

ProTalk
Discussion Files

C2. Recycling and waste management

Afaq Language Center

Language Center

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Goals

- Can read and understand a text about recycling.
- Can talk about ideal situations confidently using the modal verbs 'should' and 'could' and present my own views on recycling.



We all know that **recycling** is important, but what steps can we take as an individual to promote change and encourage more environmentally friendly methods of **waste management**? In this class you will learn more about how Sweden is often held up as a positive **role model** for other countries when it comes to recycling, and why this is.

Recyling in your daily life

Think of a typical day at work and at home. What actions could you take to help the environment? What actions do you take?

transport

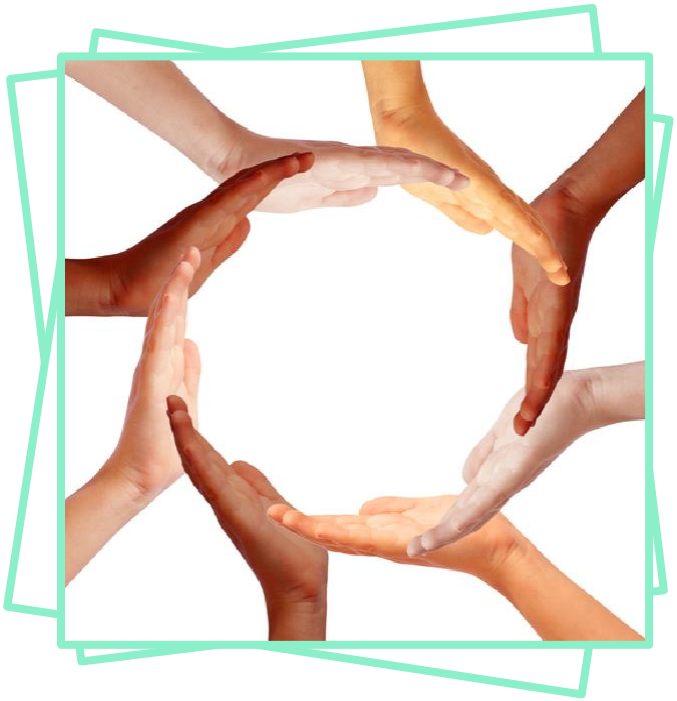
waste

shopping

cooking

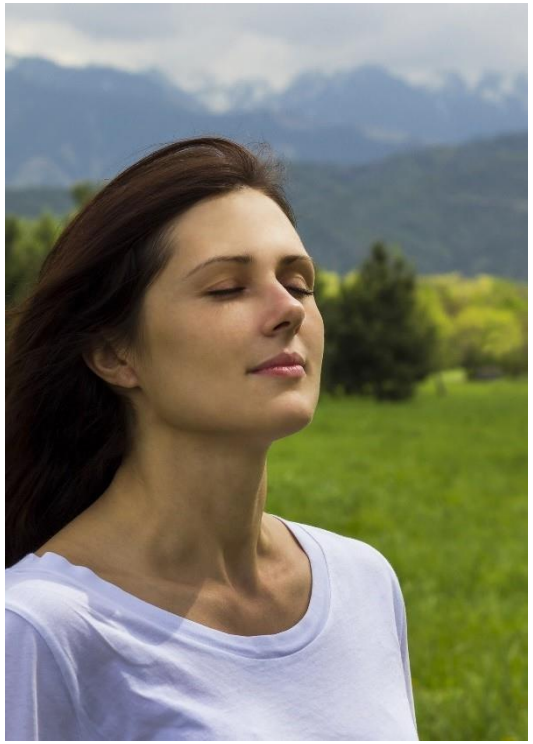
Thinking about home

What are recycling facilities like in your home country? Have they changed in recent years?



Review: green vocabulary

Look at the words below related to recycling and the environment. Imagine your teacher knows nothing about this topic. Explain to them what each word means?



recycling	sustainability	pesticides
greenhouse gases	waste management	landfill
recycling bins	renewable energy	fossil fuels

Read the text and summarize it.

Sweden as a role model for waste management

Over the past few decades there has been a huge push for countries around the world to do more to recycle, and to establish more efficient and environmentally friendly waste management schemes. However, certain countries, especially in Scandinavia, seem to be **ahead of the game** when it comes to recycling.



Read the text and summarize it.

Sweden as a role model for waste management

In late 2016 it was announced that Sweden has become so efficient at recycling and waste management that for years they have actually been importing rubbish from other countries in order to keep their recycling plants in business. This impressive feat makes Sweden something of a **role model** for other countries. This extraordinary **state of affairs** sadly still seems like a **pipe dream** for many other countries, but what could be learned from the Swedish system to help other countries **follow suit**?



Read the text and summarize it.

Incentivising recycling

According to statistics, Swedish households send less than 1 per cent of household waste to recycling or waste facilities. However, when they do need to use these facilities, they can be easily found. Swedish law **dictates** that recycling containers must be placed no further than 300 metres from residential buildings. This makes recycling fuss-free and easy to **incorporate** into daily life. Certain local districts also encourage people to recycle and separate food waste as well, which can then be turned into **compost** and reused.

Read the text and summarize it.

Incentivising recycling

The country also relies on the support of local and big businesses to be able to develop this successful **model**. Pharmacies happily recycle and dispose of half empty medicine bottles, for example, and recently some major chain clothing shops began to accept donations of used clothes which can then be exchanged for vouchers to be used in-store. Schemes like this seem like a win-win situation: the customers benefit by getting rid of used garments and are rewarded for their efforts while the companies gain a positive reputation for their brand and new business as customers spend their discount vouchers. Such incentives allow the country as a whole to take another step towards becoming more environmentally friendly.

Do you know these words from the text? Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

ahead of the game

state of affairs

pipe dream

to follow suit

role model

to compost

to dictate

to incorporate

model

Recycling and waste management

Think about the text you have just read and follow the instructions below.



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2 Think of countries you have visited. What other ideas have you seen used to promote recycling? What other methods can you think of that might be effective in waste management?

Recycling and waste management

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3 Think of some of the methods mentioned in the text, like composting and clothes recycling at clothes shops. Have you ever tried any of these yourself?

Role models

The text mentions the concept of 'role models'. A role model is someone or something you look up to for having achieved something important in a particular area, or someone who heavily influenced you. Describe one of your role models – it can be in any area of life – and explain why you look up to them.



Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.



They looked down on the idyllic scenery. It was like heaven.

The criminal lurked in the shadows waiting for his target.





Many people say incineration is a good method of getting rid of rubbish.

When you incinerate something, little but ashes will be left behind.



Reducing your carbon footprint

Read the advice from the following people about how to reduce your own carbon footprint. Do you agree with what they are saying? Why (not)? What do you notice about how they give advice?



I think everybody should buy their clothes second hand! If more and more clothes are recycled like this, and fewer and fewer brand new clothes are made in factories, the environment would be *much* better off. You can also have a more original look!



When I started composting my food waste two years ago, I couldn't believe the difference it made to the amount of waste I was putting in the bin! If every person could be more conscious of reusing their food waste, I bet we could cut this country's waste problem in half!



I bring my drinking water to work with me in a special flask every day, so I no longer have any need to buy bottled water. I think every person should make the effort to incorporate something this simple into their everyday lives – the world could be a much greener place!

Giving advice

Your friend is really bad at recycling. Can you give them some advice on how to improve their habits? Read the cards below with stories of what they did or do. What should or could they do now? What should or could they have done in the past?



I took new furniture for my apartment, but I didn't know what to do with the old stuff so I took it all to the local dump.

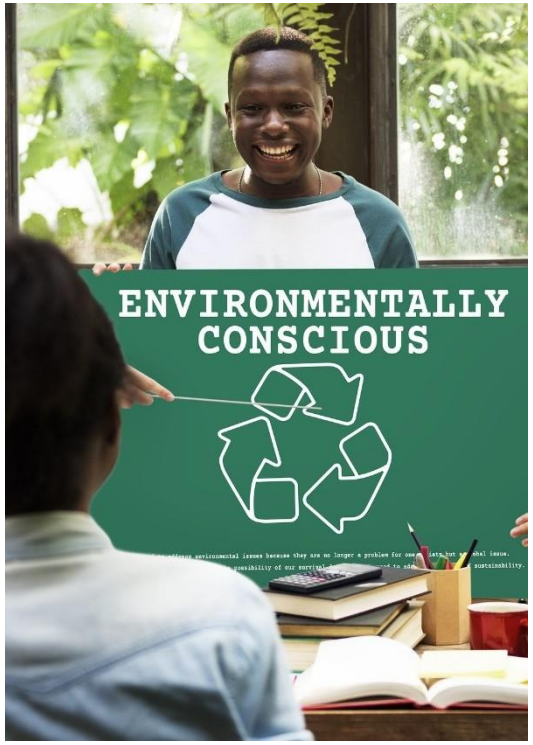
Every day I buy a takeaway coffee in the morning and in the afternoon.

Last year I flew to London 20 times in one month, just for a short half hour meeting each time!

I never know how to sort my recycling so I just put everything in the same bin.

Changing habits

Think about your friend from the previous slide. It's difficult to get people to change their habits, if you were in government what steps would you take to encourage people to recycle? Look at the cards below for inspiration and try to think of ideas related to each word. What would a better, greener world look like?



incentive

access

education

fines

big business

community

Make a difference

Think about your own recycling habits. Brainstorm with your teacher ways you could improve your habits, and how your community and country could improve things too.





outreach

renewable energy

recycling

incentives

fun

waste disposal

gardening

reuse

creative thinking

facilities

energy

habits

change

Presentation

Imagine you are a member of parliament responsible for the environment. What policies and laws would you pass to improve recycling in your country? Why do you think they would be effective?

Prepare a two-minute presentation. Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.