

Natural Pollution

Much of the damage caused to the environment is caused by human activity but some is created naturally.

Volcanoes – Pollutes the air with dust and poisonous gases

Methane – Production/transport of coal, gas, and oil, as well as produced by animals, traps heat adding to climate change.

Radon – Radioactive gas found in igneous rocks and soil

Fires – Smoke filled with carbon dioxide and small particles



Pollution

Pollution is something introduced into the environment that is dirty, unclean or has a harmful effect. Air, water and land can all become polluted. For example, traffic fumes cause air pollution, factories or farming can put chemicals into rivers and litter/plastic can create land pollution.

How long does waste last?

banana peeling (2 weeks)



newspaper (1 month)



cardboard (3 months)



plastic bag (20 years)



tin can (50 years)



plastic bottle (450 years)



chemicals (1000s of years)



nuclear waste (10,000 years)

glass bottle (millions of years)



Key Vocabulary

acid rain	Wind carrying nitrogen and sulphur pollution can fall to the ground as rain, killing trees and poisoning lakes.
biodegradable	rotting away naturally from bacteria
chemicals	substance that has been made or purified
ecosystem	community of living and non-living things all linked together in a habitat
energy	power created from a resource
fossil fuel	natural fuel formed in the past from the remains of living organisms
greenhouse effect	the trapping of the sun's warmth in a planet's lower atmosphere causing a rise in temperature
incinerator	apparatus for burning waste material
landfill	a huge rubbish dump filled with waste
litter	throwing waste products onto the floor
noise & light	pollution caused by too much noise or light
smog	Fumes from traffic and industry create a thick fog

Reduce (Use Less)



Leave the car at home



Use less petrol



Less drilling for oil



Less air pollution from traffic and oil spills

Reuse (Use Again)



Food peelings



Compost bin



Compost heap



New soil for planting/growing

Recycle (Use Again by Converting)

Sort plastic, glass and paper

Sent to a recycling plant



Items are sorted further

New products are made

