

Zero Waste Sorting Game Questions

1. What items are *most frequently* misorted? Where do they go? Why do you think people sort these incorrectly?
 - a. Plastic bags, take out food. Ripped soiled, unusable = trash (include more than once in game)
 - b. Clean PLASTIC BAGS = Can be recycled at the store. (confusing)
 - c. Do not recycle TANGLERS: clothes hangers (trash or donate), christmas lights (hazardous),
 - d. Dirty diapers and pet feces go in trash, not recycling
 - e. Batteries, these are hazardous, will cause a fire in trash or recycling compactor (include more than once in game)
 - f. Bubble wrap, not recycle, trash or reuse
2. What happens when these are sorted **correctly**? (environmental impacts)
 - a. Organic waste: not contaminating recycling, not sending organic waste to landfill, which decomposition without oxygen releasing methane, greenhouse gas, climate issues. [When composted properly it gets turned into other organic materials: compost replacing fertilizers, no chemicals needed, quality water, water retention, reduces erosion, helps put carbon in the soil and out of the atmosphere, helps plants grow, balances carbon issues.](#)
 - b. Trash: not contaminating organic waste or recycling (microplastics), [landfill buried until end of time](#)
 - c. Recycling: leads to resource conservation. Clean recycling material can rely on and reuse the material, otherwise it will waste or contaminate the product. [Reusing materials prevents pollution and over consumption of resources \(forests, minerals, aluminum needs to be mined, especially oil drilling\)](#)
3. What are the consequences for **incorrect** sorting? What happens if...
 - a. Organic goes into the Trash?
 - i. Lost opportunity to recapture usable materials (nutrients in organic matter could have become compost, natural gas, etc.)

1. Continued reliance on chemical fertilizers and water contamination through stormwater runoff.
 - a. Specifically, chemical fertilizers cause eutrophication and create dead zones, areas of water that have low levels of oxygen and become hostile to aquatic life. Ex. Salton Sea and the Gulf of Mexico
 - ii. Landfills reach capacity sooner. Currently, approximately 40% of the material added to the landfill is organic material. Once landfills reach capacity, new landfills are constructed in natural spaces and pose potential threats to human and environmental health.
- b. Organic goes into recycling?
 - i. Recyclable material is contaminated and unable to be properly recycled. Formerly recyclable material is then discarded in the landfill.
 1. Ex. if pizza crust is mixed in with recycled paper, the paper will become greasy and then is no longer recyclable
- c. Trash goes into Organic?
 - i. Contaminated end products - compost and mulch will have plastic, chip bags, dog waste, and other materials mixed in. This is harmful to the environment and unsafe for anyone utilizing the compost and mulch.
 1. Common examples
 - a. ketchup packets or packaging around food, like yogurt containers - this becomes shredded in the composting process, adding microplastics to our soil
 - b. Silverware (plastic and metal) - more common from restaurants & dining halls than from residences
- d. Trash goes into recycling?
 - i. Recyclable material is contaminated and unable to be properly recycled. Formerly recyclable material is then discarded in the landfill.
 - ii. Depending on what the trash is, it could present a hazard to workers in the recycling facilities.
 1. Because reducing/eliminating contamination is such an important step in the recycling process, most materials recovery facilities (MRFs) have workers on the sorting line who pull out materials that cannot be recycled. Common examples include tangles (plastic bags, Christmas lights, clothes hangers), diapers, sharps

(needles and syringes), motor oil, and electronics. (you would be surprised how many of these they pull out daily!)

e. Recycling goes into Organic?

- i. Contaminated end products - compost and mulch will have plastic, metal and glass mixed in. This is harmful to the environment and unsafe for anyone utilizing the compost and mulch.

f. Recycling goes into Trash?

- i. Lost opportunity to recapture usable materials; leads to increased/continued resource consumption and subsequent impacts (deforestation, air and water pollution, habitat destruction, etc.)
 - 1. Anything placed in the trash can will be added to the landfill. Unlike at the recycling center, trash bin contents are not sorted or separated. If someone puts recycling or hazardous waste in the trash, it is not removed before going to the landfill.
- ii. Landfills reach capacity sooner. Once landfills reach capacity, new landfills are constructed in natural spaces and pose potential threats to human and environmental health.

(I would like to use images of the environmental impacts for Feedback Layers when sorting incorrectly.)

4. Where do these go?

- a. Plastic bags (grocery or dirty take out food bags)
- b. Nonusable Automobile Tires, hazardous
- c. Broken Garden hose, trash
- d. Broken plastic swimming pool (young children) or plastic chair ?? DON'T INCLUDE
- e. Paper Towels soiled with cleaning products, trash

5. Can any of the items on the storyboard get sorted in more than one bin choice offered?

6. Can I have access to the assets used on the infographic charts?

7. Can I use the infographic charts as linked references?

8. Are there any other items that you think are important to include in the storyboard?

9. Should we add another section for "Recycle Right"?

10. Can I link to some of the videos on the City's webpage?