

Solid Waste Management Presentation Vocabulary

Biodegradable: Material that will decompose or breakdown by a natural process.

Charity: The act of giving to those in need or to an organization that assists those in need.

Cholera: An infectious disease transmitted by contaminated water. It involves severe vomiting, diarrhea, collapse and is often fatal.

Clay: A reddish brown material found in the ground. When hardened it becomes firm and is used for construction products, such as bricks, wall and floor tiles, and landfill bases.

Community Environmental Day: A designated day for residents to deliver unwanted and hazardous items to a drop-off depot or a local park.

Compost: Decayed organic material used to improve soil conditions in gardens.

Conservation: The act of protecting nature – water, plants and wildlife.

Curbside: The side of a road that is nearer to the curb where residents can leave their garbage, recycling and green bins for collection.

Contamination: The act of making something harmful or toxic.

Decompose: To cause something to be slowly destroyed and broken down by a natural process.

Decomposition: The act of decomposing.

Disposal: The act of getting rid of something.

Donation Box / Drop Box: A box in the community set-up by an organization to collect donated clothes and other household goods.

Donation: The act of giving something away without any expectations of money.

Drop-off Depot / Community Recycling Centre / Waste Depot: A centre for the safe disposal of electronic, household hazardous, yard and renovation waste.

Electronic Waste / E-Waste: Unwanted electronic devices like televisions and computers.

Garbage / Waste / Trash / Rubbish / Litter: Something that has no need, no use or no value.

Garbage Collector: A person hired to collect garbage.

Household Hazardous Waste: Items in the house that are hazardous to people, wildlife and the environment; includes household items that are corrosive, flammable, explosive and poisonous.

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Incineration: A waste treatment process that involves the burning of organic substances contained in waste materials.

Inorganic Waste: Waste that cannot easily breakdown by a natural process.

Landfill Site: A site for the disposal of waste materials by burial; it is the oldest form of waste treatment; also known as a dump.

Leachate: Environmentally harmful liquid that forms in a landfill site from the garbage breaking down.

Litter: Things that have been thrown away and are lying on the ground in a public place.

Metal Items: Metal items that are too large and heavy for the garbage bin: includes appliances, barbecues (no propane tanks), bed frames, bicycles, furnaces, hot water heaters....

Methane Gas: A greenhouse gas produced in a landfill site during the decomposition of the garbage.

Midden: A garbage mound consisting of organic waste, like ashes, bones, shells....

Natural Resources: The natural wealth of a country, consisting of land, water, forests, etc.

Non-biodegradable: Material that will not decompose by a natural process.

Organic Waste: Waste that can easily breakdown by a natural process.

Oversize Items: Things that would never fit in the garbage bin; includes box springs, car seats, furniture, lamps, luggage, mattresses, patio furniture, toilets....

Plastic: The first commercial plastic was invented by a Belgian-born chemist Leo Baekeland in 1909. Polymers made from a mixture of phenol and formaldehyde can be moulded into hard shapes when hot.

Recycle: To make something new from something that has been used before.

Reduce: To make less or become smaller.

Repair: The act of restoring or fixing something so it can be still used.

Reuse: The act of using something again.

Soiled: To make unclean. A paper plate with leftover food is soiled.

Styrofoam: A brand of plastic made from foam polystyrene.

Thrift Store: A store selling donated clothes and other household goods to raise funds to assist the community; includes Value Village and Salvation Army Thrift Store.