

ใบความรู้ที่ 42 เรื่อง Too Much Trash!
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Too Much Trash!

What do bottles, cans, paper, and tires have in common? They all end up as garbage. In the late 2000s and early 2010s, each American threw away about 4 pounds of trash every day. That adds up to more than 1,600 pounds per person in one year!

Most of our trash ends up in landfills. Those are places where people dump trash. The rest of the trash gets recycled. When something is recycled, it is made into something new.

Many people have been working to solve the trash problem. One plan is known as “zero waste.” Its goal is to teach people to make less trash. The plan is being used in schools, companies, national parks, and restaurants. Here are some ways that the plan is being put into action.

Recycling Trash

Some people sort their trash to see what can be recycled. Those items often include paper, glass, and certain plastics. Some towns also recycle tires and batteries. Taking items to recycling centers reduces the trash in landfills.

Buying Recycled Products

Many products are made from recycled materials. Clothes and bags can be made from recycled plastic bottles. Recycled plastic can also be made into lumber. Lumber is used for building things.

Making Compost Piles

Food scraps usually end up in the trash. But some people put the scraps into compost piles. Those are mixtures of plant and food scraps. Worms and bugs help break down the scraps. That turns into soil, which helps plants grow.

(Taken from ReadWorks.org; [http:// www.troup.org](http://www.troup.org))