



# Waste Words

**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>):** A greenhouse gas made up of carbon and oxygen. Carbon dioxide comes from a range of natural sources, but waste in landfill creates additional carbon dioxide which can be harmful to the environment

**Co-mingled recycling:** When a combination of recyclable materials (i.e. plastic, paper, bottles) are collected together, transported to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), then sorted for recycling

**Compost:** A mixture of decayed plants, food waste, and other organic materials, which can then be added to the soil to help plants grow

**Contamination (recycling):** When waste items are placed in the wrong bin (e.g. non-recyclables into the yellow bin or non-organics into the green bin)

**E-waste:** electronic products like phones, televisions, computers, and microwaves that are no longer working or wanted

**Hazardous waste/material:** waste or materials that contain chemicals that could be harmful to the environment, animals, or for us

**Materials Recovery Facility (MRF):** the place where recycling waste is further sorted and sent for recovery and reuse

**Methane:** A very flammable greenhouse gas. Methane is produced naturally in places like wetlands but is also made from human activities like driving cars and in landfills. Landfill methane is more than 25 times more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide

**Organics / green organics:** anything that comes from a plant or animal that can breakdown naturally, for example, garden waste and food waste

**Recyclable:** can be turned into something useful again

