

Trash Talk!

A semi-annual newsletter of



Fall 2016



What NOT to blue

While about 90% of Tucson residents recycle, not everything put into the blue barrels each week belongs there. Plastic bags, garden hoses, clothes, and yard waste are just a few things that DON'T belong in the blue recycling barrels—and yet they find their way into the bins. These items are “contaminants,” meaning that they can make other recyclables unusable or damage recycling equipment. Together, these contaminants account for 20% of what ends up at our recycling facilities. That means one-fifth of what is in the blue barrels shouldn't be there!



“Stringy” contaminants, like garden hoses and plastic bags, can get wrapped around the spinning equipment at the recycling plant, damaging machines and causing costly and time-consuming shutdowns. In fact, the equipment is shut down three times every day to remove things that should never have been in the barrels. Other contaminants, such as yard waste, can stick to plastic or paper, making it hard for the high-tech sorting equipment to work correctly. Some really yucky stuff, like dirty diapers and food waste, can ruin a whole load of recyclables. Contaminants can also be harmful to the people working with our recyclables. We can do better, and you can help!

First off, make sure you and your family are following these guidelines for blue barrel recycling:

- Make sure that containers are clean, empty, and dry.
- Set out your blue barrel for collection only when it is more than half full to decrease fuel consumption and air pollution. Put the barrel out by 6 a.m. to be sure you don't miss the collection truck.
- Leave labels on containers.
- Caps and lids are OK.
- Lightly rinse food containers.
- All recyclables go loose into the blue barrel—no sorting and no bags!
- Do NOT flatten cans or bottles.
- Cut or flatten cardboard boxes to fit into the barrel. Remove and discard plastic wrapping and liners.
- Shredded paper may be recycled in the blue barrel if it is secured in a clear plastic bag. NOTE: This is the only time that plastic bags can go in the recycling container.

Make sure you're recycling the right items. Check out the chart on this page or head to www.tucsonaz.gov/es/residential-recycling for the list. Together, we can reduce the number of contaminants in our recycling!

Don't forget!

After your recycling has been collected, roll your barrel back away from the curb and up to your house or garage. This keeps our roads and sidewalks clear and gives you easier access to your recycling barrel every day!

Calling all artists

Each year, we invite students in fourth through eighth grades to compete in our Recycling Poster Contest. Students are asked to create original artwork that encourages and celebrates recycling. The winning posters are turned into extra-large banners that go onto the sides of Tucson's collection trucks. The 2017 contest will begin in January. Watch for more information or visit www.tucsonaz.gov/esd.



Gregory School 8th grader Sophie was the lucky winner of the 2016 Recycling Poster Contest.

Do More Blue [EVERYDAY]

Discover all you can Blue at tucsonaz.gov/esd

<p>1. PLASTIC (PETE) BOTTLES</p>	<p>2. PLASTIC CONTAINERS</p>	<p>3. PLASTIC (HDPE) BOTTLES AND JUGS</p>
<p>4. CORRUGATED CARDBOARD</p>	<p>7. PAPERBOARD</p>	<p>9. MAGAZINES AND CATALOGS</p>
<p>5. BROWN PAPER BAGS</p>	<p>8. MOLDED FIBERBOARD</p>	<p>10. NOTEBOOKS AND PHONEBOOKS</p>
<p>6. NEWSPAPERS</p>	<p>12. ALUMINUM CANS</p>	<p>14. RIGID PLASTICS</p>
<p>11. GLASS FOOD AND BEVERAGE BOTTLES AND JARS</p>	<p>13. STEEL / TIN CANS</p>	<p>16. PRINTING AND WRITING PAPER</p>
	<p>15. MILK CARTONS AND DRINK BOXES</p>	<p>17. MAIL AND COPY PAPER</p>
		<p>18. BROCHURES AND OTHER PAPER</p>

AND PLEASE, NO PLASTIC BAGS, BUBBLE WRAP OR STYROFOAM!

CITY OF TUCSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
WWW.TUCSONAZ.GOV/ESD

Fraction Action

Caden and his family decided to start composting in their backyard. They got a bin and added these materials: leaves, grass clippings, and fruit and vegetable scraps.

Facts:

1. By weight, leaves were $\frac{1}{3}$ of the material in the bin.
2. Leftover fruit and vegetables made up $\frac{1}{5}$ of the material.
3. The rest of the material was grass clippings.
4. All of the materials together weighed 30 pounds.

How many pounds of leaves were in the compost bin?

How many pounds of fruit and vegetable scraps were in the bin?

How many pounds of grass clippings were in the bin?

Scrambled Science

Unscramble the words below, and then use one to fill each blank.

trinunets
edepcomoss
olis

csarps
ormws
wtsea

1. Throwing food in the trash can create _____ that stays in a landfill for a long time.
2. Food _____ can be collected and turned into compost.
3. In compost, material _____, or breaks down into smaller particles.
4. _____ and other types of decomposers that live in the compost bin help break down food scraps and yard waste.
5. Compost can be added to garden _____ to add _____ that help plants grow.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Using the clues below, figure out which European country has the highest composting rate. In this country, 32% of garbage is composted, including leaves, grass clippings, yard trimmings, and food scraps. When you find the country, color it in on the map.

1. I am north of Italy but south of the North Sea.
2. I do not touch any large bodies of water.
3. Germany and I are neighbors.
4. I touch eight other countries.

Answer: 

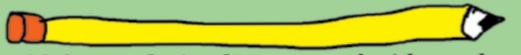


COUNTING THE VOTES

Mrs. Lopez's class is made up of 25 students. The class decided to vote on some resolutions to help them reduce waste. Mrs. Lopez said that over 50% of the class would need to agree on the resolution in order for it to pass. Calculate the percentage for each vote based on how many students voted for the resolution. Then say whether or not the resolution passed. The first one is filled in for you.

Resolution	"Yes" Votes	Percentage	Did It Pass?
Host a neighborhood recycling day every month	13	52%	Yes
Buy reusable water bottles for everyone in class	5		
Have an arts and crafts day using recycled materials	23		
Take a trip to the local recycling plant	15		
Decorate a paper recycling bin for the classroom	24		
Create a waste-free lunch contest for the school	9		
Pick a waste-free lunch day for the class	17		

Bonus: If one less student had voted for the neighborhood recycling day, what would the percentage have been?

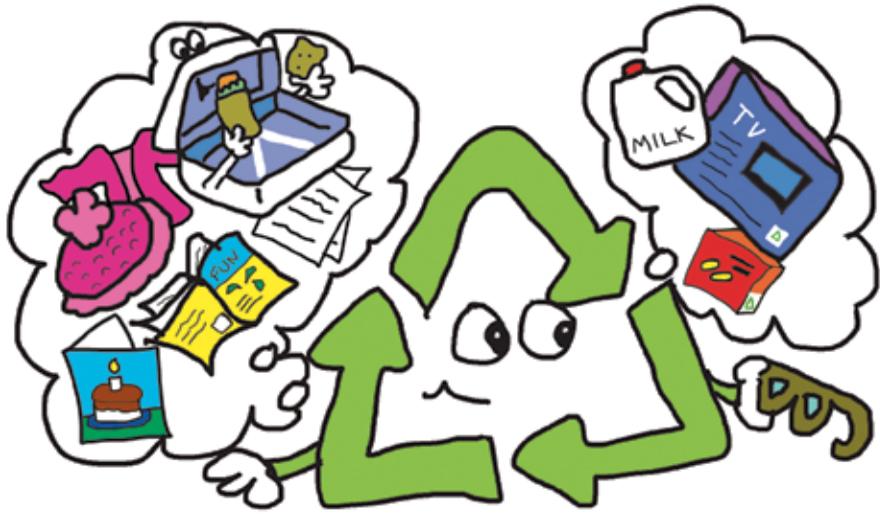
 _____
 _____
 Would the resolution have passed with one less "yes" vote? _____

BEGINNINGS & ENDINGS

Add a prefix or suffix to each word and then put the word into the correct sentence below. (Hint: Change the 'y' at the end of a word to an 'i' before adding a suffix.)

- _____ cycle
 compost _____
 rich _____
 _____ water
 _____ duces
 healthy _____

1. In November, we celebrate how much we _____ as a country.
2. Aubree decided to mix compost into her family's garden to make the soil _____ for the plants.
3. Putting fruit scraps in a compost bin _____ food waste.
4. Microorganisms in compost help make the soil _____ in nutrients.
5. By _____, Sean's family threw away less food waste and reused more materials.
6. If you _____ your compost pile, it won't get enough air.



America needs YOU!

To show that you are serious about making recycling even stronger in our community and in the United States, you can take the recycling pledge! All you have to do is promise to begin recycling or to become an even better recycler! Visit www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org to pledge. This fun site is also filled with many ideas for how to celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15, 2016.

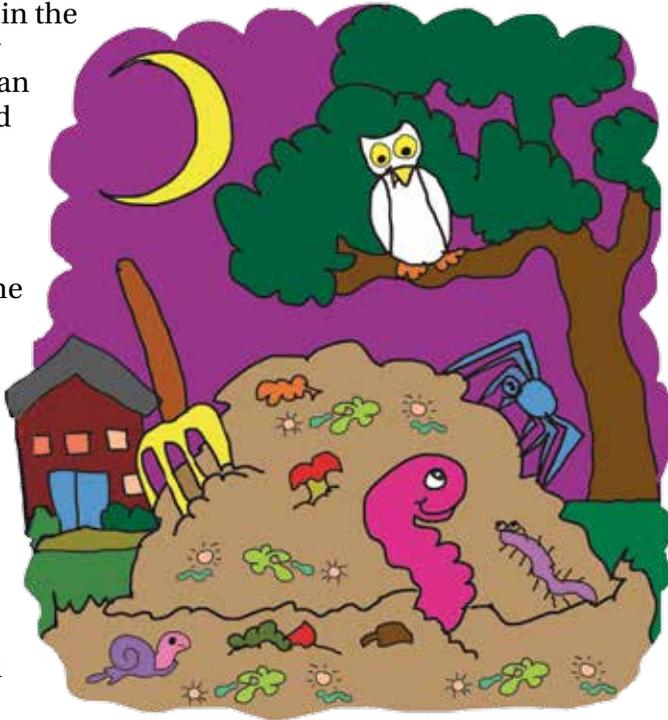
Know Where to Throw

Does your family have things to recycle that don't go into the blue barrel? Maybe it is old electronics, papers that need to be shredded, or clothing. Check out our Know Where to Throw event on Saturday, October 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Your family will be able to drop off computers and other electronic waste, private papers that need to be shredded before being recycled, and clothes, sheets, and towels for reuse and recycling. Plus, we'll have fun activities and an information station to show what items do – and don't – go into the blue barrels. This event will be held at the Armory Park and Senior Center, 222 South 5th Avenue in Tucson.

Small but mighty

They were tiny, tiny creatures. They were smaller than the smallest child who lived in the big house. They were smaller than the redbirds and the goldfinches who darted among the bird feeders hanging from the backyard trees. But on this evening, they were arguing loudly.

Luna, the wise, old owl, gazed down at the compost heap with her saucer eyes and scolded, "You



creepy-crawling critters down there have awakened me earlier than usual. Don't you have work to do?"

Earthworm was the first to reply, "Yes, we do, and some of us get in the way of those who are trying to work!"

This started the argument all over again. Snail couldn't hold back, "Nooooow, hooooold on there, buuuuuddy, I'm geeeeeeting tiiiiired of your aaaaattitude!"

Spider called all of them clumsy, legless, and boring. This prompted Centipede to crawl into the argument for the first time, bragging about having 92 more legs than Spider.

"STOP! Whooooo do yooooou all think yooooou are?" Luna hooted down from her branch, surprising them into silence. "Don't you know that you are all very important to the compost pile? Because of all of you, green and brown waste is broken down into rich fertilizer for our Earth. Because of you and your friends, less waste is sent to landfills, which protects our Earth's air and water."

The sun settled down for the night, and Luna soared off to hunt. All of the tiny creatures were back to working better than ever, now that they knew how important they were to our Earth.

You can learn to make compost at www.TucsonOrganicGardeners.org (look for "Home Composting in the Desert – Putting Life Back Into the Earth"). If your family wants to buy locally made compost for your garden, you can purchase it at San Xavier Co-op Farm, 8100 Oidak Wog, Tucson.

Talking trash in Tucson

Do you have questions about reducing, reusing, and recycling? "Too Good to Throw Away" (grades 3-5) looks at what happens to trash and shows why it is important to practice the Three Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle). Tucson Environmental Services provides classroom presentations on this and other programs through the Environmental Education Exchange. Your teacher can visit www.tucsonaz.gov/es/school-outreach to see the list of available lessons and to schedule presentations.



Overgrown bushes? Old sofa?

If your family has some oversized trash, such as branches and brush or old furniture and appliances, the City of Tucson offers FREE brush and bulky item collections twice a year for all residential customers. The schedule can be found at www.tucsonaz.gov/es/brush-and-bulky. Your family can request a special brush/bulky collection any time of year for a fee.



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