

PROJECT GO – LESSON PLAN

Topic: The Right Bin (Years 4–6)

How sorting waste into the right bin turns waste into something useful



Overview

Project GO is a sustainability education program that helps students understand waste, recycling, and caring for the environment through storytelling, characters, and real-world problem solving.

This lesson focuses on helping students understand that **all waste is valuable** when it is **sorted into the right bin**. Through discussion, vocabulary exploration, and a literacy-based activity, students act as journalists to explain how reusing, recycling, composting, and sorting waste correctly helps turn waste into something useful.

This lesson is designed to work **directly with the Project GO Years 4–6 Worksheet 1** and can be delivered as a stand-alone classroom lesson or alongside other Project GO digital resources.

Objective

This lesson aims to help students:

- Understand why **sorting waste into the right bin** is important
- Recognise that waste can be **reused, recycled, or composted**
- Communicate sustainability concepts clearly through written text

By writing a newspaper article, students demonstrate their understanding that **waste does not belong in landfill if it can be used again or turned into something else**.

Materials

- Whiteboard or interactive screen
- Whiteboard markers
- Pencils or pens
- **PROJECT GO YEARS 4–6 Worksheet 1: “Write your own Newspaper Article”** (one per student)
- Optional: additional paper for extended writing

Lesson plan

1. Review & Introduction (10 minutes)

Begin with a class discussion reviewing key ideas from Project GO.

Ask students:

- What is **waste**?
- What does it mean to **sort waste**?
- What happens when waste goes into **landfill**?

Introduce the idea that:

- Most waste is **valuable**
- Waste only becomes a problem when it is put in the **wrong bin**
- Sorting waste correctly helps recycling and composting systems work

Write the phrase **“The Right Bin”** on the board and discuss what it means.

2. Explore - Waste as a News Story (10 minutes)

Explain to students that journalists write news stories to:

- Inform people
- Explain why something matters
- Encourage action

Ask:

- Why would sorting waste be important enough to be in the news?
- Who could be the “heroes” of a waste story? (people, robots, students, communities)

Introduce the vocab words from the worksheet and review their meanings (from the website) as a class:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| • Reuse | • Garden Organics |
| • Recycling | • Waste |
| • Compost | • Landfill |
| • Sorting | |

Explain that students will now become **Waste Watcher reporters**.

3. Activity – Write Your Own Newspaper Article (25 minutes)

Distribute the **Project GO 4–6 Worksheet 1** to each student.

Explain the task step-by-step:

1. Write a **headline** for a news story.
2. Write an article about how people, robots, or YOU are:
 - Reusing • Sorting waste into the **right bins**
 - Recycling • Composting
3. Explain how waste can be:
 - Used again
 - Turned into something else
4. Use **at least four vocabulary words** from the list.
5. Draw a picture to match the story.

Encourage students to:

- Focus on the **right bin** message
- Explain **why** sorting waste matters
- Use clear, simple explanations

Support students by:

- Providing sentence starters if needed
- Allowing planning or peer discussion
- Reminding them to check their vocabulary usage

4. Reflect & Share (10 minutes)

Invite students to share:

- Their headline
- One key idea from their article

Discuss as a class:

- What did most articles have in common?
- Why is sorting waste important for everyone?

Reinforce the key message:

Sorting waste into the right bin helps turn waste into something useful.

Optional extension:

- Display articles as a classroom **“Waste Watcher”** wall

Australian Curriculum (ACiQ v9) Connections

English

- Language
- Literature
- Literacy

Science

- Science understanding - Biological sciences
- Science as a human endeavour - Use and influence of science

HASS

- Knowledge and understanding – Geography
- Skills – Communicating

General Capabilities

- Literacy
- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Personal and Social Capability

Cross-Curriculum Priority

- Sustainability

Where to Find More Additional Project GO digital stories, activities, and resources are available for students, teachers, and families to continue learning at:

PROJECT-GO.COM.AU