

# Talking Trash in Tucson Vocabulary Words

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

**Closing the Loop:** To create a continuous cycle for a product from production, to purchasing, to consumption, to recycling, to ultimately returning to production.

**Compost:** The process of collecting organic waste, such as food scraps and yard trimmings, and storing it under conditions designed to help it decompose naturally. This resulting compost can then be used as a natural fertilizer.

**Decomposition:** Process by which a substance is broken down into component parts or basic elements under the proper conditions of light, air, and moisture.

**Do More Blue:** Part of City of Tucson Environmental Services' solid 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](http://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 carefully designed structure built into the ground in which trash is isolated from the environment; a plastic liner is used to prevent groundwater pollution, and the trash is periodically covered with sand or similar material and compacted.

**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 <http://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, bundled, prepared and transported away to be made into new products.

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

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

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

**ReCommunity–Tucson:** The name of 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](http://recommunity.com).

**Recycle:** The process of collecting, sorting, processing, and using already manufactured materials (such as paper, glass, plastic and metals) for remanufacturing of new products thus reducing the amount of new raw materials needed.

**Recycled material:** Material that has already been recycled and remanufactured into new products.

**Recyclable material:** Material that can be recycled and remanufactured into new products.

**Reduce:** The process of decreasing the amount of waste generated.

**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:** The process of using an object more than once in its same form for the same purpose or for different purposes to extend the life of the object.

**Single Stream Recycling:** Recyclables that are collected mixed together, rather than separate from one another. In Tucson, recyclables 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.

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**Solid waste management:** The collection, transport, processing or disposal, managing and monitoring of waste materials.

**Source or waste reduction:** The design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials to reduce the amount or toxicity of materials before they enter the waste stream. Source reduction includes redesigning products or packaging, reusing products and packaging already manufactured, and lengthening the life of products to postpone disposal.

**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 flow of solid waste from homes, businesses, institutions, and manufacturing plants to final disposal.