

A big clean-up

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Pre-reading | Key Verbs

Fill the gaps using these key words:

**waste rotten bin bury
incineration pollution recycling leak**

- 1• Burning waste at very high temperatures is called _____ .
- 2• _____ is another word for rubbish.
- 3• _____ means using waste materials again.
- 4• If you put something in a hole in the ground and cover it with earth, you _____ it.
- 5• People usually put rubbish in a rubbish _____ .
- 6• When fruit becomes very old, it goes bad and becomes _____ .
- 7• Water and other liquids can _____ through holes.
- 8• The process of damaging the air, water or land with chemicals is called _____ .

2 Find the Info

Find the information in the text as quickly as possible.

- 1• What are the 3 usual ways of dealing with waste?
- 2• How much waste does the UK produce each year?
- 3• How much waste will the UK produce by the year 2020?
- 4• Why do European Union countries have to reduce landfilling?
- 5• What percentage of towns and cities in New Zealand have introduced zero waste?
- 6• How much household waste does Britain recycle?
- 7• What are dry recyclables?
- 8• What percentage of waste is difficult or expensive to recycle?

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Joanna Collins

Waste is a big problem for many towns and cities. Usually, there are 3 ways of treating waste.

One way is to burn it. This is called incineration. The waste is burned at very high temperatures. The second way is to put it in large holes in the ground and cover it with earth. This is called landfilling. The third way is to use waste products again. For example, it is possible to re-use glass bottles, paper and some kinds of plastic. This is called recycling.

The UK produces more than 20m tonnes of waste each year and by the year 2020 it will produce more than 40m tonnes. What will towns and cities do with so much rubbish? A new law from the European Union means that all

European Union countries have to reduce landfilling because it is very bad for people's health and for the environment. Incineration is a possibility but there are problems with this. It is an expensive way of treating waste and it also produces pollution which is bad for health and the environment.

Now there is a new idea. It is called zero waste. With this method everything we buy will be made from materials that we can repair, re-use or recycle. Governments and industry must work together to introduce zero waste programmes.

In New Zealand 45% of all towns and cities have introduced zero waste policies. In Canberra, Toronto and California they believe that zero waste is a target that they can reach by the year 2015 at the latest

At the moment Britain recycles 11% of household waste, burns 8% and buries the rest in landfills. Canberra is already recycling 59% of its waste and Edmonton, Canada, recycles 70%. Most

waste in our rubbish bins is organic waste and this can be very dangerous to our health because it becomes rotten and can then leak into the water system. Many towns and cities now separate organic waste, dry recyclables such as bottles and plastics, and dangerous materials such as batteries. Supporters of zero waste also say it can make money. Small businesses that recycle waste can create jobs in places where there is high unemployment.

"This is a quiet revolution," says Warren Snow, of the New Zealand Zero Waste Trust. "Local people are turning waste into jobs".

15%-20% of waste is difficult or expensive to recycle. In the zero waste system, industries will not use these materials any more. Perhaps in twenty or thirty years time, we will all have zero waste and the world will be cleaner and healthier.

The Guardian Weekly 3-10-2002, page 25

3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer:

- 1• What is landfilling?
 - a• Burning waste at very high temperatures
 - b• Treating waste materials so that they can be used again.
 - c• Burying waste in the ground.
- 2• Why is incineration a problem?
 - a• Because it produces dangerous smoke.
 - b• Because the European countries have to reduce incineration.
 - c• Because it is difficult to use.

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- 3• What is zero waste?
 - a• It is the same as incineration.
 - b• Recycling everything.
 - c• Repairing, re-using or recycling everything.
- 4• When do the authorities in Canberra, Toronto and California believe they can reach the target of zero waste?
 - a• Probably before 2015
 - b• After 2015
 - c• Many years before 2015
- 5• What happens to most household waste in Britain?
 - a• It is burned
 - b• It is buried
 - c• It is recycled
- 6• Why is organic waste dangerous?
 - a• Because it smells bad.
 - b• Because it rots and can leak into the water system
 - c• Because it cannot be recycled.

4 Vocabulary: Find the Word

Find:

- 1• A verb which means the opposite of 'increase'.
- 2• A noun which mean the air, water, land, animals and plants around us.
- 3• A verb which means 'to use again'.
- 4• A verb which means 'to divide people or things'.
- 5• An adjective which means the opposite of 'safe'.
- 6• A noun which means that there are not enough jobs for people who want to work.

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5 Vocabulary: Word Building

Complete the table

VERB	NOUN
1• treat	_____
2• produce	_____
3• reduce	_____
4• introduce	_____
5• employ	_____
6• support	_____ (person)

6 Vocabulary: Puzzle

Rearrange the letters to make key words from the text:

- 1• EZRO STEWA
- 2• CLERICYNG
- 3• CIGARNO
- 4• VEINNORMENT
- 5• NORATEINCINI
- 6• BIBRUSH

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Key

1 Key Verbs

- 1 incineration
- 2 waste
- 3 recycling
- 4 bury
- 5 bin
- 6 rotten
- 7 leak
- 8 pollution

2 Find the Info

- 1 Incineration, landfilling and recycling
- 2 More than 20m tonnes.
- 3 More than 40m tonnes.
- 4 Because of a new law from the European Union.
- 5 45%.
- 6 11%.
- 7 Bottles and plastics.
- 8 15 – 20%.

3 Comprehension Check

- 1 c; 2 a; 3 c; 4 a; 5 b; 6 b

4 Find the Word

- 1 reduce
- 2 environment
- 3 re-use
- 4 separate
- 5 dangerous
- 6 unemployment

5 Word Building

- 1 treatment
- 2 production
- 3 reduction
- 4 introduction
- 5 employment (unemployment)
- 6 supporter

6 Puzzle

- 1 zero waste
- 2 recycling
- 3 organic
- 4 environment
- 5 incineration
- 6 rubbish