

Too Good to Throw Away!

Vocabulary

Blue Barrel: The plastic container used for curbside recycling in the *Do More Blue* program.

Compost: Recycling food scraps and yard waste to create new soil through decomposition.

Do More Blue: Part of City of Tucson Environmental Services' waste management program focusing on recycling. The *Do More Blue* program provides Blue Barrels for co-mingled, curbside recycling in the City of Tucson; in addition, large blue containers are available for recycling at businesses and Neighborhood Recycling Centers. For more information go to tucsonaz.gov/DoMoreBlue or call (520) 791-5000.

Downcycle: To convert waste materials into new materials or products of lesser quality. For example, white notebook paper is often downcycled into cardboard.

Landfill: A large pit lined with plastic where trash is taken and covered with soil.

Los Reales Landfill: The landfill for the residents and businesses of Tucson and Pima County. Each day approximately 1,500 tons of solid waste is brought to the 350-acre landfill, located at 5300 E. Los Reales Road (between Swan and Craycroft Roads). For more information go to tucsonaz.gov/es/los-reales-landfill.

Materials Recovery Facility: A Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), pronounced "murf," is the facility where recyclable materials are taken to be separated and prepared to be made into new products.

Natural Resources: Raw materials and energy from nature: land, water, sunshine, and minerals. Everything comes from natural resources.

Neighborhood Recycling Center: Even if you don't have a Blue Barrel, you can recycle at one of many Neighborhood Recycling Centers located throughout Tucson. Locations can be found at tucsonaz.gov/es/neighborhood-recycling-centers.

Non-renewable natural resources: Materials that are considered finite in amount (e.g., petroleum, coal, copper), or exhaustible because of their scarcity, the great length of time required for their formation, or their rapid depletion.

ReCommunity-Tucson: The new MRF for the City of Tucson (opened July 2012), located at 3780 E. Ajo Way (near the intersection with Alvernon Way). For more information go to recommunity.com.

Recycle: To make something used into something new.

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(continued)

Reduce: To buy or use fewer items or to throw away less trash.

Renewable natural resources: Materials that can be renewed, restored, or regenerated by natural ecological cycles or sound management practices. Examples include plants, animals and sunlight.

Reuse: To save something and use it over again for the same purpose or another purpose.

Single Stream Recycling: Recyclables that are collected mixed together, rather than separate from one another. In Tucson, all recyclable materials are placed together in the Blue Barrel, then sorted at the MRF.

Solid waste: More commonly known as trash or garbage; consists of everyday items we use and then throw away, such as product packaging, grass clippings, furniture, clothing, bottles, food scraps, newspapers, appliances, paint, and batteries.

Three Rs (3Rs): Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Upcycle: To convert waste materials into new materials or products of better quality. For example, foil juice pouches can be upcycled to make handbags and backpacks.

Waste Stream: The total amount of waste that is thrown away.

***NOTE:** Although some of the included vocabulary words and concepts may be advanced for Grades 1-2, they have been included for the teacher's background knowledge.*