

Environmental Problems and Waste Management

Chapter 13: Our Environment · Topic 2

Key Concept

The ozone layer, located in the stratosphere, absorbs most of the Sun's harmful UV-B radiation, protecting living organisms from increased risks of skin cancer and other UV-related damage; international agreements like the Montreal Protocol have successfully reduced the use of ozone-depleting substances. Effective waste management follows the principle of the 3 Rs — Reduce (minimise consumption and waste generation), Reuse (use items multiple times before disposal), and Recycle (process waste materials into new products) — to reduce the environmental burden of growing waste generation.

Quick Revision Notes

- Ozone layer depletion, caused by CFCs, reduces protection from harmful UV radiation.
- The Montreal Protocol is an international agreement that reduced ozone-depleting substances.
- Effective waste management follows the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- Improper waste management pollutes land, water, and air.

Practice Questions

- 1 Suggest two ways to manage waste sustainably.
- 2 Explain why ozone layer depletion is a concern for human health.
- 3 Describe the meaning of each of the 3 Rs of waste management.