

Trash and Recycling Plastics – A Quiz

1. The “chasing arrows” symbol for recycling stamped on plastics tells you they can be recycled.

















FALSE



Manufacturers can print “chasing arrows” on most products.

The number identifies the type of plastic a product is made from.

“3” = PVC, not usually acceptable for curbside recycling.

 PETE	 HDPE	 PVC	 LDPE	 PP	 PS	 OTHER
polyethylene terephthalate	high-density polyethylene	polyvinyl chloride	low-density polyethylene	polypropylene	polystyrene	other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass
						

2. Plastics have and can contributed to slowing climate change.



Lightweight plastic auto parts have made vehicles more fuel-efficient.

Plastic packaging can require less energy to produce and transport than alternatives like glass or metal.

BIG BUT – plastics need to be recycled to get the benefits.



3. The “chasing arrows” symbol with “5” inside identifies polypropylene (PP) which can be recycled in Ann Arbor recycling bins.

TRUE

PP is common in lunch boxes, margarine containers, yoghurt pots, syrup bottles, plastic bottle caps, prescription bottles, and plastic cups.





4. Natural processes rapidly breakdown plastics, removing these pollutants from the biome.

Plastic lasts for centuries.

Plastics break down into smaller and ever smaller particles, to microplastics.

Particles are found throughout the world spreading toxics, affecting plants and animals.

Microplastics are found in drinking water, “bottled” water, table salt, rain/snow, human tissues, mother’s milk, formula etc. **Everywhere!**



FALSE

5. Soft plastics like shopping bags, snack bags or resealable sandwich bags - generally labeled 4 - can now be recycled in curbside bins.

FALSE

Not accepted in curbside programs, but often can be recycled at some supermarket drop-off stations.

6. In fact, a good rule of thumb is; Rigid plastic packaging goes in the recycling. Anything that isn't rigid doesn't.

TRUE

Quote from Pete Keller, *VP of Recycling and Sustainability* at Republic Services, one of the largest recycling companies in the United States.

7. Some politicians have tried to ban single-use plastics.



Their bills have traditionally failed because of industry pressure. Plastics makers have successfully advocated for curbside recycling, funded by taxpayers. It is also cheaper to make new plastic containers than collecting reusable ones.

8. There is little each of us can do to reduce the plastics problem.

FALSE

FALSE
FALSE
FALSE

FALSE

FALSE

FALSE

FALSE

9 TIPS FOR REDUCING YOUR PLASTIC USE

- 

1 Bring your own shopping bag
- 

2 Carry a reusable water bottle
- 

3 Bring your own cup
- 

4 Pack your lunch in reusable containers
- 

5 Say no to disposable straws and cutlery
- 

6 Use compostable produce bags
- 

7 Slow down and dine in
- 

8 Store leftovers in glass jars
- 

9 Use BioBags instead of plastic bags

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**Your Rotary Club of Ann Arbor
Environmental Action Group**

**THANKS YOU FOR PLAYING
OUR
Trash and Recycling Plastics Quiz**



Be a
Climate Hero

Reduce
Re-use
Recycle