**FUNDAMENTAL ECO-VOCABULARY**

**The 3 R Words plus 1**

**REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE**

**REFUSE**

**ECOLOGY ECOSYSTEM**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**HABITAT**

**BIODOVERSITY**

**COMPOST DECOMPOSE**

**BIODEGRADABLE**

**POLLINATORS**

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**CARBON FOOTPRINT**

**ECOLOGY** is the branch of science that deals with the relationship of organisms to one another in their surroundings.

**ENVIRONMENT** is the surroundings in which people, animals and plants live in the natural world.

A group of kids around the earth

Description automatically generated A drawing of a river and a bird

Description automatically generated A group of kids around the earth

Description automatically generated

**ECOSYSTEM** is the complex network and interconnection of all living things

Diagram of a ecosystem diagram

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**HABITAT** is the natural home or environment for animals, plants and other organism

A group of houses with text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**BIODIVERSITY** is the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem

A green planet with animals and birds

Description automatically generated

**BIODEGRADABLE** is a substance being capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms

A cartoon of a child with a box of garbage

Description automatically generated

**DECOMPOSE** is the natural breakdown or organic materials.

This process equals **COMPOST**

A diagram of a composting cycle

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**A poster of a compost bin

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**CARBON FOOTPRINT** is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air because of your own energy needs. You need transportation, electricity, food, clothing and other goods. Your choices can make a difference.

A logo with a globe and leaves

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**CLIMATE CHANGE**  describes a change in the typical weather for a region such as high and low temperatures and the amount of rainfall over a long period of time.

**NASA CLIMATE KIDS** [**https://climatekids.nasa.gov/**](https://climatekids.nasa.gov/)

**A poster of an arctic animal

Description automatically generated**

**POLLINATORS** see **Planting for Pollinators** in **Grand Gardening**

**SAY NO TO PLASTIC**

A no plastic sign

Description automatically generated

**“UNWANTED” TREASURE HUNT** –

A fun way for kids to teach parents and grandparents about single use plastic.

Have grandchildren look through the cupboards (with parental approval and help) in a simple game of I Spy for single use plastic. Keep a chart and take pictures to document the finds.

Team up with another family and have a weeklong challenge to see who finds the most “Unwanted” Treasure and then have a Plastic Free Picnic together. Check out Cooking Green for great kid food picnic ideas.

A poster with text and images of different types of objects

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A close-up of a plastic recycling

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