

EARTH IN DANGER

危险中的地球

# Rubbish and Recycling

## 垃圾与回收



中国环境科学出版社

中小学课外环保

双语读物

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by Helen Orme

作者：海伦·奥姆

译者：王晶晶 姜晓莉

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# CONTENTS

## 目 录

Too Much Rubbish!	4-5
垃圾太多了!	
What Do We Throw Away?	6-7
我们扔掉了什么?	
Why Recycle?	8-9
为什么要进行回收?	
Recycling Everyday Things	10-11
回收日常用品	
Organic Waste	12-13
有机废物	
What Can't We Recycle?	14-15
哪些垃圾不能回收?	
Making Recycling Better	16-17
把回收做得更好	
Transport and Recycling	18-19
运输与回收	
Recycling Around the World	20-21
世界各地的回收	
How Can You Make a Difference?	22-23
你该如何做?	
FACTFILES	24-29
小资料	
What You Can Do	30
你能做什么	
Glossary	31
词汇表	
Index	32
索引	

Words that appear **in bold** are explained in the glossary.

请见词汇表中对文中**黑体字**的解释。

# TOO MUCH RUBBISH!

Every day we throw things away. After you finish reading a magazine, you probably throw it in the bin. Many things we buy come in **packaging**, like cans, boxes and bottles. This ends up in the rubbish, too.

On average, each person in the United Kingdom throws away about 2.7 kilograms of rubbish each day. The rubbish that people in the UK throw away in just two hours would fill the Royal Albert Hall! Making that much rubbish is a problem for our planet.

## 垃圾太多了!

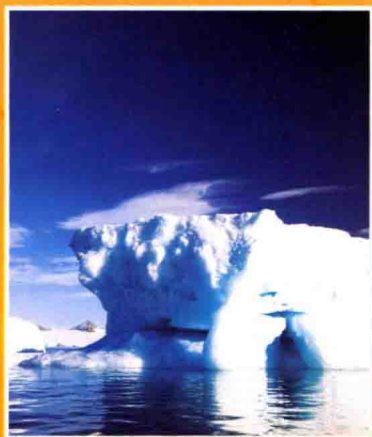
每天我们都会丢弃一些东西。读完一本杂志后，你可能会把它扔在垃圾桶里。我们买的很多东西都带有**包装**，像罐子、盒子和瓶子。这样就产生了垃圾。

平均来说，在英国每个人每天扔的垃圾有2.7公斤。全英国人仅仅两个小时扔的垃圾就能填满整个皇家阿尔伯特音乐厅！产生这么多的垃圾对我们的地球来说确实是个问题。





## PROBLEMS FOR OUR PLANET



The rubbish we throw away may contain harmful chemicals and other **pollutants**. Rotting food produces **methane** gas, a **greenhouse gas** that traps heat in our atmosphere, and adds to **global warming**. Global warming may cause severe flooding, because of the melting of the polar ice caps, and extreme weather conditions.

### 对于地球确实是个问题

我们扔掉的垃圾可能含有有害的化学物质和其他污染物。腐烂的食物会产生甲烷，它是一种温室气体，会将热量阻滞在大气层，因而导致全球变暖。全球变暖会使两极的冰川融化，因而引起严重的洪灾以及发生极端的天气。





# WHAT DO WE THROW AWAY?

What kinds of things end up in the bin?

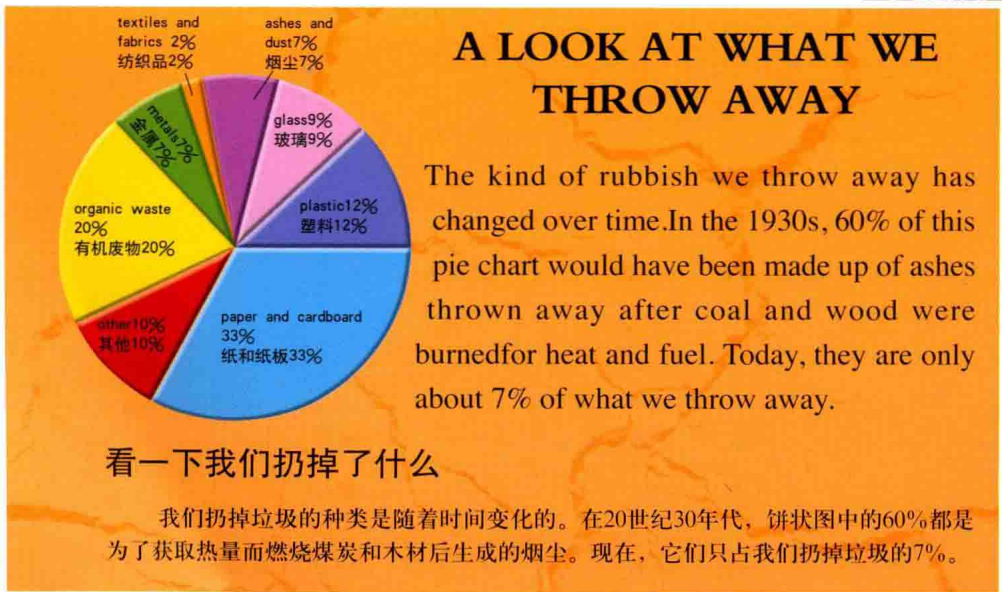
About one-third of what we throw away is paper and cardboard. Most of this is made up of newspapers, magazines and packaging. About one-fifth of what we throw away is **organic waste** that will rot. Food waste is an important part of this. Trees, flowers and other plants also rot. The rest of our rubbish is mostly made up of plastic, glass, metal and old clothes (fabric). Most of these things don't need to be thrown away. We can **recycle** or reuse them.

## 我们扔掉了什么？

最终进入垃圾箱的是哪些东西？我们扔掉的东西中大约有1/3是纸和纸板。这其中大部分是报纸、杂志和包装。

我们扔掉的大约1/5的东西是即将腐烂的**有机废物**。其中，食物是主要的部分。树木、鲜花和其他植物也会腐烂。剩下的垃圾大部分是塑料、玻璃、金属和旧衣服（纺织品）。

很多东西我们不必扔掉，可以**回收**或重复使用。



If we don't reuse or recycle things, they will end up on a landfill site like this one.

我们不重复使用或不回收的东西，它们最终会进入垃圾场，成为图中所示的一员。





## WHY RECYCLE?

Recycling means turning all this rubbish into something useful. This is important for many reasons.

First of all, we are running out of places to put all our rubbish! Much of what we throw away is buried in holes in the ground called **landfills**. We will eventually run out of places to bury our rubbish, however.

There are limited amounts of some **resources**, such as oil and metal. If we continue to take these out of the ground, one day they will run out. So we need to find ways to recycle and reuse these materials.

For both of these reasons it makes sense to turn rubbish into new products instead of throwing it away.

### 为什么要进行回收?

回收意味着将所有这些垃圾变成有用的东西。这是很重要的，因为：

首先，我们没有那么多地方堆放所有的垃圾！我们扔掉的很多东西都被填埋在地下的坑中，这些坑叫做**垃圾填埋场**。但是，最终我们会找不到能填埋垃圾的地方。

再者，有一些**资源**数量有限，如石油和金属。如果我们继续从地下开采这些资源，总有一天将会被耗尽。所以，我们需要找到回收和再利用这些东西的方法。

基于上述原因，把垃圾变成新产品而不是把它扔掉是很有意义的。

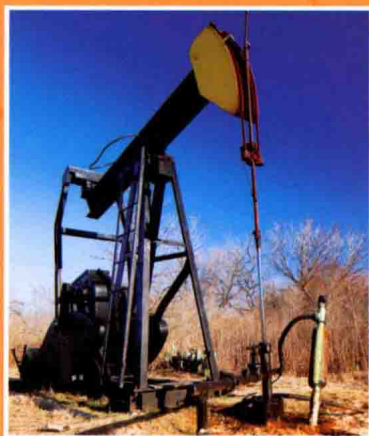
Each of these colourful bins  
recycles different kind of rubbish:  
newspapers, plastic, glass and  
metal cans.

这些颜色不同的垃圾筒回收不同种类的垃圾：报纸、塑料、玻璃和金属罐。





## RECYCLING PLASTIC = SAVING OIL



Plastic is made from oil, which is brought to the surface by drills such as the one shown here. Many scientists believe there will not be much oil left 50 years from now.

### 回收塑料=节省石油

塑料是由石油制成的。石油是由如图所示的石油钻机带到地面上来的。许多科学家相信，目前剩余的石油量还不够我们使用50年。

A machine for recycling  
metal cans.

回收金属罐的一台机器。







## RECYCLING EVERYDAY THINGS

Almost everything can be recycled in factories like the one shown here. There are many recycled things already in your home, such as newspapers, glass bottles and jars, and plastic containers.

More than 30% of the paper used to print newspapers is recycled. Most of the cardboard used in packaging has also been used before.

Glass can be melted down and turned into new products again and again. This is much cheaper than making new glass. Most glass bottles and jars contain some recycled glass.

Many kinds of plastic can also be recycled. Recycled plastic can be used in many different products, such as raincoats, shopping bags, and window frames.

### 回收日常用品

几乎所有的东西都可以在如图所示的工厂里被回收。你家里就有许多东西可以回收，如报纸、玻璃瓶罐和塑料容器。

超过30%印刷报纸的纸张是回收来的。大部分用于包装的纸板也被使用过。

玻璃可以被多次熔化变成新的玻璃。这比制造新玻璃要便宜得多。大多数玻璃瓶罐中都含有回收来的玻璃。

很多塑料也可被回收利用。回收的塑料可以制造许多不同的产品，如雨衣、购物袋和窗框。



# ORGANIC WASTE

Rubbish that will rot is called organic waste.

It may be food waste, grass or garden clippings. This can be recycled too.

Almost one-third of the food we buy ends up in the bin! Some of this is peelings and trimmings from vegetables, and things that we don't normally eat such as bones from meat. However, we could reduce food waste by saving leftovers and not buying more food than we need.

Some kinds of organic waste, such as vegetable peelings, can be left to rot in special containers. After a while, the waste turns into **compost**. Compost can be added to soil to make plants grow more easily.

## 有机废物

能腐烂的垃圾叫做有机废物。这些垃圾可能是厨余垃圾、草或花园修剪下的枝叶，也可以进行回收。

我们买的食物几乎有1/3最后都会被扔进垃圾桶。其中一部分是蔬菜叶和果皮以及蔬菜的外包装，另一部分是我们不能吃的东西，如骨头。然而，我们可以通过减少剩饭剩菜、不购买超过需求量的食物来减少厨余垃圾。

可以把有些有机废物，如蔬菜叶、果皮，放在特殊的容器内腐烂。过一段时间之后，废物变成堆肥。堆肥可以施加到土壤中促进植物生长。



Egg shells and tea bags can also be composted.

鸡蛋壳和茶叶袋也可以成为堆肥。



Organic waste from  
your kitchen can help  
new food grow in a  
vegetable patch!

你厨房里的有机废物可以促  
进新作物在菜园里生长！

## SEWAGE POWER

Even **sewage**, the stuff you flush  
down the toilet, can be recycled!

Once it has been treated in a special way, it can  
be used as fertiliser on farmland. It can also be  
burned, and the energy produced from burning  
sewage can be used to create electricity.

### 生活污水

即使是你冲马桶的污水也是可以回收的！只要用一  
种特殊的方法进行处理，它就可以成为作物的肥料。还可  
以将它燃烧，产生的能量可以用来发电。







People handling dangerous  
waste must wear special  
protective clothing.

人们处理危险废物时必须穿上  
特殊的防护服。