



# One Step Greener:

## The Curriculum

By

Vihaan Agarwal  
Nav Agarwal

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vihaan Agarwal is a grade 11 student at The Shri Ram School in Delhi. He has been passionate about the environment since childhood and pained by the detrimental impact of human actions on the environment. This led him to explore environmental advocacy. He started One Step Greener at the age of 14 with his brother, striving to achieve a zero-waste future by working on waste management, recycling and tree plantations.

Since then, in the last two years, One Step Greener has engaged with over 20,000 people through talks and social media and has operated a pickup service of dry waste in over 1000 homes. Vihaan is proud of One Step Greener's plantation of over 1000 native trees. With both the waste management and tree plantation, the initiative has helped to produce 84,28,671 pounds of oxygen. He hopes to continue to ensure that each step is greener than the last!

# HOW TEACHERS CAN USE THIS CURRICULUM

This curriculum covers sustainability in a variety of ways – from concepts that students may already be familiar with, like recycling, to subjects they may not have considered before, like business sustainability.

Each module has an icebreaker and a reflective activity, so the students can discuss what they've learned and reflected upon it, consolidating their learning. Feel free to make the curriculum your own – there may be an extra activity you want to add in or you may feel the students need to spend more time on a particular topic.

As long as the students have a clearer understanding of sustainability, as well as what they and others can do to help the environment by the end of the curriculum, your job is done!

## Module 1

# INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY

*ICEBREAKER: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY?*

Everyone takes a piece of paper and writes down something they think about sustainability – what it is, their opinion on it, etc. The leader gathers the papers and reads each statement out to the group. Students go to one side of the room or the other depending on whether they agree or disagree. If there's a split, discuss the statement and why you agree/disagree – the two sides can debate.

*TEACHING PLAN: WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?*

Sustainability is all about protecting the planet and our environment without ignoring our present needs and affecting our ability to live now and use our resources. It's often referred to today when we speak about climate change, as it relates to how we interact with the world around us.

Our planet's population is expected to grow to around 8.5 billion by 2030 and 9.7 billion by 2050. If this happens, the UN predicts that by 2050, with our current consumption rate, the equivalent of three planets would be needed to sustain us.

*THERE ARE THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY:*

- ECONOMY
- SOCIETY
- THE ENVIRONMENT

You can also think of these as the three Ps – profit, people, planet.

The profit pillar is all about how we can sustainably develop economically – this means distributing our resources in the most effective way possible. It focuses on making sure businesses profit while also making sure that this profit isn't causing harm to the environment. Many people believe that if you focus on sustainability in your business, profit will follow.

The people pillar focuses on how we can help people – this mainly means balancing the needs of one person with the needs of a group of people.

Finally, the planet pillar is about the environment – it makes sure that we're not doing anything to harm our planet, and that we don't have too much of a negative environmental impact.

## REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY

Have a look at the statements you wrote earlier – after learning about sustainability, do you still agree with them? How would you edit them to fit with your new beliefs? Write down the ones that you think are most important, and discuss what you've learned that's changed your beliefs.

## Module 2



# RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

### *ICEBREAKER: HOW LONG DOES THIS RUBBISH LAST?*

Write a list of the materials below on the board. Ask each student to write down, in order, which they think would last in landfill shortest - longest. Students then split into groups of 4, discuss their choices and come up with a group order. Each group comes and writes their ordered list on the board. Now the leader reveals the actual order and the scientists' estimation. Which group was the closest? Discuss among the class – are there any that you're surprised by? Does it change how you think about which materials you'll use?



MATERIALS	TIME LASTED IN LANDFILL (SCIENTIST'S ESTIMATION)
Soda can	200 - 500 years
Banana	3 - 4 weeks
Glass bottle	Forever
Leather boot	40 - 50 years
Soup can	80 - 100 years
Paper bag	1 month
Cigarette butt	2 - 5 years
Wool sock	1 year
Rings from a six-pack of beer	450 years
Plastic jug	1 million years
Cotton rag	5 months
Styrofoam cup	Forever

## LESSON PLAN:

According to reports, cities across the world in 2016 produced 2.01 billion tonnes of solid waste. This is predicted to rise by almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 3.4 billion tonnes by 2050. To help reduce these numbers it's important to try to find things with the least amount of waste possible: this means doing things like buying your fruit and vegetables loose without plastic packaging, trying to refill empty bottles and jars rather than buying new ones, and finding brands that use either no packaging or sustainable/biodegradable packaging.

However, this may not always be possible. This is why waste management is very important to help the environment. Some ways you can help with sustainable waste management are as follows:

1) REUSE WASTE. THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN REUSE WASTE INSTEAD OF DISPOSING OF IT. SOME EXAMPLES ARE:



- Reusing your carrier bags for shopping
- Jars and pots - you can clean them and use them as storage or sustainably. Make sure you find out first what can be recycled in your area, and then use separated waste bins to recycle these things. Common things that can be recycled are:
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Paper
- Cardboard
- Cans
- Glass
- Food waste

### ACTIVITY:

Make a poster to put up in your school encouraging people to recycle. Add a few facts that you've learned about how it can help the environment and what they can recycle. Make sure to make it colourful and engaging – what kind of poster would encourage you to recycle more?

2) COMPOST ORGANIC WASTE. THIS CAN BE VERY USEFUL FOR FOOD WASTE, PLANT WASTE OR EVEN PAPER. COMPOST CAN BE VERY USEFUL AS IT FITS WITH POINT ONE – IT CAN BE REUSED IN A VARIETY OF SCENARIOS. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CAN USE IT IN YOUR GARDEN OR GIVE IT AWAY TO FARMERS OR FAMILY MEMBERS TO USE IN THEIR GARDENS OR TO FEED LIVESTOCK.

## Module 3

# PLASTICS

ICEBREAKER: REDUCING PLASTICS IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

Discuss as a group what you've been doing to reduce plastic in your everyday life, and write down all the ideas you've had. Which do you think are most effective? What are some things that you can think of that you haven't done, but would like to try? Rate your efforts so far out of 10, and say what you think you can do to improve.



## TEACHING PLAN:

Around the world, 400 million tons of plastic are generated each year. Statistics predict that only 9% of these plastics have been recycled, and almost 50% of all plastic waste came from single-use packaging.

*WHERE DO PLASTICS GO?*

*BENEFITS AND DISADVANTAGES OF PLASTIC*

There are many benefits to plastic, which is why it has become so popular since its invention in the early 1900s. It can be moulded into lots of different shapes and sizes, is strong and durable, light, resistant to water and often heat, and most importantly for many companies, is cheap to make.

However, there are many disadvantages too, primarily for the environment. Some examples are:

- *IT CAN'T BIODEGRADE LIKE OTHER MATERIALS – ALL THE PLASTIC WE THROW AWAY STAYS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT, INSTEAD OF ROTTING AWAY. EVEN WHEN IT'S BROKEN UP, THE FRAGMENTS CAN BECOME TINY BUT THEY WILL NEVER FULLY DISAPPEAR.*
- *WHERE PLASTIC ENDS UP: MOST OF OUR PLASTIC ENDS UP IN LANDFILL, WHICH ARE BIG HOLES DUG INTO THE GROUND. HOWEVER, A HUGE AMOUNT ALSO ENDS UP IN THE OCEAN, DUE TO BEING DISCARDED IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOT THROWN AWAY, BEING FLUSHED DOWN THE TOILET, DUMPED BY SHIPS OR FROM WASHING MACHINES. THESE CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS TO OCEAN LIFE, AS ANIMALS CAN INGEST THE PLASTIC OR GET TRAPPED IN IT. GREENPEACE ESTIMATES THAT THE EQUIVALENT OF A DUMP TRUCK FULL OF PLASTIC IS EMPTIED INTO THE OCEAN EVERY MINUTE.*
- *LOTS OF IT IS SINGLE-USE: THE ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION SAYS THAT 95% OF PLASTIC PACKAGING IN THE WORLD IS ONLY USED ONCE: FOR EXAMPLE STRAWS, COTTON BUDS & DISPOSABLE CUTLERY. THIS CREATES FAR MORE WASTE THAN NECESSARY FOR ITEMS THAT CAN'T EVEN BE REUSED.*
- *IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO RECYCLE: WE DISCUSSED RECYCLING IN THE LAST SESSION, AND LOTS OF PLASTIC CAN BE RECYCLED. HOWEVER, LOTS CAN'T – THIS IS BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLASTIC, AND ALL THE RECYCLED PLASTIC MUST BE OF THE SAME TYPE. DYED PLASTICS ARE ALSO MUCH HARDER TO RECYCLE.*
- *THERE ARE MANY OTHER DISADVANTAGES TO PLASTIC: CAN YOU THINK OF SOME MORE?*

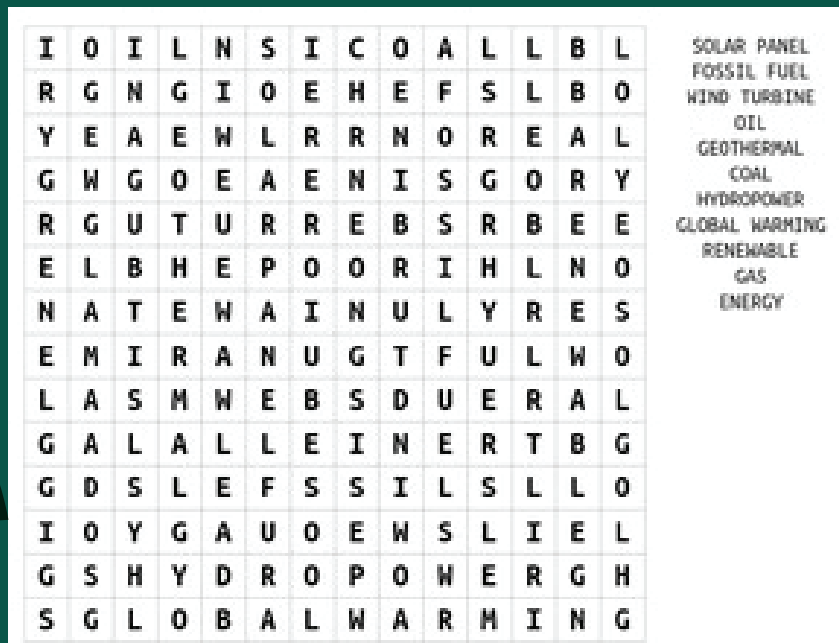
Activity: Alternatives to plastic

In groups of 4, do some research into alternatives for plastic. Choose one each and then present to the rest of the group why yours is the best alternative. Each group votes for the one they think is best, and then shares their decision with the class. Which is the most popular? Discuss why.

## Module 4

# ENERGY


ICEBREAKER: FIND ALL THE WORDS RELATING TO ENERGY IN THE WORD SEARCH BELOW. ARE THERE ANY THAT YOU'RE NOT ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH? CAN YOUR CLASSMATES HELP YOU WITH ANY DEFINITIONS?



## TEACHING PLAN:


There are two kinds of energy: renewable and non-renewable.

Producing non-renewable energy & power is the largest source of pollution in many countries across the world, including the US. Coal, oil, and natural gas (also known as “dirty energy”) still produce most of our electricity, despite developments in renewable technologies.




According to the European Environment Agency, two-thirds of all greenhouse gases in the world are from fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas). Air pollution is the fourth greatest risk to health in the world and is thought to cause 6.5 million deaths every year around the world. This works out to around 18,000 per day! Burning fossil fuels creates carbon dioxide, which contributes hugely to global warming.

Renewable energy means finding sources of energy that will never run out. These are natural sources like the sun, the wind and water. At the moment, 29% of energy in the world comes from renewable sources. Types of renewable energy are:

- **SOLAR:** THIS INCLUDES USING SOLAR PANELS TO ABSORB SUNLIGHT, WHICH CAN THEN BE CONVERTED INTO ELECTRICITY.
  - **HYDROPOWER:** HYDROPOWER USES TURBINES UNDER THE SEA OR DAMS TO GET ENERGY FROM WATER AND THE TIDES. CURRENTLY, IT ACCOUNTS FOR 63% OF ALL RENEWABLE ENERGY.
  - **WIND:** WIND POWER IS GENERATED BY USING WIND TURBINES TO CREATE ELECTRICITY.
  - **GEOTHERMAL:** GEOTHERMAL ENERGY USES VOLCANIC ENERGY FOR WATER HEATING, AND USES THE STEAM GENERATED TO CREATE ELECTRICITY.
- 

As well as making an effort to use renewable energy, you can also try to preserve energy to help the environment. Some ways that you can do this are:

- SWITCHING OFF LIGHTS WHEN YOU LEAVE A ROOM
  - USING ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHT BULBS: IF EVERYONE SWITCHED TO THESE, 120 BILLION US DOLLARS WOULD BE SAVED GLOBALLY EVERY YEAR.
  - HAVE A SHOWER RATHER THAN A BATH
  - CLOSE YOUR BLINDS/CURTAINS DURING THE DAY
  - USE YOUR AIR CONDITIONER/HEATING LESS
  - USE A "SMART" THERMOSTAT THAT AUTOMATICALLY ADJUSTS
- 

Activity:

Which renewable energy source do you think would be most effective in India? Why? Look up statistics about your choice – were you correct? Are you surprised by what you've found?

## Module 5

# SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT

*ICEBREAKER: WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MODE OF TRANSPORT? WHY? IS IT BECAUSE OF THE LOOK/THE CONVENIENCE/THE FEELING? DO YOU TAKE THE ENVIRONMENT INTO ACCOUNT? IF NOT, WHY NOT? IF SO, WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU MADE TO YOUR TRANSPORT HABITS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT? DISCUSS AMONGST THE CLASS WHO PREFERS WHICH MODES OF TRANSPORT.*

## TEACHING PLAN:

Transport is the fastest-growing fossil fuel polluter and is the biggest contributor to climate change. While CO2 emissions are going down in almost every other sector like industry, energy and agriculture, emissions from transport are only rising. However, there are many different forms of transport, which each contribute differently to global warming:

### 1. CARS

There are a few different factors that cause cars to harm our environment. These include:

The production of cars in the first place: lots of energy is used in manufacturing cars, and cars need lots of different materials to run – metal, plastic, rubber, steel, paint, glass. This means that cars have already caused harm to the environment before even starting to drive.

- *AIR POLLUTION: THIS IS PERHAPS THE MOST COMMONLY KNOWN PROBLEM FOR CARS. CHILDREN LIVING NEAR BUSY ROADS HAVE TWICE THE RISK OF BREATHING PROBLEMS AS THOSE WHO DON'T, AND THE POLLUTION COMING FROM CARS CAN CAUSE A LOT OF OTHER HEALTH PROBLEMS TO HUMANS, AS WELL AS EMITTING NASTY CHEMICALS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT.*
- *FUEL: EXTRACTING FUEL FROM THE EARTH CAN DAMAGE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL AS USING LOTS OF ENERGY. TRANSPORTING FUEL FOR CARS CAN CAUSE LOTS OF ISSUES SUCH AS OIL SPILLS, WHICH ARE VERY DAMAGING TO THE OCEAN.*  
*INFRASTRUCTURE: TO SUPPORT AS MANY CARS AS WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT, WE MUST BUILD LOTS OF ROADS, CAR PARKS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE. THESE CAN DAMAGE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTS AND WILDLIFE.*

- *INFRASTRUCTURE: TO SUPPORT AS MANY CARS AS WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT, WE MUST BUILD LOTS OF ROADS, CAR PARKS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE. THESE CAN DAMAGE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTS AND WILDLIFE.*

## 2. AIR TRAVEL

According to the International Air Transport Association, aviation creates 2% of all total carbon emissions in the world. If the aviation industry counted as a country, it would be sixth highest in the world for emissions.

The amount of pollution per person depends on how energy-efficient the fuel is on the aeroplane, and how many people are on it – private jets are extreme polluters per person compared to planes with many people.

## 3. BOATS

We all saw Greta Thunberg travel across the Atlantic to the USA by sailing boat rather than taking an aeroplane, but why? Are boats much more environmentally conscious?

The environmental impact of the boat very much depends on what kind of boat it is. Cruise ships tend to emit a huge amount of pollution: a study shows that Carnival Corporation, who is the biggest luxury cruise operator in the world, produces 10 times more air pollution than all of Europe's cars put together (which is 260 million cars)! The same goes for boats like huge oil tankers, which emit air pollution but also can risk oil spills in the ocean and dumping rubbish.

Sailing is far more environmentally conscious when it comes to boating, but you still have to be careful in areas with lots of diversity and wildlife – the rudder or propellor of the boat can collide with the wildlife there, and chemicals used to clean or maintain the boat can be harmful to animals if they spill into the sea

## 4. TRAINS

Train travel is far more energy-efficient than car or aeroplane travel but again depends on the kind of train you're travelling on. Trains still do emit carbon dioxide into the air, but they can hold far more passengers, meaning they're more efficient with their use of energy. Electric trains are the most energy-efficient, whereas diesel trains use double the carbon emissions of electric ones.

## 5. BICYCLE

Bicycles are by far the best mode of transportation for the environment, as they consume the least amount of energy. The production of bikes has a lower environmental impact than the production of cars and aeroplanes, and it also has a lower impact when being used for travelling, as it doesn't emit any fuels or greenhouse gases.

## 6. MOTORCYCLE

Motorbikes are smaller and lighter than cars, and so generally consume less fuel – this means they emit less carbon dioxide when travelling. However, it's not all good news. Motorbikes also give out far more hydrocarbons, nitrous oxide and carbon monoxide than cars. So in terms of climate change, they're better for the environment, but the emissions they give out can be worse for human health.

*HOW TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT VIA TRAVEL:*

*YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT IS HOW MUCH IMPACT YOU HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH WHAT YOU DO. THERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT VIA TRANSPORT:*

- *DRIVE LESS. IF YOU HAVE TO TRAVEL SOMEWHERE BY ROAD, WHY NOT TRY A BUS OR COACH? ALTHOUGH THEY EMIT POLLUTION LIKE CARS BECAUSE THEY HAVE A HIGHER NUMBER OF PASSENGERS THEY HAVE A LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT. IF THERE'S A TRAIN ROUTE WHERE YOU'RE GOING, EVEN BETTER! IF IT'S A SHORT ROUTE, TRY CYCLING OR WALKING – AS WELL AS HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT, YOU MIGHT FIND SOME NEW ROUTES OR INTERESTING THINGS TO SEE ALONG THE WAY.*
- *CONSIDER BUYING AN ELECTRIC CAR OR MOTORCYCLE INSTEAD OF A FUEL-POWERED ONE. THEY HAVE FAR LESS IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND GIVE OFF FEWER EMISSIONS.*
- *FLY LESS – IF YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE WITHIN YOUR OWN COUNTRY, AVOID TAKING A DOMESTIC FLIGHT AND LOOK INTO OTHER TRANSPORT OPTIONS. IF YOU'RE GOING INTERNATIONALLY, THERE MAY BE BOAT ROUTES THAT TAKE YOU THE SAME WAY AND CAN BE VERY SCENIC! IF YOU HAVE TO FLY, TRY TO OFFSET YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT BY DONATING TO A SUSTAINABILITY CHARITY, OR PLEDGING TO PLANT SOME TREES.*

Reflective Activity:

Think about what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Tell your classmates about your favourite option, and discuss whether the mode of transport you said at the beginning of the class is still your favourite, based on what you've learned today.

## Module 6

# SUSTAINABILITY AND FOOD

*ICEBREAKER: WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL? DISCUSS IN THE CLASS WHAT YOU LIKE TO EAT. IS IT INDIAN OR CUISINE FROM A DIFFERENT COUNTRY? CAN THE INGREDIENTS BE GROWN IN INDIA?*

## TEACHING PLAN:

The food sector is a huge drain on energy – about a third of the world's total energy consumption is used by the sector. It also emits around 22% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Although it's a big polluter, a factor that many people don't take into account when thinking about the food sector's sustainability and environmental impact is its water usage. Shockingly, 70% of ALL freshwater in the world is used for agriculture. One loaf of bread used 240 gallons of water to be produced, and a pound of chicken uses 518 gallons!

This isn't decreasing as well: by 2050, agricultural production is expected to go up by 50%, with a 15% increase in water usage. Predictions say that 24 - 700 million people will be displaced in the next 10 years because of water scarcity.

So the industry causes pollution and uses water unsustainably – what else? Well, overfishing and the need to use the land for agriculture is displacing wildlife, depleting our supplies and ensuring that we won't be able to sustainably continue on this trajectory. Estimations also say that one-third of all food produced each year goes unused due to rotting or spoiling – this leads to 1.3 billion tonnes worth of food waste!

How can I help? There are a few things you can do to try to consume food more sustainably:

- *EAT LESS MEAT: MEAT REQUIRES THE MOST WATER TO PRODUCE BY FAR THAN ANY OTHER FOOD GROUP. IT ALSO USES FAR MORE LAND THAN MANY OTHER GROUPS, BECAUSE ANIMALS NEED SPACE TO GRAZE. LASTLY, IT'S A BIG POLLUTANT! DON'T WORRY IF YOU DON'T FEEL ABLE TO GO VEGAN – EVEN CUTTING DOWN ON YOUR MEAT CONSUMPTION BY A FEW MEALS CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.*
- *EAT LOCAL: TRY TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE EATING FOOD FROM THE LOCAL AREA THAT'S SEASONAL. CHECK WHICH FOODS ARE IN SEASON NEAR YOU AND FIND RECIPES FROM THEM. THIS MEANS YOU'RE NOT EATING FOOD THAT'S BEEN SHIPPED ACROSS THE WORLD VIA PLANES, CUTTING DOWN ON YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT.*
- *WASTE LESS FOOD: TRY AND USE ALL THE INGREDIENTS IN YOUR FRIDGE AND NOT THROW ANY FOOD AWAY. THROWING FOOD AWAY IS NOT ONLY BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BUT FOR YOUR WALLET!*

## REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY

Find out what's seasonal in your area at the moment, and come up with a recipe to cook. Share your recipe with the class and make a class "recipe book" for the season that will help your carbon footprint.

## Module 7

# SUSTAINABILITY AND FASHION

*ICEBREAKER: LOOK AT THIS LIST OF COMMON MATERIALS USED TO MAKE CLOTHING, AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ANY EXAMPLES OF THEM AROUND THE ROOM – WHETHER PEOPLE ARE WEARING THEM OR NOT.*

- Cotton
- Wool
- Leather
- Silk
- Fur
- Nylon
- Polyester
- Spandex

*WHICH OUT OF THESE WOULD YOU PREDICT TO BE THE MOST SUSTAINABLE FABRIC? DISCUSS.*

## TEACHING PLAN:

The fashion industry is projected to use 35% more land for fibre production by 2030—an extra 115 million hectares that could be left for biodiversity or used to grow crops to feed an expanding population.

The fashion industry is the third-largest polluter globally. It produces 1.2 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually – this is more than maritime shipping companies and international flights combined! The problem with fashion production is that less than 1% of the material used to make clothes is recycled into new clothing.

Like the food industry, textiles also use lots of water – a pair of jeans takes 7,000 litres to produce. The type of material used depends on how harmful it is to the environment – natural fibres are much better. For example, a cotton shirt has half the carbon footprint of a polyester shirt.

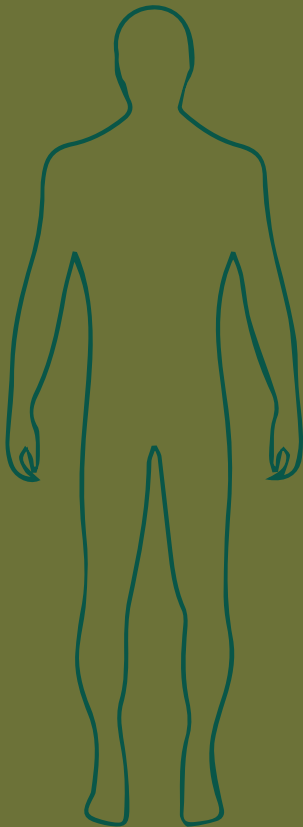
Fast fashion is particularly harmful to the environment. It's become a global phenomenon in the last few decades – where once people would buy only a few clothes to last them a long time, now trends change so often and fashion companies produce so many collections that people buy far more clothes than they used to, and only wear them once or twice before throwing them away. Every second, the equivalent of one garbage truck full of clothes is thrown away.



Some clothes also have microfibers in the material, which are made out of plastic. This means that when they are washed, microscopic pieces of plastic are released, which often end up in the oceans. The equivalent of 50 billion plastic bottles worth of microfibers get into the ocean every year!

This may seem worrying, but there are many things that you can do to make sure your fashion habits are more sustainable. This could be:

- *BE MORE AWARE OF WHAT YOU'RE BUYING. WHEN YOU TRY SOMETHING ON OR ARE ONLINE SHOPPING, THINK ABOUT WHETHER YOU TRULY NEED IT. ALSO ASK YOURSELF WHETHER IT'S MADE OF NATURAL FABRIC, HOW DURABLE IT IS AND HOW OFTEN YOU'D WEAR IT.*
- *SHOP FOR SECOND-HAND CLOTHES. BUYING SECOND-HAND CLOTHING MEANS THAT YOU KNOW THAT IT WON'T END UP BEING THROWN AWAY AND THAT NO NEW FABRICS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR IT.*
- *GO THROUGH YOUR WARDROBE TO SEE WHAT YOU ALREADY OWN. OFTEN YOU FORGET ABOUT LOTS OF CLOTHES THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE, AND THEREFORE DON'T NEED TO BUY NEW ONES.*
- *IF YOU'RE ONLINE SHOPPING, CHECK IF THEIR DELIVERY METHODS ARE SUSTAINABLE.*



## REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY

Design an outfit for this person that's sustainable. Put notes next to each fashion item describing why it's sustainable – is it a certain material? Did they get it second hand? Did they find it in their wardrobe from years ago?



## Module 8

# SUSTAINABILITY AND BUSINESS

*ICEBREAKER: WRITE DOWN SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE BRANDS AND BUSINESSES. NOW DO SOME RESEARCH INTO WHETHER THEY'VE DONE ANYTHING TO MAKE THEIR BUSINESS MORE SUSTAINABLE - HAVE THEY BEEN REDUCING WASTE? HAVE THEY BEEN MINIMISING THEIR CARBON FOOTPRINT OR TRYING TO USE LESS WATER? PRESENT TO YOUR CLASSMATES WHAT YOUR BRAND HAS DONE FOR SUSTAINABILITY, AND THEN AS A GROUP PUT THEM IN ORDER FROM MOST TO LEAST SUSTAINABLE.*

## TEACHING PLAN:

Out of the 250 biggest companies in the world, 250 of them are giving reports on what they're doing to make their business more sustainable, as well as how sustainable they currently are. In our other lessons we've discussed how we can make a difference as individuals, but people are also starting to turn an eye to what big corporations are doing about sustainability – it's all very well us stopping using plastic straws or shopping second hand as individuals if companies are contributing the same amount of emissions in a minute that we'd contribute in a lifetime!

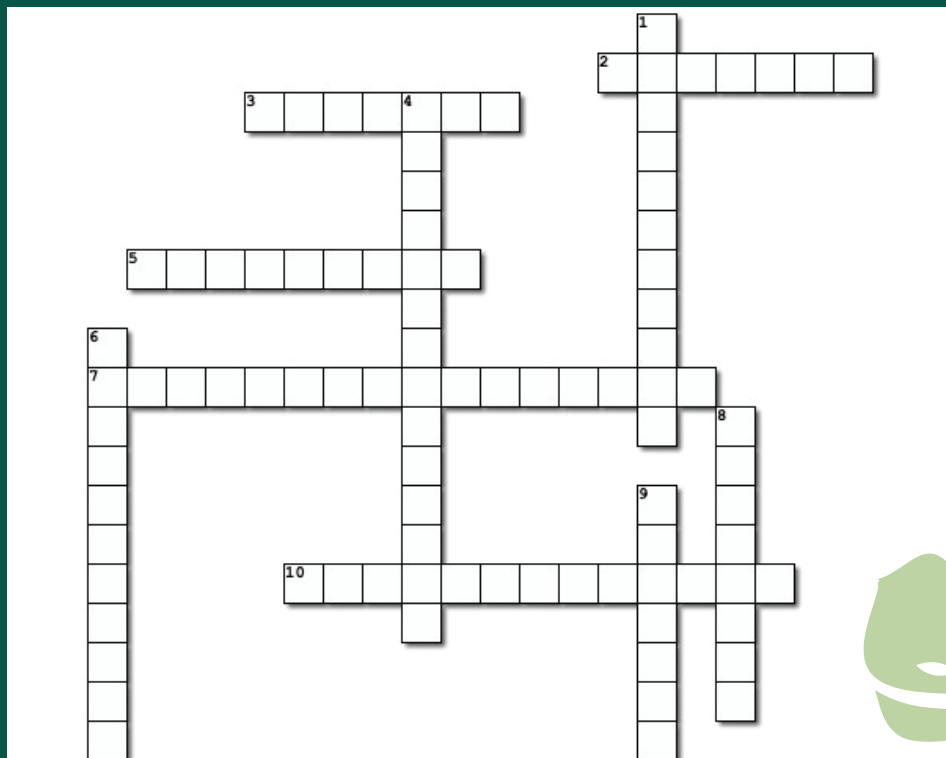
Many companies are now seeing sustainability as something that's not only beneficial for the environment but beneficial for their business too. This is for a variety of reasons:

- *CLIMATE CHANGE IS RISKY TO THEIR BUSINESS: MANY COMPANIES OPERATE IN AREAS THAT COULD BE VULNERABLE TO NATURAL DISASTERS, WATER SCARCITY OR EXCESS HEAT, ALL OF WHICH CAN BE CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. BY CUTTING DOWN ON THEIR EMISSIONS THEY'RE CUTTING DOWN ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF THESE THINGS HAPPENING.*
- *PUBLIC PERCEPTION: BUSINESSES KNOW THAT THE TYPICAL PERSON WHO BUYS THEIR PRODUCTS WILL LIKE THE IDEA THAT THEY ARE MADE SUSTAINABLY. BY PUBLICLY SHOWING THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY, THEY MAY END UP WITH MORE CUSTOMERS.*
- *IT HELPS INNOVATION: COMING UP WITH CREATIVE IDEAS TO TACKLE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES HELPS INNOVATION IN A COMPANY, WHICH WILL THEN TRANSLATE TO OTHER AREAS OF THEIR BUSINESS.*



- *THEY CAN REDUCE THEIR COSTS: MANY BUSINESSES ATTEMPTING TO CUT DOWN ON THEIR CARBON EMISSIONS OR WATER USAGE CAN SUBSEQUENTLY CUT THE COST OF THEIR SPENDING ON THESE THINGS.*
- *IT ENCOURAGES EMPLOYEES TO WORK FOR THEM: MANY EMPLOYEES WANT TO KNOW THEY'RE WORKING FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMPANY, AND THEREFORE COMPANIES THAT MAKE EFFORTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY KNOW THEY CAN ATTRACT THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST WORKERS.*

Reflective activity: Sustainability crossword



**Across**

2. Decayed organic material like food
3. Making waste into something new
5. A harmful substance going into the environment (eg. air X, water X)
7. A natural event that causes damage eg. earthquake
10. A substance that can decompose on its own

**Down**

1. This term covers coal, gas and oil
4. A gas produced from things like cars that can be harmful to the environment
6. The natural world
8. The native animals that form part of a region
9. A material used to make things like bottles and straws



THA  
NKY  
OU.

By Vihaan Agarwal & Nav Agarwal