



Zero Waste Vocabulary List



Zero waste – the philosophy of 10 % or less of everything we use ending up in the landfill.

Solid Waste –garbage.

Landfill - an area of land designed to handle the disposal of solid waste. The garbage is usually spread out, compacted, and covered with dirt or other material in order to protect the environment in and around the landfill. The landfill is the final destination and the permanent home for anything we put in the garbage bin.

Plastic - an artificial substance made from oil and chemicals that can be easily shaped when soft. Plastic is formed into many materials and products.

Oil - a substance occurring deep in the Earth that is formed from the decomposition of prehistoric organisms and is used to make gasoline, plastic, and other products.

Great Pacific Garbage Patch – a huge area of marine debris between Hawaii and California. It formed because the ocean currents move in a circular motion, which accumulates in the center of the gyre.

Aluminum - a type of metal, used to make soda cans and foil, which is extracted from a mineral ore known as bauxite

Bauxite - Bauxite: the mineral that is mined and used to produce aluminum, primarily found in Australia

Food Waste - bits of leftover food that can be turned into compost instead of being thrown away and sent to the landfill. Fruits and vegetable scraps, eggshells, and coffee grounds can be put in a compost bin or worm bin, and any type of food can be placed in the green bin for curbside composting.

Recycle - to make new products from used materials

Compost - mix vegetable and other organic waste together to help them decompose into soil.

Natural Resources - materials that are found in nature and that can be used by people in many ways. Fresh water, soil, sand, oil, and trees are all examples of natural resources.

Redesign – to carefully create something while thinking about the product’s impact on our environment. Items carefully redesigned would be able to be reused, repaired, recycled, or composted as to create no waste.

Rethink – to think about again, reconsider

Reduce - to make less waste by using less stuff

Reuse – to extend the life of an item by using it over again as it is or thinking of a new way to use it

Repair - to fix something to extend its useful life