

**COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
CURRICULUM REVIEW**

The current Communications Technology curriculum was created in 2009. It is old and a little outdated because the world of Communications Technology has changed drastically in the years since its release. In this task, we will analyze curriculum expectations relating to the Communication Technology’s impact on both the environment and on society.

PART 0 – CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS

Read the Communications Technology course expectations related to the environment. Because of similarities, both the TGJ3M and TGJ4M expectations have been included.

TGJ 3M Expectations Relating to the Environment	TGJ 4M Expectations Relating to the Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the impact of current communications media technologies on the environment (<i>e.g., increased energy consumption, disposal of electronic equipment and batteries, noise pollution, electromagnetic interference, RF pollution, chemical and other wastes associated with paper production</i>); • describe environmentally responsible practices that can be used to reduce the impact of communications technologies on the environment (<i>e.g., recycling or finding new uses for obsolete equipment, disposal of batteries as toxic waste, using energy-efficient equipment and turning off equipment that is not being used, recycling of toner cartridges, use of recycled paper</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze the environmental costs and benefits, local and global, of recent innovations in communications technology (<i>e.g., costs and benefits related to resource usage, energy demand, waste disposal, toxic substances, radiation, air and water pollution</i>); • describe ways of minimizing or avoiding harmful environmental effects caused by communications technologies and media activities (<i>e.g., upgrade products rather than dispose of them; turn off equipment that is not being used; treat dead batteries as toxic waste; recycle used paper and printer cartridges</i>).

PART 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

In terms of communications media technologies impact on the environment, the curriculum suggests we should consider talking about:

- a) increased energy consumption,
- b) disposal of electronic equipment and batteries,
- c) noise pollution,
- d) electromagnetic interference,
- e) RF pollution,
- f) chemical and other wastes associated with paper production.

A) For each of the above points, answer the following questions:

- i) Why is this an important talking point? (Research it if you need to.)
- ii) Is this point still a valid concern?
- iii) Were you previously aware of this concern?
- iv) Are we as a society doing a good job dealing with this concern?

B) Can you list other points that should maybe be included into the next version of the curriculum?

PART 2 – ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES

In terms of environmentally responsible practices, the curriculum suggests we should discuss:

- a) recycling or finding new uses for obsolete equipment,
- b) disposal of batteries as toxic waste,
- c) using energy-efficient equipment,
- d) turning off equipment that is not being used,
- e) recycling of toner cartridges,
- f) use of recycled paper,
- g) upgrade products rather than dispose of them.

A) For each of the above points, answer the following questions:

- i) Why does this practice help the environment? (Research it if you need to.)
- ii) Is this still an important practice?
- iii) Are we as a society doing well at enforcing this practice?

B) Can you list other environmentally friendly practices that we have adopted?

C) Can you list other environmentally friendly practices that we should adopt?

PART 3 – FUTURE OUTLOOK

Explain how you think our world is responding and will respond to the environmental impact caused by Communications Technology. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the environmental outlook?