2022 Special Topic: Waste to Resources

As a byproduct of our population, states are faced with the responsibility of managing different types of waste generated by individuals, households, communities, businesses, manufacturing, agriculture, and industry. Waste of all kinds has the potential to affect the environment and our natural resources. From the water we drink to the land we live on, our decisions about how to manage waste impact our communities and the world around us. How can we make responsible choices about our waste? How can we manage our growth in a way that is sustainable? How can we turn our waste into resources?

Current Environmental Issue learning objectives include:

- Describe different types of landfills and explain how they are regulated.
- Identify examples of hazardous materials and toxic substances and describe their proper disposal and handling.
- Explain how the practices of reusing or recycling products conserves natural resources.
- Describe how recycled materials can be repurposed and further diverted from landfills.
- Explain how waste can be repurposed.
- Describe composting processes and identify how composting supports waste diversion efforts.
- Explain how composting improves soil health and provide evidence for how composting supports water conservation efforts.
- Identify examples of closed-loop energy systems and facilities.
- Compare methods of carbon sequestration and describe their potential as an energy source.
- Evaluate the differences between municipal waste treatment and home sewage treatment systems.
- Compare and contrast the methods of waste treatment for human waste versus animal waste.
- Describe the impacts to ground and surface waters when fecal waste is not effectively managed.
- Identify innovative methods for managing fecal waste to lesson the impact to natural resources.
- Define a brownfield and identify the impacts of brownfield materials on soil and water quality.
- Explain methods for removing brownfield toxins and the role of federal and state entities in restoration.
- Compare "green" approaches to reusing degraded lands and identify the benefits these methods provide to local communities.

Papio-Missouri River NRD hosts an E-waste collection in Dakota City to recycle 47,000 lbs of waste.

Find study resources for the 2022 special topic at www.envirothon.org.

2022 NCF-Envirothon will be hosted in Oxford, Ohio

The 2022 NCF-Envirothon will be hosted at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, July 24-30, 2022. Ohio is one of the most densely populated states, with just over 11.6 million people calling it home. Like many populous areas, Ohio is tasked with serving its residents while also sustaining its natural resources across diverse geographic regions.