

GLOSSARY

Aluminum-beverage cans

Bauxite-ore mined to produce aluminum products

Bimetal can-a food or beverage can with a steel body and aluminum lid

Broker-an agent or firm that purchases recycled materials and facilitates their processing and transport to an end-user

Compost-a mixture of decaying organic matter used to fertilize soil

Composting-the controlled decomposition of organic waste by naturally occurring bacteria which yields a stable, humus-like, pathogen-free final product and volume reduction of 30 to 75 percent

Computer paper-computer printout, usually 11" x 14" with green or blue bars

Contaminant-any material that ruins the purity of the specific recyclable

Drop-Off Center-any operation which accepts sorted, recyclable materials but does not pay for the materials

End User-a company or organization that incorporates recycled materials into products it uses or manufactures

Environmental Education-is a process that increases awareness, knowledge, and understanding of natural systems--the interdependence of living things, the impact of human activities--and results

in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive action.

Handler/Collector-a company, organization or local government that physically collects and/or recovers materials directly from residential, commercial/institutional or industrial sources

Hauler-a transporter of recycled materials from a collection site to a recycling facility

HDPE (high density polyethylene)-a recyclable plastic, used for items such as milk containers and detergent containers. HDPE plastic is marked with the number 2 inside the recycling symbol and the letters HDPE below the triangle

Igloo-domed container used for storing recyclable materials

Incineration-burning of waste materials at high temperatures

Landfill-land waste disposal site specially engineered to reduce hazards to health and safety

Market-a buyer of materials

Mixed Paper-low quality mix of unsorted paper of various grades that can include plastic windows, crayon drawing, and magazines

Mulch-a protective covering like straw or leaves placed around plants

Municipal Landfill-county land waste disposal site specially engineered to reduce hazards to health and safety

Natural Resources-nutrients and minerals in the soil and deeper layers of the earth's crust; water, wild and domesticated plants and animals, air, and other resources produced by the earth's natural processes

OCC- Old corrugated cardboard- unbleached, unwaxed kraft paper with a ruffled liner

Office blend-high quality paper having a color. Often referred to as colored ledger

Organic-derived from living organisms

PETE, PET (Polyethylene terephthalate)-a recyclable plastic, used to make soda bottles. The plastic marked with the number 2 inside the recycling symbol with the letters PETE or PET below the triangle

Polystyrene-a plastic material made from petroleum and natural gas by-products of the petroleum refining process. Materials made from polystyrene are marked with the number 6 inside the recycling symbol

Processor-a company or firm that prepares recyclable materials to meet the specifications required by end-users

Recycling-involves collecting, processing, marketing, and remanufacturing materials into new products and then purchasing or reusing the new products

Reuse-is finding a new use or purpose for an item that has served its original purpose without being remanufactured for the new purpose

Source Reduction-a reduction in the amount and/or toxicity of waste entering the waste stream: i.e., the creation of waste is avoided

Steel Can-rigid container made exclusively of steel; they are sometimes lined with tin or other material

Tin cans-tin-coated steel containers

Tipping Fees-charges to dump waste at a waste disposal site such as a landfill or incinerator

Vermicomposting-use of worms to help break down organic wastes

Waste Audit-a careful analysis of the type, volume, rates, and sources of waste generated

Waste Reduction- the amount of waste produced is minimized through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting

White ledger (white office paper)-common white office/copier paper and pinfed computer paper

Name _____ Date _____

SIMULATED LANDFILL WORKSHEET

Hypothesis: (which items will decompose?)

Observations (with microscope)
After 10 Days After 20 Days

Objects:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Conclusion:

Follow-up Questions:

- Which items in the shoebox have decomposed the most?

- Are the decomposing items manufactured or natural? Made from renewable or nonrenewable resources?

- Which items show no sign of decomposition? Can you tell why? Can these items be recycled instead of being put into landfills?

- What are the differences between a dump and a landfill? How did your simulated landfill differ from a true sanitary landfill?

- What would you build on your landfill once it is covered? Why wouldn't you want to build a house there?