

ECO-FRIENDLY SCAVENGER HUNT

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OBJECTIVE // To enable participants to recognize environmentally-friendly practices in their parish, school or workplace, and to identify areas for improvement

TIME // 1 hour

GROUP SIZE // Any

MATERIALS //

- Scavenger Hunt List for each participant
Options to cut down on environmental impact:
Print lists on recycled paper, or on the backs of used paper.
Print fewer lists by having participants work in partners/groups, rather than individually.
- Pens/pencils for each participant/group
- Poster paper (with markers), chalkboard (with chalk), whiteboard (with dry-erase markers), OR a computer and projector to recreate a larger group version of the Scavenger Hunt List

ACTIVITY GUIDE

STEP 1 // Explain the Scavenger Hunt to the group:

*"We're going on a Scavenger Hunt to find out just how environmentally-friendly our school/parish/workplace is. The Scavenger Hunt List contains both environmentally-friendly and environmentally-harmful items. Search the building, and count how many of each item you find (count each item **once!**)."*

Give participants a time limit of your choice (e.g. 30 minutes) to complete the scavenger hunt, and tell them where to meet the rest of the group when the time is up. If necessary, set limits as to where participants can look (e.g. do not go into offices, etc.) before they begin their search. Remind participants to be respectful of the rooms they search, and to leave the rooms exactly as they found them.

STEP 2 // **Optional:** Divide participants into partners/groups. Distribute Scavenger Hunt Lists among participants, and send them on their search.

STEP 3 // When the group reassembles, have each individual or group call out how many of each item they found. For larger groups, ask volunteers to announce their findings, and then ask if anyone had higher or lower counts for each item. Record each individual/group's findings on the larger group chart. (Note: Do not add the numbers together; simply record them so that participants can compare their findings with the rest of the group.)

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POST-ACTIVITY DISCUSSION//

Have the group assess, based on their findings, whether they think that their school/parish is environmentally-friendly.

Have the group brainstorm areas that can be improved in order to make their school/parish more environmentally-friendly. Examples might include:

- More accessible recycling and compost bins (or placing a recycling bin next to every garbage can)
- Educational signs (another possible THINKfast activity!) to post around the building to teach others about how they can use the building's facilities to make more environmentally-conscious choices. For example: posters next to vending machines to remind people to use refillable water bottles instead of buying bottled water; or signs next to garbage cans to remind people to recycle.

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SAMPLE OF SCAVENGER HUNT LIST:

NON-ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY		ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY	
ITEM	COUNT	ITEM	COUNT
Incandescent light bulbs		Energy-efficient light bulbs	
Garbage cans		Compost/recycling bins	
Vending machines		Water fountains	
Lights on in unused rooms		Lights off in unused rooms	
Computers on / in sleep mode with screen savers		Computers in sleep mode (screens off)	
Power cords plugged in, power bars on when not in use		Power cords unplugged, power bars off when not in use	
Drafty windows & doors, or open windows when heater/ AC is on		Well-sealed windows & doors, windows open & heat/AC off in nice weather	
Regular printer paper, disposable ink/toner cartridges		Recycled/unbleached/ sustainably sourced printer paper, refillable ink/toner cartridges	
Electric pencil sharpeners, staplers		Manual pencil sharpeners, staplers,	
Plastic cutlery & disposable plates, cups.		Reusable cutlery, plates, cups	
Air fresheners		Plants that clean the air	
Heavy-flow taps and toilets		Low-flow taps and toilets	
Other:		Other:	
Other:		Other:	