



Credit: Mark Edwards/Still Pictures

# Gas from garbage

This activity is designed to demonstrate that biomass, especially when stored in warm, damp conditions, produces gas. Look in the 'Key points' section of this resource for more information on biomass.

## 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?**