

How Important is Recycling?

Words to Know:

Landfill: A special place made safe for dumping solid waste

Solid waste: Sometimes called trash or garbage; items people have thrown away

Recycle: Reuse items people have thrown away

Litter: Trash thrown away in inappropriate places

What are some of the problems with trash in a town?

- Some towns have litter. Litter is harmful to people and animals. It harms the natural beauty of the land.
- Disposing of trash is necessary for the health of a town's citizens. Sometimes it is difficult to find a way to get rid of trash collected from a whole town of people.
- Getting rid of trash is expensive to a city.

Crockett is a Texas town that has found a way to solve some of their biggest problems with trash. Crockett has a law saying that the citizens must recycle. If they do not recycle, no one picks up their trash. Their garbage cans stay at the front of their homes. Sometime people have to pay a \$2,000 fine if they continue to disobey the law.

Crockett is the only town in Texas with a law saying that all people in town must recycle their trash. Citizens must separate 22 different items from their garbage and place them in a special bag.

Why did Crockett pass this law? How does recycling help the town? The town of Crockett does not have a landfill for disposing of solid waste. They must take their garbage to another town 50 miles away. The people of Crockett must pay to dump their trash the landfill. The people at the landfill charge the town of Crockett money to use their dump. If they have a heavy load of trash, they pay more than if they have a lighter load.

By recycling, the town of Crockett sends a lighter load to the landfill. Now they pay only half of what they used to pay. Their recycled items go to other places that do not charge for receiving these items.

If recycling is so helpful, why don't all towns require their citizens to recycle? Many of the citizens do not want to go to the trouble it takes to separate their reusable trash from their disposable trash. They must put the recycled items in special containers. They must rinse out bottle and cans.

Across the United States, people have praised Crockett for their recycling accomplishments. Recycling works for Crockett.

What Do You Think?

Why do some people want their town to require recycling?

Why do some people not want their town to require recycling?

What do the people in your group think about requiring people in a town to recycle? Why?