

Issue Before the Council

The issue for discussion at the city council meeting is: Should the town add more recyclable items to the newspapers and cans they currently accept at the drop-off site?

You live in a pretend town called Shady Hollow. Your town has a mayor and six city council members. The city is going to decide if the town will accept more recyclable items at their drop-off site. They currently only accept aluminum cans and newspapers. Shady Hollow does not have a landfill (A special place made safe for dumping garbage). The town must haul its trash to a place 50 miles away and pay someone a lot of money to dump the garbage in a landfill. The less the trash weighs, the less Shady Hollow has to pay the landfill people. If the town can recycle more items, their garbage will not weigh much, and they can pay less money to the town with a landfill.

The main arguments people give for accepting more recyclable items include:

1. It is more helpful to people if they do not waste items. It is better to use them again. Someday we might not have enough land for good farms and growing towns because we will have too much trash.
2. Shady Hollow pays too much money for using another town's landfill. Shady Hollow should cut down the amount they deliver to the landfill.
3. Some people need the items the additional items that people can recycle. There are places that buy glass and office and school paper.

The main arguments people give for not accepting more recyclable items include:

1. Most people do not want to take the time to clean bottles and cans or to remove sticky notes and paper clips from paper. They do not like to take up space in their homes or garages to store the items before they deliver to the drop-off sites. They do not like to haul items to drop-off sites, and it is too expensive to pay extra workers to pick up recyclable items at people's homes.
2. The town would have to hire more people to sort the extra items and make sure that they are clean enough to sell or give away. This could be expensive.
3. Some recyclable items are dangerous and could harm children who might want to play with them. Glass can break and cut. Jagged edges of cans can also cut. People sometimes put off taking their items to the drop-off sites, and they pile up becoming a fire hazard or homes for unwanted insects and mice.