							