Litter Activity Booklet

EMA environmental management authority

Environmental Management Authority's
Primary Schools' Programme









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Foreword

This activity booklet for primary school students focuses on an aspect of Trinidad and Tobago's environment and allows students to learn about environmental linkages.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in many exciting hands-on activities which make learning fun. As students progress through the booklet, they will acquire a greater understanding of the environment. They will also learn about the impacts that environmental mismanagement may have on human health, the social environment and particularly their respective communities.

This booklet is a comprehensive teaching tool which will be of benefit to both teachers and students. We hope you enjoy using it.

What do you know about waste?

1. What is garbage or rubbish?

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2. What is litter?

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3. What are the major methods of waste disposal?



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4. Give three (3) reasons why people litter?

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5. Name the 4Rs?

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6. What are the harmful effects of litter on humans and the environment?

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5. How can littering be prevented?

Where does it go?

In Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom, garbage is also called rubbish.

Let's begin with some definitions!

Garbage - Useless or unwanted materials.

Litter - Waste materials carelessly dropped, especially in public places.

Landfill - A well designed area of land in which garbage is buried.

Recycling - Collecting, separating, and processing items that would have been thrown away(waste) and making them into new items.

Composting - Nature's way of recycling organic matter such as leaves, yard waste, and food scraps back into the soil to help living plants grow.

Waste Management means the way we get rid of our garbage or litter.

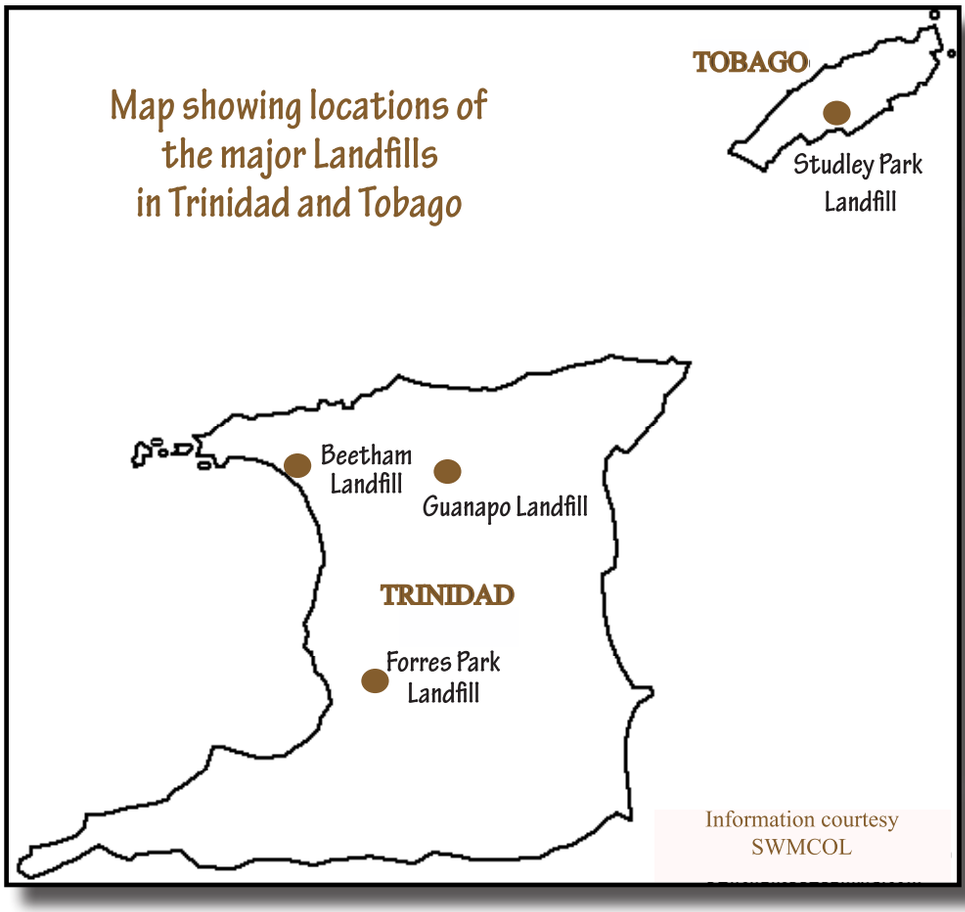
There are a variety of ways to handle the garbage we produce.
Some of these include landfilling, 4 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repair) and composting.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the **Regional Corporations** are responsible for removing household garbage.

After the garbage is collected, it is carefully transported to a Landfill which is managed by the **Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL).**



See the map on the right to find the Landfill that is closest to you.



Separate the Garbage

Wow!

Do you see how we are running out of space within our Landfills?

Carefully examine the Landfill below and separate the garbage into what can be recycled, reused, composted or what would remain within the Landfill.

Place your answers in the table before the space in our Landfill runs out.

Landfill	Recycle	Reuse	Compost
e.g. Old football	e.g. Glass	e.g. Chair	e.g. Banana

If there is a fire in a landfill, this could result in air pollution to nearby homes and communities, affecting both humans and animals.



Answers include but are not limited to the following:
Landfill- lightbulb, kite, teddybear, yo-yo, pants, ball, stove
Reuse- guitar, iron, rake, skateboard, lamp, spade
Recycle- plastic bottle, scrap paper, plastic cup, cardboard box, milk container, tyres, can
Compost- apple, pie

Littering Checklist



No Excuses

Have you littered and thought you had a good reason for doing it?

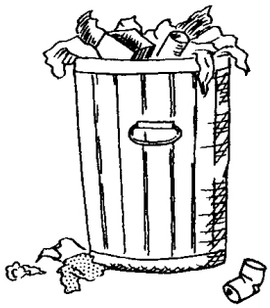
When people litter, they sometimes think that they have a good reason for doing it. But there is NEVER a good excuse for littering. Take a look at the list of reasons people use for littering.

Put a tick next to the excuses you have heard people use when they litter.

Also, if your friends or family use these excuses, remind them that there are no good excuses for littering and ask them to throw their garbage away in a bin.

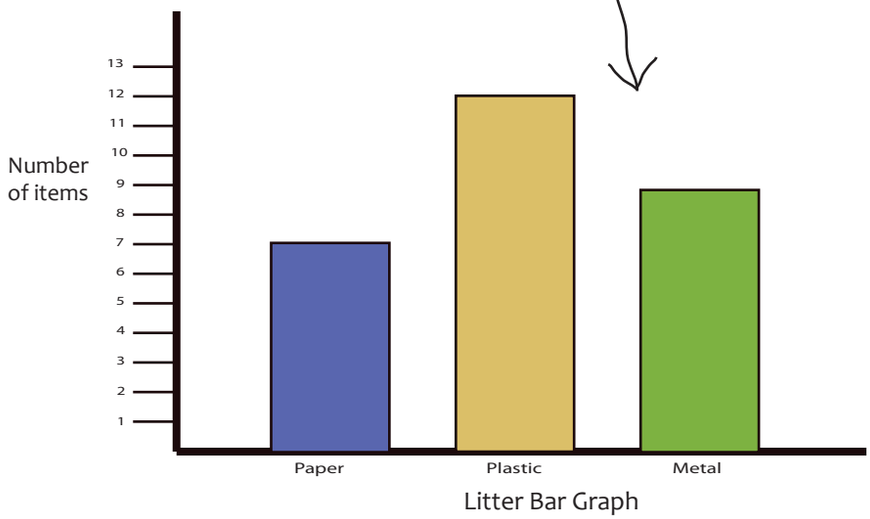
- ☐ Garbage is already thrown there
- ☐ Why should I care?
- ☐ I don't want to mess up my backpack
- ☐ It's too hard to find a garbage bin
- ☐ Everyone else does it
- ☐ Someone else will pick it up for me
- ☐ It's just a wrapper
- ☐ It's too heavy to carry
- ☐ Nobody told me not to
- ☐ The garbage bin was too yucky to touch
- ☐ Animals will eat it anyway
- ☐ It's so tiny, it won't matter
- ☐ I saw an adult do it
- ☐ I don't care about my surroundings
- ☐ There wasn't a sign telling me not to litter
- ☐ It fell out of my pocket

Create a Litter Graph



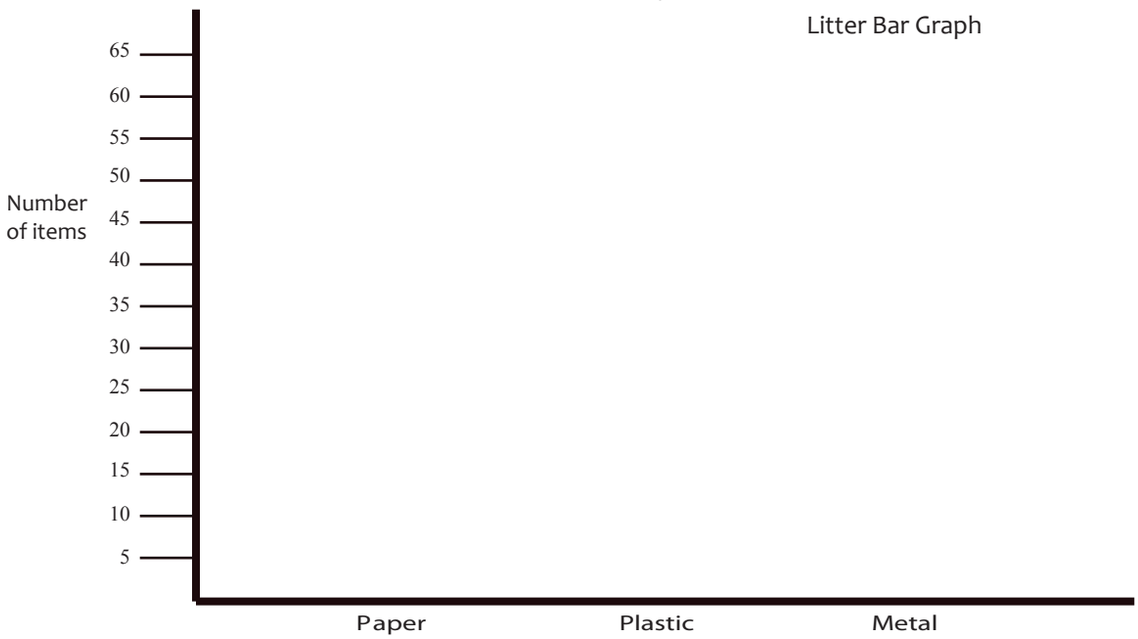
- Choose an area to focus on (e.g. park, school yard)
- Collect litter that you think can be recycled from that area (wear gloves)
- Bring the litter back to your group
- As a group, separate the types of litter you have collected into the following categories:
    - o Paper
    - o Plastic
    - o Metal
- Make a graph to record your findings, and discover what makes the MOST litter in your area

see example below



Litter Bar Graph

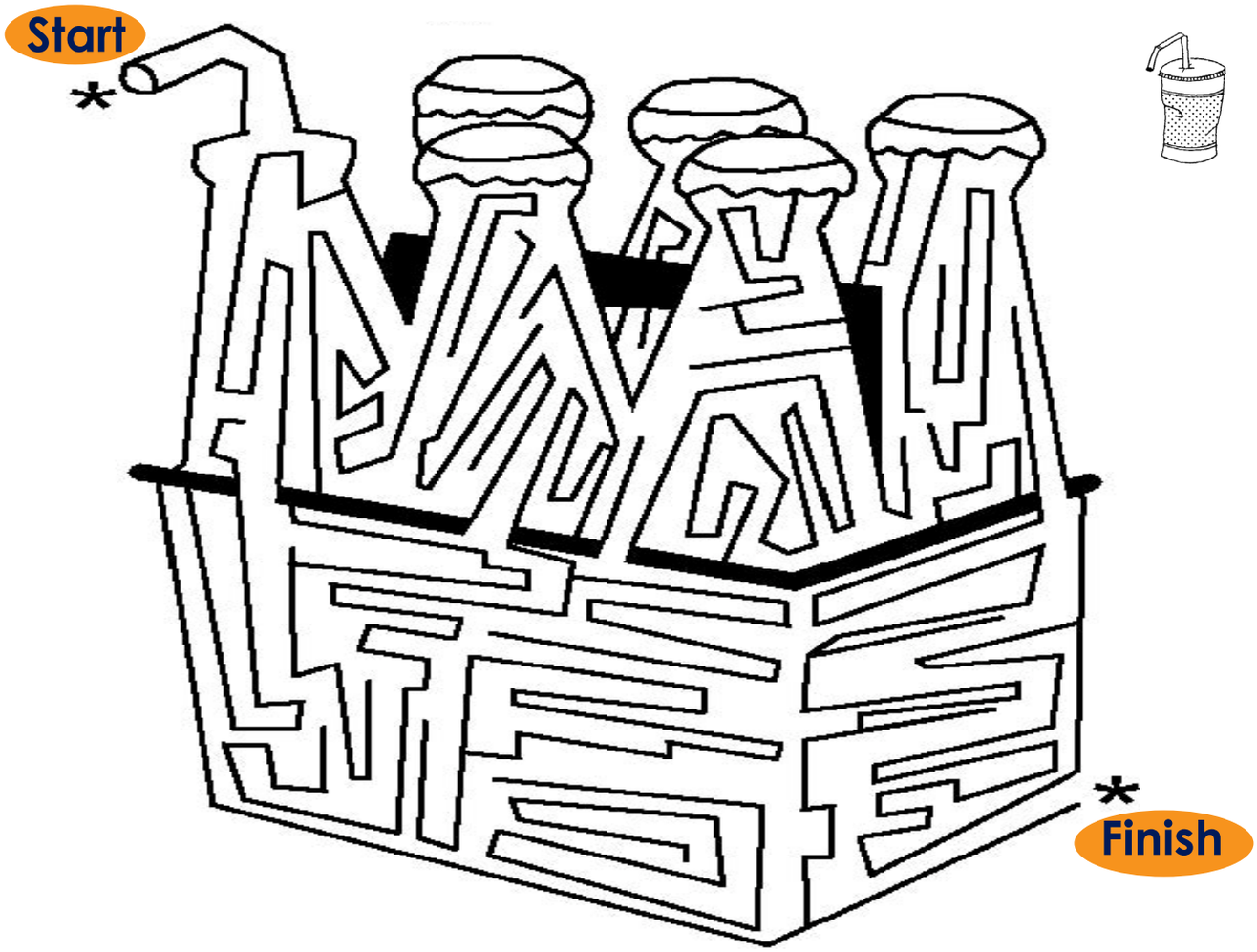
Your graph



LITTER BAR GRAPH

A-maze-ing-bottles

Can you make it through this maze of bottles? Start at the straw and find your way to the bottom of the box.







Oh no!
Someone has mixed up these words! Can you help unscramble them?

GEAARBG IBN _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

CERCYLE _ _ _ _ _ _ _

TILRET _ _ _ _ _ _

TRTELI UBG _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

REAPP _ _ _ _ _

TTOLBE _ _ _ _ _ _

NACS _ _ _ _

SCITPLA _ _ _ _ _ _ _



Answers: garbage bin, recycle, litter, litter bug, paper, bottle, cans, plastic

Word Search

F	L	O	B	P	W	P	T
R	A	B	I	E	F	I	S
P	E	P	O	Q	L	S	P
L	A	N	D	F	I	L	L
H	B	F	E	L	T	C	P
P	S	U	G	O	T	J	N
A	M	Z	R	O	E	C	E
P	S	P	A	D	R	I	S
E	R	S	D	M	B	T	A
R	E	M	A	I	U	S	E
P	U	X	B	L	G	A	S
U	S	E	L	Y	G	L	I
B	E	P	E	N	R	P	D
O	E	L	C	Y	C	E	R



Look for these words about litter. You will find them hidden up, down, forward, backward, across and diagonally.

Reuse
Plastic
Litterbug
Glass
Flood
Landfill
Biodegradable
Recycle
Paper
Disease

Impacts of litter



WETLAND



RIVER



TURTLE



DAMAGED CAR



SEAGULL



BACKYARD

Based on the clues from the images above, see if you can unscramble the words to figure out the impacts of litter in the following sentences.

1. Waterways can become _____ from litter. lopuletd
2. Littered plastics can ____ birds and other animals causing injury. rtpa
3. Many animals mistake litter for food and _____ while feeding. kcohe
4. Animals that rely on clean water to drink can become ____ from pollution. skic
5. A cigarette butt thrown out the car window can cause _____. sreif
6. Humans should not ____ in polluted waters. siwm
7. Items falling from the back of vehicles can cause traffic _____. acicdntes
8. Litter can block the drains and cause _____. lfoods
9. Litter are sources of germs for _____ - carrying insects. seaside

Answers: 1-polluted, 2-trap, 3-choke, 4-sick, 5-fires, 6-swim, 7-accidents, 8-floods, 9-disease

Myths and Facts about litter

MYTH: There is no fine for littering.
FACT: You can be charged up to $4,000 for littering.

MYTH: No one notices litter.
FACT: Litter destroys the beauty of a community.

MYTH: Litter control is not important.
FACT: Litter affects everyone.

MYTH: Only "certain types" of people litter.
FACT: Litterbugs are everywhere!

MYTH: Littering only occurs when there is no garbage bin.
FACT: Littering can occur within a few feet from a garbage bin.

MYTH: Litter doesn't hurt anyone.

FACT: Ingesting litter causes injury or death to thousands of pets as well as wildlife.

FACT: Litter creates a breeding ground for rats and other vectors that carry diseases.

FACT: Littering is a MAJOR cause of FLOODING in Trinidad and Tobago.

FACT: Litter and other types of waste are partially responsible for polluting water courses.

FACT: Litter can pose a threat to our health and safety.

JUST REMEMBER, LITTERING IS AGAINST THE LAW

Do you know?

The questions below will help you realise just how much material we are throwing away. See how much you know about our "throw-away-society".

1. How much garbage does each person throw away per day?
   a. 1 pound b. 3-4 pounds
   c. over 10 pounds d. 22 pounds

2. What percentage of our garbage going into our landfills is paper?
   a. 10% b. 20%
   c. 50% d. 75%

3. How many pounds of glass do you think you use in one year?
   a. 50 pounds b. 50 pounds
   c. 500 pounds d. 1000 pounds



4. What does "RECYCLE" mean?
   a. to burn b. to make into a new product
   c. to break down d. to throw away new product

5. How much paper does a family of four throw away in a week?
   a. 20 pounds b. 6 pounds
   c. 10 pounds d. 60 pounds

6. How much food (scraps) does a family of four throw away in a week?
   a. 50-60 pounds b. 5-10 pounds
   c. 10-15 pounds d. 25-30 pounds

7. Which of the following materials, found in your garbage, can be composted?
   a. glass b. food
   c. metal d. all of these

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B, 5-C, 6-C, 7-C

How long does it stick around?

It takes just a moment for an item to be carelessly thrown away or blown by wind, but it can take many, many years for that item to completely decompose. Test your knowledge about decomposition.Choose the right answer among the options.

SHOE



a. 10 years
b. 40 - 50 years
c. 100 years

NOTEBOOK



a. 2-5 months
b. 1 year
c. 5 years

PLASTIC BOTTLES



a. 10 years
b. 100 years
c. 1 million years

PLASTIC BAG



a. 20 years
b. 100 years
c. 500 years

GLASS



a. 50 years
b. 100 - 250 years
c. Unknown? Forever?

STYROFOAM CUPS



a. 10 years
b. 500 - 750 years
c. Unknown? Forever?

BANANA PEEL



a. 1-2 weeks
b. 3-5 weeks
c. 2 months

ALUMINUM CANS



a. 100 years
b. 200- 500 years
c. Unknown? Forever?

Shoe:B, Notebook:A, Plastic Bottles:C, Plastic Bag:C, Glass:C, Styrofoam:C, Banana:B, Aluminum Cans:B

How can you help?

Here are some ways you can reduce litter in your school, home and community.

(Use the symbol code below to show the hidden words)

1. Don't even _____ about littering.

2. _____ _____ at least one piece of litter everyday.

3. Take a walk around the school to see if there are enough _____. If not, suggest to the Principal that more are needed.

4. Organise a _____ of your school grounds.

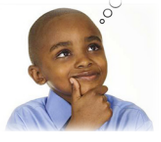
5. _____ _____ of garbage properly.

6. _____ extra packaging when you shop. This will decrease litter from the start.

7. When you visit a park or beach remember to _____ what you took in if there are no bins.

8. _____ _____ _____ by not littering.

What are some other ways you can think of?



CODE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
																											

Answers: 1. think, 2. Pick up, 3. bins, 4. cleanup, 5. Dispose, 6. Avoid, 7. take out, 8. Set an example

Stop the Littering



Draw your own poster in the space provided below to show what you have learnt about littering.

Litter Pledge

I .....promise to do
my part to make and keep my Country litter free.

I promise to keep my house, my yard and my community clean and free of garbage. I will throw my garbage away in a responsible manner and pick up garbage when I see it. I will tell my friends NOT TO LITTER!



KEEP TnT CLEAN & GREEN

CROSS CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

Art

Draw your own poster_
See page 13 (Stop the littering)

Litter Art Contest: Simply create art out of pieces of litter.

Mural painting/drawing:
Half of the class will draw or paint a landscape mural that is litter-free. The other half of the class will draw or paint a landscape mural that is full of litter. Display murals in your school so other students will notice how beautiful a landscape is when it's litter-free.

Science

Plant trees and flowers around school grounds:
Students: Wear clothes that can get dirty and be ready to work in the mud. Clean up an area on your school grounds and then beautify it by planting trees or flowers.

Discussing litter:
See page 2 (Where does it go?)

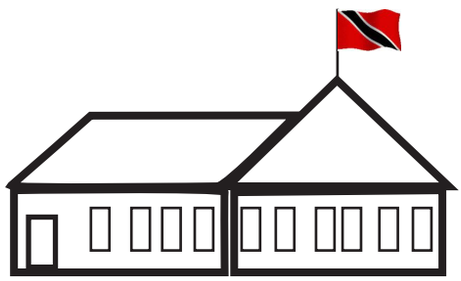
Research project:
See page 7 (Research how litter affects the environment.)

Language Arts / English

Poetry contest:
Write a poem of any kind that relates to litter. Enter your poem in the classroom poetry contest your teacher has set up for you.

Math

Litter Graph:
See page 4 (Create a Litter graph)



GLOSSARY

1. **Biodegradable** - Anything that's capable of being broken down by living organisms.

2. **Community** - The region in which people, plants and animals live and interact under similar environmental conditions.

3. **Composting** - Nature's way of recycling organic matter such as leaves, yard waste, and food scraps back into the soil to help living plants grow.

4. **Decompose** - To break down or rot.

5. **Disease** - An illness that affects a person, animal, or plant.

6. **Environment** - The total of all the surrounding natural conditions that affect the existence of living organisms on earth, including air, water, soil, minerals, climate and the organisms themselves.

7. **Fine** - A sum of money an individual or group has to pay as punishment for breaking the law.

8. **Flood** - A large flow or overflowing of water, especially over land that is usually dry.

9. **Garbage** - Useless or unwanted material.

10. **Landfill** - A well designed area of land in which garbage is buried.

11. **Litter** - Waste materials carelessly dropped, especially in public places.

12. **Pollution** - The contamination of air, water or soil by substances that are harmful to living organisms.

13. **Recycling** - Collecting, separating, and processing items that would have been thrown away(waste) and making them into new items.

14. **Reduce** - To buy less and to throw away less garbage.

15. **Repair** - To put back in good condition after damage, decay, etc.; mend; fix.

16. **Reuse** - To find a new use for something instead of throwing it away.

17. **Vector** - An organism, such as a mosquito or tick, that carries disease-causing microorganisms from one host to another.

18. **Wetland** - Wetlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of the soil and the types of plants and animals that live there. Some examples of natural wetlands include swamps, coral reefs and marshes while man-made examples include reservoirs and dams.



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A Publication of the
Environmental Management Authority

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printed on recycled paper