

Soil and Recycling Department
ECO-STANDARDS CHECK

BASIC SOIL CHEMISTRY: pH
LOOKING AT WATER pH

Team Members _____ Date _____ Time _____

Checkpoint # or Name _____ Direction (circle): N NE NW S SE SW E W

Weather Conditions: Temperature _____ Cloud Cover/Sun _____ Wind _____

Time: 10 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to your assigned checkpoint area and walk two paces north, south, east, or west.
2. Collect three soil samples and place them into three separate cups or beakers.
3. Return to the classroom.
4. Add 100 ml of distilled water to each cup and using a different plastic rod (or spoon) for each cup, break apart the soil and stir mixing the water with the soil.
5. Leave the cups on a shelf for about three hours or until the water has become fairly clear.
6. Tear off a small strip of pH paper (about five cm or one inch long) and touch the paper to the water. Do not touch any soil.
7. Match the color of the wet pH paper to the colors found on the pH package. Record the pH number of the matching color. This is the pH of your soil.
8. Repeat this procedure for each beaker (cup) of soil (Samples 1, 2, and 3)
9. Calculate the average pH values for the three samples.
10. Record the average pH of the soil at each site.

Time: 10 minutes

	Checkpoint	Soil Description	Soil pH		Average pH
Data Collected From Your Group's Samples			Sample #1		
			Sample #2		
			Sample #3		