

# TRANSFER STATION SCHOOL CLASSROOM PRESENTATION OUTLINE

## Introduce yourself

**Ask some questions**, allow the kids to give multiple answers:

- Can anyone tell me why it's important to recycle?
- What happens to your trash at home? Where does it go?
- Have any of you ever been to the Transfer Station?
- Do you know what the Transfer Station does?
- Did you know that the Transfer Station can make money from your recyclables and help keep the environment clean?
- Who can tell me what a landfill is?
- What happens when the landfill is full and has to close? (Options – travel further to another landfill \$\$; burning is toxic)
- Have you heard about all the plastics filling up the oceans? (Ocean Gyres)
- How does this affect the animals that live in the ocean?
- Do you know what composting is? Do any of you compost at home?

If we recycle and compost everything we can and keep it out of the landfills and oceans, we reduce our waste by 87% and save natural resources, protect the environment and help make a cleaner planet for everyone.

## **About the Transfer Station:**

Explain how materials are delivered from homes, schools, construction, etc. (toy dump truck?)

Explain how materials are sorted and bundled, bailed, crushed, etc. (perhaps show a whole can vs. a crushed can; bring a Tide bottle and lid to point out the number triangle)

Describe the equipment, trucks and staff needed to run the Transfer Station (pictures and maps would be excellent)

If you have a Swap Shop or Free Items area, let the kids know – possible donate older toys, books and not throw them out.

Why is the number important on plastics?

- #1 or 2 (soda/water bottles, laundry detergent) is high quality plastic that can be used to make many things;
- #3 to 7 or 9 is harder to find a market for; some transfer stations cannot take them at all;
- Perhaps one of you will find a way to recycle these other plastics into new products so they don't end up in the landfill!

Explain why it's important to bring clean materials. (bugs, contaminated paper, pizza boxes)

The Transfer Station sells these clean bundled materials as a resource for manufacturers.

**What can manufacturers make out of our bundles of recycled resources?** (let the students give some answers)

- Plastics can be made into benches, flower pots, frames and shelving – even clothing and sneakers now!
- Glass can be crushed and made into base material for roads, new containers and to purify water (we just need more local businesses that can process glass)
- Paper can be shredded and reprocessed into recycled paper for printers, greeting cards, paper towels, etc.)
- Cardboard can be made into cereal boxes and even more cardboard.
- Aluminum & Steel Cans can be made into new cans, bicycle frames, pipes and train tracks.

**MEMORIZE THIS:**

“That’s a very good question! Perhaps your teacher can help you look that up to share with the class!”

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO DECOMPOSE IN A LANDFILL (MIX THEM UP)?

(From US Bureau of Land Management - <http://www.blm.gov/education/Int/background/packing.htm>)

BANANA	3-4 WEEKS
PAPER BAG	1 MONTH
COTTON RAG	5 MONTHS
WOOL SOCK	1 YEAR
CIGARETTE BUTT	2-5 YEARS
LEATHER BOOT	40-50 YEARS
RUBBER SOLE (OF A BOOT)	50-80 YEARS
TIN CAN (Soup can)	80-100 YEARS
ALUMINUM CAN	200-500 YEARS
PLASTIC 6-PACK RING	450 YEARS
PLASTIC JUG	1 MILLION YEARS
STYROFOAM CUP	UNKNOWN/FOREVER
GLASS BOTTLE	UNKNOWN/FOREVER

## HOW MANY TIMES CAN IT BE RECYCLED (MIX THEM UP)?

(From Earth911.com - <https://earth911.com/business-policy/how-many-times-recycled/>)

Aluminum Can	Forever
Steel	Forever
Glass	Forever
Food waste & Organics	Forever
Paper	5-7 times
Plastic	1-2 times