

Recycling Myth vs. Fact Interviews



Using these myths and facts, quiz someone to test their knowledge about recycling. Ask them to write or type their answers in the blue boxes. Tally up their total score and be sure to educate them on the correct answers!

- 1** Recycling is a sham, it all gets thrown in the landfill, so we shouldn't even bother!" *Myth or Fact?*
- 2** Recycling is a job maker. *Myth or Fact?*
- 3** Recycling isn't happening because China isn't taking it anymore. *Myth or Fact?*
- 4** We can recycle anything, someone will sort it all out. *Myth or Fact?*
- 5** Landfills sort through all the garbage and pick out all the recycling. *Myth or Fact?*
- 6** If you put one contaminant in the recycling, the whole load will go to the landfill. *Myth or Fact?*
- 7** If a recycling truck driver is picking up a recycling dumpster at an apartment or a business and sees that the dumpster is full of diapers, or syringes or other biohazards or hazardous waste, the driver will have to take the dumpster to the landfill. *Myth or Fact?*
- 8** If an item has the recycling symbol on it, it means it's recyclable. *Myth or Fact?*
- 9** Recycling uses more energy and resources than it saves. *Myth or Fact?*
- 10** Recycling is one of the fastest and easiest actions we can take now to fight climate change. *Myth or Fact?*



Answers:

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#1 Answer: Myth.

Recycling is NOT a sham. In fact, recycling was declared an essential industry and service by the Department of Homeland Security.

#2 Answer: Fact.

It creates 10 times more jobs than landfilling.

#3 Answer: Myth.

Recycling programs have survived China's new policies and many are taking advantage of this opportunity to generate cleaner recyclables and build local markets.

#4 Answer: Myth.

Sorters at a recycling facility are not there to sort through garbage as garbage mixed with recyclables is too filthy and hazardous to process, and it destroys the value of the recyclable commodities.

#5 Answer: Myth.

It doesn't make financial sense for them to do it, and it would be a huge health and safety hazard.

#6 Answer: Myth.

One little mistake won't cause a whole load of recyclables to be thrown out.

#7 Answer: Fact.

All of those contaminants will ruin others' efforts to recycle.

#8 Answer: Myth.

The recycling symbol, the "chasing arrows" triangle, is a largely unregulated symbol, and anyone can slap it on their product without it reflecting actual recyclability, especially in each community that may differ as to what materials they can take due to differences in infrastructure or local markets.

#9 Answer: Myth.

Recycling saves water, energy, resources and money. For example, Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy needed to make new cans from raw materials.

#10 Answer: Fact.

Based on EPA data, since 1970 the U.S. has recycled and composted over 2.3 billion tons of materials, saving an estimated 4.5 billion barrels of oil and reduced our carbon emissions by more than 5.5 billion tons of carbon emissions, the equivalent of taking over 1 billion cars off the road for a year.