


# SHADES OF RECYCLING



 Recycling today is more convenient than ever. However, the Houston Chronicle recently reported a downturn in recycling income due to several factors, especially people who recycle the wrong items. A wrong item in the sorting process can cause a shutdown, which is costly to all of us.

## What Shade of RECYCLER Are YOU?



**GRAY** means you don't recycle. Fine, this is America.  
We assume you don't litter....



**LIGHT GREEN** means you're open to recycling plastic water bottles, aluminum cans and paper. That's if recycling containers are available and others are doing it, because you don't mind helping out.



**MEDIUM GREEN** means you're recycling curbside or delivering to a drop-off. The Mayor's Office recently made recycling containers available to each city resident on the Houston Solid Waste collection route. As you already know, recyclables are:

- Plastic: bottles & jugs (marked with #1, #2, #5, #7)
- Metal: aluminum & tin cans, empty aerosol cans
- Paper: magazines, newspapers, mail, telephone books, office paper, etc.
- Cardboard: clean corrugated & fiberboard
- Glass: bottles—not everywhere, depends on your service provider



**DARK GREEN** means you are already recycling the usual and plastic bags, clothing, and household hazardous waste. You're also home composting food and yard waste, which make up 25% of the landfill waste stream, producing methane: which is 25 times more destructive to the air than carbon dioxide. Dark Greens also encourage everyone to help out.

# What's your GREEN IQ?



## Take a Quiz

**1** How much less water & energy are used in producing recycled paper vs. virgin paper?

- A. 55% less water and 60-70% less energy.
- B. 7.5% less water and 12-15% less energy.
- C. It takes more energy to produce recycled paper than virgin paper.
- D. 30% less water and 15% less energy.

**2** The best "energy return" product to recycle (compared to using virgin material)?

- A. Aluminum cans
- B. Paper
- C. Cardboard
- D. Plastics

**3** Electronic waste is responsible for \_\_\_% of hazardous chemicals in landfills?

- A. 30%
- B. 50%
- C. 70%
- D. 90%

**4** All plastic is recyclable with municipal curbside recycling.

TRUE or FALSE

**5** In a lifetime, a person generates how much garbage compared to their adult weight?

- A. 120 times
- B. 200 times
- C. 300 times
- D. 600 times

**6** Food waste naturally decomposes in the landfill, so it's the least of our landfill problems.

TRUE or FALSE

**7** What makes the circuit board one of the most sought after pieces of electronic waste?

- A. Contains metals with commercial value
- B. Readily available
- C. Easiest to work with
- D. Contains no toxic elements

### GREEN RESULTS

**0-2:** Time to take the 1<sup>st</sup> step & learn how you can start recycling & composting.

**3-5:** You know the basics of recycling; now you can learn even more tips on making green choices.

**6-7:** You're a recycling superhero! Time to take your knowledge & make a difference!