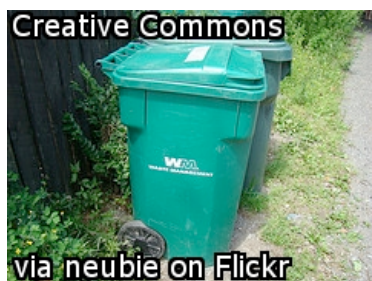


U.K. garbage could be worth billions

7th June, 2013



A British government agency has claimed that the nation's garbage is an untapped gold mine that's potentially worth over \$4.5 billion. The Local

Government Association's (LGA) review on Britain's waste disposal, 'Wealth from Waste', says local governments could earn billions by 2020 to provide better services to residents. The study outlines how the scheme could additionally create over 50,000 jobs by expanding the household recycling sector. LGA executive Clyde Loakes said: "There is clearly wealth in waste. The UK's waste and recycling sector is currently worth around £11 billion and growing at twice the rate of the rest of the economy, but there is so much more we could do to make the most of this booming industry."

The UK produces over 26 million tonnes of rubbish every year. The LGA is urging the country to fully exploit a resource that currently ends up in landfills. The report reads: "Taxpayers will be better off, the economy will benefit, and more people will have jobs if we grow our domestic market for collecting, sorting and reprocessing recycling. Landfilling waste costs a lot of money; burning it is still expensive; recycling actually brings in cash for the taxpayer and we owe it to today's hard-pressed taxpayers to get as much of their money back as possible." It adds: "There is wealth in waste. It is time to take the lid off the dustbin debate and raise the sights of government...from the kerbside to the global economic race."

Sources: resource.co.uk / gov.uk

Writing

Garbage is an untapped gold mine. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

British government / garbage / gold mine / residents / recycling / wealth / booming / exploit / landfills / taxpayers / being better off / benefit / hard-pressed / debate

True / False

- Britain's government said people accidentally throw away a lot of gold. T / F
- An extra 50,000+ jobs could be created in Britain's recycling sector. T / F
- Britain's recycling sector is valued at over £11 billion. T / F
- The rest of the UK economy is growing faster than the recycling sector. T / F
- Over 26 million tonnes of waste is produced in the UK each month. T / F
- Landfills in Britain are very cheap. T / F
- An agency suggested it was a duty to repay taxpayers from waste. T / F
- The agency said Britain needed to be globally competitive with waste. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. claimed | a. make the most of |
| 2. potentially | b. field |
| 3. outlines | c. local |
| 4. sector | d. stated |
| 5. booming | e. troubled |
| 6. urging | f. thriving |
| 7. exploit | g. summarises |
| 8. domestic | h. aims |
| 9. hard-pressed | i. likely |
| 10. sights | j. pressing |

Discussion – Student A

- How wasteful are you / is your country?
- Is it a sin to waste things?
- Have you ever taken something from the garbage?
- What do you think it's like to be a garbage collector?
- What's wrong with landfills and incinerating garbage?
- What would happen if the law said we had to recycle everything?
- How is it best to recycle a computer?
- What questions would you like to ask the report's author?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. an untapped | a. exploit a resource |
| 2. waste | b. of this booming industry |
| 3. the scheme could additionally create | c. taxpayers |
| 4. growing at | d. up in landfills |
| 5. make the most | e. for the taxpayer |
| 6. fully | f. twice the rate |
| 7. ends | g. gold mine |
| 8. brings in cash | h. off the dustbin |
| 9. hard-pressed | i. disposal |
| 10. take the lid | j. over 50,000 jobs |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the amount of garbage you throw away?
- How much of your garbage could you make better use of?
- What things do you hate throwing away?
- How valuable do you think garbage could be?
- What more could governments do to monetize garbage?
- Do you ever think you could sell the things you put in the trash?
- Have you ever put something in the rubbish by mistake?
- What's the difference between 'waste,' 'garbage,' 'rubbish,' 'trash' and 'litter'?

Spelling

- nallpityeo worth over \$4.5 billion
- waste lasisdpo
- provide better services to essdetirn
- the mehsec
- recycling ceostr
- make the most of this mgbiono industry
- gungri the country
- fully oxtliep a resource
- sorting and gsropecnreis
- hadr-rseesdp taxpayers
- the dustbin beadte
- raise the thssig of government

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. i	3. g	4. b	5. f
6. j	7. a	8. c	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Landfill company boss

You think landfill is the best solution to deal with waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): incinerating (burning), recycling or exporting the waste.

Role B – Incinerator company boss

You think incinerating (burning) is the best solution to deal with waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): landfill, recycling or exporting the waste.

Role C – Recycling company boss

You think recycling is the best solution to deal with waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): incinerating (burning), landfill or exporting the waste.

Role D – Waste-exporting company boss

You think exporting the waste is the best solution to deal with waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): incinerating (burning), recycling or landfill.

Speaking – Thrown away

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the things you hate throwing away at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| • old mobile phones | • books |
| • love letters | • presents |
| • furniture | • childhood mementoes |
| • food | • clothes |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.