



Future skills & sustainable development
in the Green Salon

Module 1 – Environment and Recycling

Student manual



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Future Skills & Sustainable Development in the Green Salon is a European project that aims to combine the sustainable ideas through education and training with innovative ideas within the sector.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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Lesson 1

Recycling Waste

Introduction to this lesson

It is very important for all of the world to be conscious of the importance of the Environment and how we recycle. Research has shown that in Europe we are still not working to maintain an environment to be sustainable for the long term future.

As educators and part of civilization it is our duty and responsibility to do our best to reuse and recycling everyday waste. This will ensure a sustainable lifestyle, by reusing and putting back into the community.

1.1 Reducing waste

In Europe, we use a vast amount of substances that we dispose of. Each person uses 16 tonnes of waste material per year.

Within the EU waste management it is improving all the time. Even though we could see improvement there is still plenty of work to be done. We have less potential with secondary raw materials such as metal, wood, glass, plastics. In the year of 2010 waste production in the EU was 2.5 billion tonnes. The total amount of waste is only 36% that was recycled. The rest was placed in landfills or burned. Through research; 600 million tonnes could have been reused or recycled.

40% of the waste is only reused or recycled. This is based on an average household of waste which is half a tonne. 80% in some countries still goes to the landfill (source: [Environmental Data Centre on Waste](#), Eurostat).

The only way to improve the economy and a sustainable environment is to turn waste into a resource. Within the European legislation it has been targeted to improve waste management and put practices in place to manage and recycle waste. This will limit the use of landfills and in turn change consumer behavior.

Greenhouse gas emission is also linked with the reduction of waste into landfills. By reducing the amount of waste into landfills this has a direct reduction of emissions created by waste. This will benefit the landscape by less litter water and air pollution.

Waste Hierarchy has been a priority within the European Union's policies at an operational level. This is set out to ensure people reuse, recycle, and recover as a preferred option of disposal.

The development and implementation of EU waste policy and legislation takes place within the context of a number of wider EU policies and programmes including [7th Environment Action Programme](#), the [Resource Efficiency Roadmap](#) and the [Raw Materials Initiative](#).

[7th Environment Action Programme](#)

There is an organisation in the EU called (WEEE) Waste Electrical Equipment and Electronic Equipment. This requires EU countries to separate waste and encourages the reuse and recycling

equipment and encourages all customers to be aware of symbols and avoid putting any WEEE in domestic waste bins or containers

Distributors are expected to have a take back system. Consumers are given the chance to take back their WEEE free of charge.

There is a system in place if you would like your WEEE collected from your premises, this is an option but you may be charged a small fee. This will only be for the transport cost.

1.2 Recycle

Within the salon there is plenty that could be recycled. Habits can be changed by having recycling bins for plastics, glass, hair colouring tubes and foils and meches. You can also speak to your local council and see how you could work with them.

A way to help reduce waste is buying things that last and are made well. This would have a huge effect on physical waste and more energy saved.

In the salon, obviously a lot of water is going to be used for washing the hair and washing colour off etc. However, we can still save water by doing a number of things. For example, turning off the water when massaging in the shampoo and conditioner and buying a flow reducer. A flow reducer is a type of instrument which reduces the amount of water being released and separates the particles and adds air. The positives of it is, it's affordable and reduces water bills of salons by nearly 50%. For further research go to the page: ecohairandbeauty.com

1.3 The recycling of human hair:

Recycled hair can be made into many things such as;

- Hair accessories: These can include hair accessories like extensions and hair pieces for fancy celebrations.
- Hair purses: An Australian artist called Polly Van der Glas recycles materials to make things from hair purses to human teeth.
- Hair Jewellery: These have also been made from the same Australian artist. Bracelets are most popular to make out of hair because they are the easiest. However, necklaces and earrings have also been made.
- Clothing out of hair: Designers have also used hair in their work to make dresses and trousers.
- Sculptures: Artists have also been known to make hair sculptures. A hairstylist from Beijing recreated Tiananmen Square using just recycled human hair. This is the link to the video of him creating it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJyPpwkM0jo>
- Tribal Art: Neck ornaments worn in Hawaii were made out of braided human hair. This shows a big contrast in how different types of hair can be used to make different things. The works of art are now located in the Honolulu Academy of Arts.
- Fertilizer: Hair is one of the best natural plant fertilizers you could find on this earth. This is because it contains 20 minerals and trace elements; also it is very high in

protein and nitrogen. By using hair as fertilizer we can stop it from going to landfill sites or being burned. This decreases the chances of toxic gases being released. Cows produce manure which is used as fertilizer. On average 100-200 pounds of cows produce 1 pound of nitrogen. However, 6-7 pounds of human hair produces 1 pound of nitrogen. So, it is more effective to use hair as a fertilizer.

1.4 Go paper free

You don't need paper invitations and flyers: just use email and social media. Identify and eliminate unnecessary forms. Double side or redesign forms to use less space, or have forms on electronic media such as an iPad.

Transfer to cloud software and reduce need for large computer systems and switch to laptop.

1.5 Here are some ways to be more efficient with electrical items:

- Use energy efficient hair dryers
- Energy efficient kettles
- Always turn off electrical items such as straighteners and tongs at the electrical source.
- Use washing machines when full
- Use machine on a cool wash and short cycle

The producer is responsible.

There is a green dot system that is working at the moment. This system makes the producer responsible when their products become waste. They do have incentives to encourage this and produces ways to reuse and avoid unnecessary waste. The producers are enforcing a pay levy for the collection and recycling. This makes them think and consider the whole life cycle of the goods they produce.

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

1.6 How can we move towards a society that considers recycling?

To move forward as a society we should consider reducing the amount of landfills in some states and opting for recycling and collection. Some countries are already opting for this system. It will be beneficial and vital to ensure all countries follow the same procedure to ensure we all work up the waste hierarchy and to become a recycling society.

If we look into the benefits of working this way it we have a considerable benefit to the economy. Waste management and recycling industries have a turnover of around £137 billion. Which is just over 1.1% of the EUs gross Domestic product. In turn this would create jobs for their countries.

The way forward

We are improving our recycling and the amount is improving and less is going into the landfills. There is an increase of energy is recovered using incineration methods. Fly tipping is being controlled and monitored better. We are on the right track but we still a way to go to have a greater improvement.

We are still producing a vast amount of waste and increasing landfills. We must as a society ensure the future generation have a planet with resources that are managed well.

1.7 How can we achieve this?

- We need to be producing Eco friendly products
- Encourage consumers to manage waste more effectively
- Ensure consumers to limit the amount waste they produce
- By improving recycling and increasing the supply of raw materials to European industry.
- Educate the young

1.8 Waste management in Hair Salons

Hair salons are being encouraged to dispose of their waste products more effectively.

What can we recycle in the hair salon?

Foil

An important part of the recycling process is to encourage salons to recycle rather than put in landfills. Check with your local authority to see what is available.



Foil takes hundreds of years to disappear in landfills. Only 1% of salons recycle their foils.

Salons could look at different materials that could be used for highlights. Bio degradable substances that are easier to recycled.

There are other methods that dont use foil such as balyage, ombres and strobing which are fashionable techniques now.

Plastic

A lot of plastics are not biodegradable. To reduce plastic in the environment there are ways that you can contribute. Check if they can be recycled and source recycling collection points in your area.

To reduce plastic waste in the salon environment adopt recycling. Check product bottles and other plastic waste to see if they can be recycled before disposing of them. Opt for a product line that uses biodegradable or recyclable packaging to ensure a long term commitment within the salon to sustainability.

By adopting a product range that uses responsible packaging, it provides a talking point with clients and can help to educate those who do not consider the impact of plastic shampoo and conditioner bottles.

Resources:

Web links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOuc0NCJfvs>

City and Guilds level Diploma in hairdressing and barbering text book
www.ypte.org.uk/recycling/factsheet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOuc0NCJfvs>

City and Guilds level Diploma in hairdressing and barbering text book

www.ypte.org.uk/recycling/factsheet

ec.europa.eu/environment/waste

euranetplus-inside.eu/zero-waste-the-ambitious-eu-recycling-target/