

# WASTED!

The Game of ...

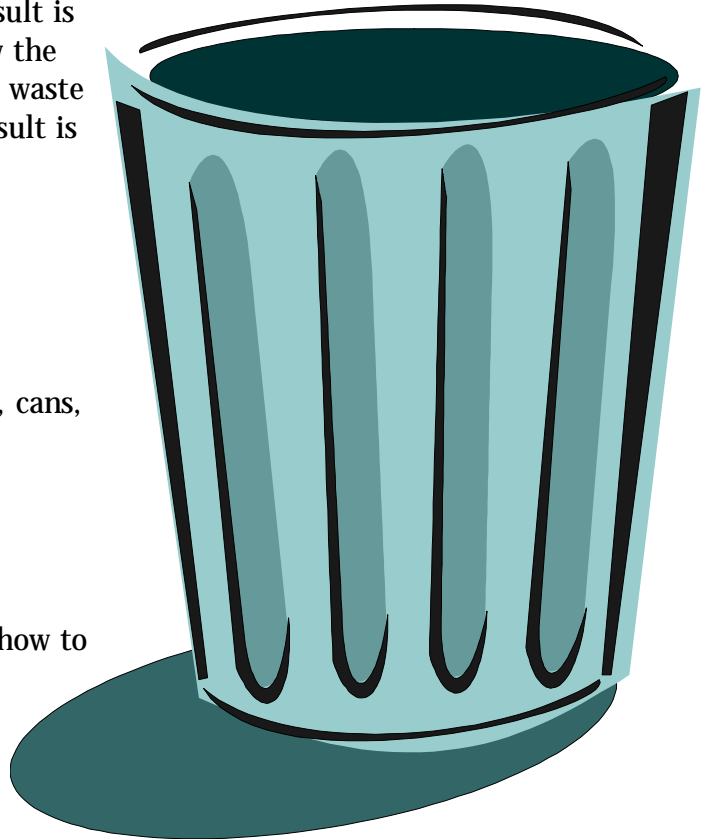
The following is an exercise that may be performed as a group or individual activity. At best, the result is a hands-on learning experience that can sow the seed for deeper understanding of who makes waste and how it can be reduced. At worst, the result is a big, nasty mess.

## Gamepieces:

1 green, mini-can for "garbage"  
1 qt. ziplock bag  
1 gal. ziplock bag  
1 lgr. plastic bag (lg. enough for newspapers, cans, bottles, other recyclables)  
small notepad (made of recycled blueprint) - for accounting purposes

## Goal:

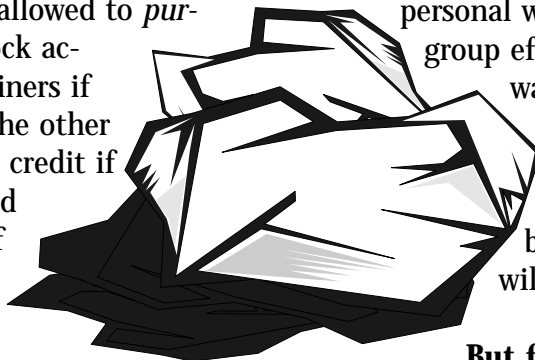
Over the course of two 24-hr. periods, learn how to minimize generation of waste from personal activities (not including "sanitary" destined for public-owned treatment works).



## How to Play:

Each person will be given the above-listed gamepieces at the commencement of the game. These containers are to be used to store **all waste generated by your activities over the next two days**. Depending on your waste-fullness, these containers may or may not suffice for the entire two days of waste collection. You will be allowed to *purchase* (through your mock account) additional containers if you require them. On the other hand, you will receive a credit if you return clean, unused containers at the end of the two day period. The lined mini-cans and small ziplocks are

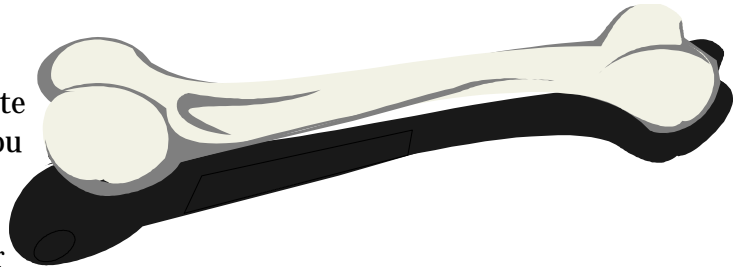
considered best for "putrescibles," that is, waste that has heavy food contamination or that may spoil, rot, or produce odors. It is assumed that you will segregate the "true garbage" from materials that, toward the end of the game, you will be allowed to recycle. Although individuals are each accountable for personal waste collection and inventory, group efforts to identify and implement waste reduction practices are encouraged. And on the final day, it is the total amount of waste from each group that will be weighed and recorded. Awards will be given in various categories.



**But first...**

## The Rules:

(1) **Collect** all waste (except sanitary of course) for 48 hours. Keep each day's waste separate. This is for your own benefit. You will not be asked to report on generation rates for each day separately. However, if



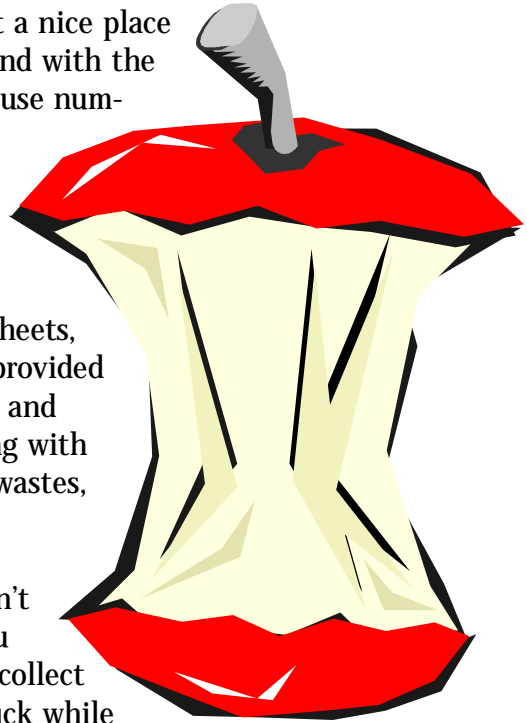
after the first 24 hours, you estimate your first day's waste production and the second day apply lessons learned (implement your P2 ideas!), you'll find that you can reduce significantly your second day's waste.

(2) **Remember** to avoid contaminating "clean" waste. Thursday morning, after obtaining gross weights of waste collected (as a group), you will be allowed to recycle #s 1 & 2 plastic, all colors of glass, newsprint, mixed paper, aluminum cans, and metals.

(3) **Don't** just *store* garbage in your room, declaring that it is not really *waste*, and then try to win the contest by saying you have generated zero waste. We at DOE have seen this trick before.

(4) **Do** hide or protect your accumulated waste piles and bags from hotel *housekeeping*. If you lose your collected garbage, it will be like losing your parking receipt at the airport. We will assume the **worst!**

(5) **Eating out** - Think carefully about waste that has resulted because of **you** and **your** meal. If there are placemats, stirricks, plastic utensils that were used by you and will not be used again (and if there is no house rule against your keeping these materials), pack them up and take them with you. If you eat at a nice place with cloth napkins, china, and "real" glasses, **don't** abscond with the dishes. Instead, count the number of dishes and glasses, use numbers provided on the awards application form to estimate pounds of water use, and tally these figures along with other waste inventory numbers during the final phase of the game.



(6) **Hotel amenities** - If you have decided to have your sheets, towels, and soaps replaced on a daily basis, use numbers provided on the form to calculate water use for washing bed linens and towels and tally these figures at the end of the game along with other water use numbers. If soap and plastic bottles are wastes, collect them along with your other waste materials.

(7) **Things they won't let you have** (or that you just don't want)- Use your notepad to record all waste for which you are responsible but which you cannot for various reasons collect and carry with you. If, for instance, you hit and kill a duck while driving to dinner, the duck is for sure "wasted," but you don't have to bring it in. One has to draw the line somewhere. (Pollution prevention suggestion: Don't hit the duck. Walk to dinner, make someone else drive, etc.)

## Winning the Game:

Scales will be available Thursday morning which you can use to weigh your group's total recyclable waste, and the total poundage of non-recyclable waste. Add to these numbers water usage (see form) as well as any other items that appear in your notebooks on inventory. Subtract 2 lbs. for each clean (never used) bag you turn in for which you have a receipt (available from judges). Add 2 lbs. for each additional bag you required and "bought."

Each group will complete one "application for awards" form summarizing waste volumes as calculated above and nominating group members for the other awards categories (see below). Judges will have 20-30 minutes to make their decisions regarding winning groups in each of the first three categories and individuals in each of the last three categories.

## Awards:

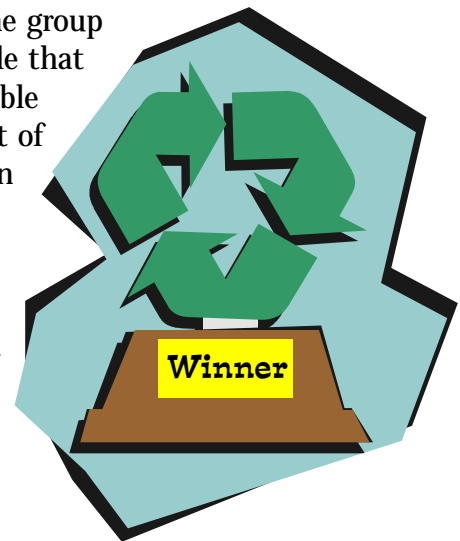
A group will be rewarded for setting the standard in each of the following categories. Select one amongst you to briefly summarize your results for the workshop audience.

(A) Least amount of waste before recycling. This is the award to strive for. Many opportunities for innovation here to cut down the amount you have to haul in to be weighed and processed.

(B) Least amount of waste after recycling. It is possible that the group that wins Category A may also win Category B. It is also possible that another group used more innovative ways to reduce non-recyclable waste, but relied too heavily on recyclability knocking them out of consideration for the Category A prize, but allowing them to win this one.

(C) Most valuable lesson learned.

*An individual will be rewarded for exemplary behavior in each of the final three categories. (These nominations will be listed by the group on its one awards application form, but the contributing individual will be named and will receive the award. Several nominations may appear on one form.)*



(D) Most thorough waste collection. There is something to be said for recognizing waste in the first place. Triangular disks out of plastic coffee lids, for example, can be tossed before you know it. This award is for "honesty" and for attention given to detail.

(E) Most innovative waste reduction or waste avoidance idea that was identified and implemented during the two-day exercise.

(F) Most marginally socially acceptable behavior modification. The fringe award is given in recognition of where out-of-the-box thinking can take you. (e.g. using your shirt sleeves instead of cloth napkins, taking a borrowed dog to restaurants with you, pawning your leftover chips and salsa off to another table, etc.)

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## Application for Awards

**Group Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Types of Waste and Waste Totals :**

*(Recyclables - Wt. by category is optional)*

		<b>Food</b>	_____ lbs.	_____ oz.
<b>Newspapers (R)</b>	_____ lbs.	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	_____ lbs.	_____ oz.
<b>Other paper (R)</b>	_____ lbs.	<b>(From notebooks)</b>		
<b>Glass (R)</b>	_____ lbs.	<b>No. of dishes &amp; glasses x .5</b>	_____ lbs.	_____ oz.
<b>Plastics 1 &amp; 2 (R)</b>	_____ lbs.	<b>No. of sheets &amp; towels x 8</b>	_____ lbs.	_____ oz.
<b>Aluminum/metal (R)</b>	_____ lbs.	<b>Misc. (est. - not collected)</b>	_____ lbs.	_____ oz.
<b>Recyclable Sub-total</b>	_____ lbs.	<b>Non-Recyclable Sub-total</b>	_____ lbs.	_____ oz.

**Group information:** *(Use subtotals above to calculate the following - Remember to subtract 2 lbs. for every clean, unused bag returned [for which you should have a receipt], add 2 lbs. for extras you required).*

**Total amount of waste before recycling?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount of waste after recycling?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Group's most important "Lesson Learned"**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Individual nominees for "Most Thorough Waste Collection"**

*(Give examples of "Minutia")*

\_\_\_\_\_

**Individual nominees for "Most Innovative Waste Reduction Idea"**

*(and briefly The Idea?)*

\_\_\_\_\_

**Individual nominees for "Most Marginally Socially Acceptable Behavior Modification" *(and just how Gutsy was it?)***

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