

# Where Does Rubbish Go ?

Cén áit a théann an bruscar san Eoraip?

*Ciarán agus Daithí*

# Rubbish in Europe

- As European society has grown wealthier it has created more and more rubbish. Each year in the European Union alone we throw away 3 billion tonnes of waste - some 90 million tonnes of it hazardous.
- By 2020, the people estimate we could be generating 45% more waste than we did in 1995. Obviously we must reverse this trend if we are to avoid being submerged in rubbish, But the picture is not all gloomy. The EU's Sixth Environment Action Programme identifies waste prevention and management as one of four top priorities. Its primary objective is to try to separate waste generation from economic activity, so that EU growth will no longer lead to more and more rubbish, and there are signs that this is beginning to happen. In Germany and the Netherlands, for example, municipal waste generation fell during the 1990s.

# Landfills in Germany

Imagine that there was a ban on disposing of garbage in landfills. It may sound impossible but that day has already come in Germany. On June 1, 2005, Germany imposed a ban on traditional garbage dumps, replacing them with one of the most advanced waste-management systems in the world.

In the 1970s, Germany had around 50,000 landfills. Now, in a country of 83 million inhabitants, there are less than 300 and they don't take unsorted garbage. They only accept what is left after recyclable items have been removed and the rest has been subjected to various processes that compress it into an inert mass. In 2020, those landfills will be out of operation because by then Germany plans to make use of all garbage and the energy produced by it.

# Landfills in Spain

- In the investigation titled "Influence of location environmental impact of landfills. Case of Spain" the author has analyzed the degree of agreement with environmental factors highlights includes in the fourteen Environmental Impact Statements of the 175 landfills that exist in Spain, assessing issues such as site location, the area occupied or hydrography.

## **Six factors investigated**

After data collection, the research team analyzed the compliance with respect to six factors: surface hydrology, groundwater hydrology, noise and vibration, air quality, flora and distance from airports. The results show that 94 per cent of landfills are located more than 300 meters from any body of water and that 69 per cent is groundwater because most of the surface of the Iberian Peninsula has water bodies or underground to get water and is difficult to find a location without them.

# How can we Improve our recycle

- So much of what paper we discard in the normal course of business contains information that is potentially damaging if it were to find its way into the wrong hands. It could put you behind bars , if your name or personal information is on it. As someone could sue you , for littering and that's why they're big companies now that make a hill of money from simply recycling.
- We can recycle too and we will improve our lifestyle by recycling and helping the environment , but we probaly won't make a hill of money out of it. In time mabie.

# How can we start recycling

- We can still start now , but we must remember to reduce our waste , reuse the old games and broken toys , have separate bins to help recycling, one for plastic, one for glass, and one for general waste.
- The world must be here for our grand kids, and great grand kids, and if we don't start recycling now, we can't guarantee that , please start now before its too late !

# How Can We recycle Electrical devises ?

- If you have an old computer radio or phone don't just throw it away, you can break it up to small pieces and put it in to the WEEE box in our local school/ supermarket/community centre, because WEEE deal with broken electrical, and know how to recycle them by breaking them up into tiny pieces, and reuse them.

Go raibh maith  
agaibh as léamh! 😊

bye

Ciarán and Daithí