



Gas from garbage

This activity is designed to demonstrate that biomass, especially when stored in warm, damp conditions, produces gas.

You will need

- 5 sealable plastic bags
- 50 kidney beans

Steps

1

Soak the kidney beans overnight.

2

Place ten kidney beans in each bag before resealing and squeezing all of the air out of the bags.

3

Leave the bags in different places around the classroom, i.e. somewhere cold, somewhere hot, somewhere light, somewhere dark, etc.

4

Examine the bags after 24 hours and record what you find. You can measure the amount of gas released by the extent to which the bags have become inflated – the more the bags bulge, the more gas they contain.

Analysis/ discussion

Can other types of rubbish make gas?

How could this gas be stored, and harnessed?