



Project Zero Waste Vocabulary



Biodegradable	A product made of natural materials that will decompose without harming the environment
Compost	A soil-like material, made of rotting yard and food scraps
Conservation	The protection and wise use of natural resources
Decomposer	A living thing that breaks down wastes and dead organisms
Endangered Species	A group of plants or animals whose survival is in danger because the population size is small. Human waste can affect plants and animals causing or adding to the decrease in their population size
Household Hazardous Waste	Waste which can harm people, other living organisms, and the ecosystem and should be separated from household trash. Examples of HHW are electronics (TV, cell phone, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs)
Landfill	A place in a community where solid waste is buried in layers
Natural Resource	A material found in nature that is useful or necessary for living things
Recycle	The process of changing waste into new materials, products and packaging
Reduce	To decrease the amount of waste produced
Repurpose	The practice of converting waste into items without having to break down the original materials
Reuse	Using product or material again and again, instead of throwing away or recycling
Rot	Slowly decomposing to create a soil like material, such as compost
Sustainable	The use of resources without permanently depleting or damaging the resource
Waste	Items that are no longer useful or wanted and have been through away
Waste Stream	The total waste produced by a group or community

Note: The concepts are covered at an age appropriate level for this program. Some of these terms might not be used with the students, but the concepts will be discussed.