

## **16. RECYCLING: NOT JUST A LOAD OF RUBBISH (KÖRNYEZETVÉDELMI TEMATIKA)**

**The UK has some of the worst recycling rates in the Western world. So what are we doing wrong – and how can we improve?**

The UK is in danger of reaching waste crisis point. We produce more than 30 million tonnes of household waste each year, and disposing of it is a huge problem. In theory, three quarters of household waste could be recycled or composted – but in practice, almost 80 per cent is sent to landfill.

UK recycling figures are pitiful – England recycles only 11 per cent of its household rubbish (and figures for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are even worse). Yet Switzerland, Austria and Germany recycle around half their waste, and parts of the US and Canada top 70 per cent.

Central government, local councils and individuals need to work together to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce and improve our recycling rates – and we have a long way to go.

The two alternatives to recycling are both harmful to the environment. Incineration creates polluting emissions and toxic ash, which then has to be buried in landfills. But landfill space is running out very fast, and there are grave concerns about the effects of these sites on human health and the environment.

Landfilled rubbish produces methane, a greenhouse gas, which can build up and cause explosion. Chemicals and bacteria can also leak into the soil and the water table.

The government has started to tackle these problems in recent years. Landfill Tax was introduced in 1996, levied on the amount of rubbish sent to landfills. More recently, the European Union Landfill Directive set targets for the rubbish sent to landfill. Countries that fail to meet those targets face hefty fines – amounting to as much as £500,000 a day in the UK.

The Waste Strategy, published in 2000, set out plans to reduce and recycle waste in England and Wales. (Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own similar strategies.) The strategy set targets of 25 per cent of household waste to be recycled or composted by 2005, rising to 30 per cent by 2010 and 33 per cent by 2015.

*“Which?” Magazine, July 2002*

### Első feladat

Olvassa el a “Recycling: not just a load of rubbish” című szöveget, és a szöveg alapján válaszoljon röviden a kérdésekre. Válaszait írja az alábbi táblázatba, a példa (0) szerint!

KÉRDÉSEK	VÁLASZOK
What is the biggest problem about household waste?	0. <i>The problem of how to dispose of it.</i>
Who should be responsible for reducing the amount of waste in the UK?	1.
	2.
	3.
What harm does incineration cause?	4.
	5.
What are the dangers of the landfill sites?	6.
	7.
	8.

### Második feladat

Olvassa el újra a “Recycling: not just a load of rubbish” című szöveget, és írja be a táblázatba a hiányzó információkat a példa (0) szerint!

ADATOK	MIRE VONATKOZNAK
0. 30 million	<i>tons of waste produced in UK in a year</i>
9. $\frac{3}{4}$	
10. 11%	
11. $\frac{1}{2}$	
12. 1996	
13. 2000	
14.	Recycling target by 2005 for household waste in England and Wales
15. 33%	