



# Recycling in Deutschland

## TEACHERS' NOTES

By Thorben Wengert / pixelio.de

### Introduction

This presentation has been designed to familiarize young learners with the system of separating wastes and recycling in Germany. It is suitable for learners with little German.

Recycling is a big topic in Germany as it is one of the countries, who pays most attention on separating and recycling wastes to protect the environment. Germany is the country who recycles the most with 45 % recycled material – in Ireland 37 %, in Belgium 36%, in Slovenia 34% and in Sweden 33%. The pupils will already know a lot about that topic from the way it is handled in Scotland, so the teacher might want to point out the differences and special features of the German recycling system and separation of wastes.

We have included some little activities to keep your learners active and motivated throughout this presentation.

### **Slide      Explanation**

- 1**      Introductory slide:  
The teacher can introduce the topic to the pupils by asking them what they already know about recycling and separating waste. They can describe the three pictures on this slide and talk about their own experience concerning wastes. Furthermore it is always interesting to talk about advantages and disadvantages of certain issues to form an opinion.
  
- 2**      Translation:  
**We produce waste!**  
This slide contains synonyms for waste with the German translations.  
*Müll*            = *waste*  
*Abfall*         = *rubbish*  
*Dreck*         = *refuse*

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Translation:

**Where should we put the waste?**

In this slide the pupils can learn new vocabulary in German concerning different kinds of bins.

*Mülleimer* = waste bin      *Mülltonnen* = refuse container  
*Müllsack* = refuse bag

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Translation:

**How do we separate waste?**

The slide contains five categories (Restmüll, Plastik, Papier, Flaschen und Kompost) in which wastes can be separated. Pupils are supposed to identify the right categories. It may also be interesting to give reasons why the other expressions on the slide can be excluded.

*Restmüll* = general waste      *Plastik* = plastic waste  
*Papier* = paper waste      *Flaschen* = bottles  
*Kompost* = compost

In the following slides pupils will learn German vocabulary on various kinds of waste within the different categories that were identified on the previous slide. Pictures of the new words will be a supportive element.

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Translation:

**Plastic waste**

*Joghurtbecher* = yoghurt pot      *Verpackung* = packing  
*Tetra pak* = Tetra pak      *Plastikbecher* = plastic cup

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Translation:

**Paper waste**

*Zeitungen* = newspapers      *Kartons* = cardboard box  
*Eierkarton* = cardboard      *Pappver-* = cardboard  
   *boxes for eggs packungen*      box

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Translation:

**Bottles**

The aim of this slide is to identify the colors of the numbered bottles and therefore it is a great opportunity for teachers to repeat or introduce the different colors in German.

*orange* = orange      *grün* = green      *gelb* = yellow  
*blau* = blue      *violett* = purple      *rot* = red

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Translation:

**Non-returnable bottle**

*Grünglas* = green glass      *Weißglas* = white glass  
*Braunglas* = brown glass      *Parfümflaschen* = parfum bottle  
*Marmeladenglas* = jar of jam

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Translation:

### What happens with glass?

The aim of this slide is to show pupils the process of recycling bottles through seven steps.

1. Different kinds of glass and bottles (green, brown, white etc.)
2. The bottles are disposed off in different container (see colors of the bottles and glasses)
3. Bottles will be sorted in a factory, ...
4. chopped up and ...
5. separated from metals and papers.
6. The fragments will be sieved, melted and ...
7. filled up in shapes of bottles and glasses again.

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Translation:

### Compost – organic wastes

There are different kinds of waste (organic waste) that can be disposed off in the compost. This slide gives some examples of organic waste and provides the opportunity to learn the German expressions for fruits and vegetables. It may also be interesting to ask the pupils about advantages having compost for organic wastes. (to protect the environment, recycle organic waste into soil for plants in the garden etc.)

→ Peelings of fruits and vegetables

→ Garden and organic wastes

<i>Möhre</i>	= carrot	<i>Banana</i>	= banana
<i>Paprika</i>	= pepper	<i>Kartoffel</i>	= potato
<i>Ei</i>	= egg	<i>Erdbeere</i>	= strawberry
<i>Tomate</i>	= tomato	<i>Apfel</i>	= apple
<i>Ananas</i>	= pineapple		

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Translation:

### General waste

<i>Essensreste</i>	= leftovers	<i>Scherben</i>	= fragments/ shards of glass?
<i>Zigaretten- stummel</i>	= cigarette butts		

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Translation

### How is waste separated in Germany?

The aim of this slide is to give an overview of the way people in Germany separate their wastes in different bins (already discussed in slide 3 and 4). At this point it may be useful to point out differences to the way people handle waste in Scotland.

- Compost and bins for organic waste
- Container for glass separated by colors: white, green, brown bottles and glasses
- 4 different bins separated by colors

- *Black* = *general waste*
- *blue* = *paper waste*
- *Yellow* = *plastic waste*
- *brown or green* = *organic waste*

➔ Important: it depends on where you live in Germany whether you use a yellow bin or yellow bags for waste with the green sign "Grünen Punkt".

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Translation:

**Who collects the bins?**

*Müllabfuhr* = *refuse collection*      *Müllmann* = *dustman*  
*Müllauto* = *bin lorry*

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Translation:

**Where is the waste deposited?**

This slide contains synonyms for refuse dumps with the German translations. An interesting question for this slide could be: Why can piles of rubbish be dangerous for your health?

*Müllberg* = *pile of rubbish*      *Müllkippe* = *refuse dump*  
*Mülldeponie* = *refuse disposal site*

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Translation:

**Which kinds of waste do Germans recycle?**

*Altglas* = *glass*      *Altpapier* = *paper waste*  
*Plastic waste with green sign* = *waste with the "Grünen Punkt"*

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Translation:

**Returnable bottles and the deposit of bottles (reusable)**

➔ What exactly means deposit of bottles?

- Buy bottles (as beer bottles, plastic bottles, cans) + pay the deposit
- Return empty bottles + get your deposit back
- Bottles will be recycled

In Germany sometimes you see homeless or poor people collecting returnable bottles. Especially in big cities when people don't want to carry the bottles and throw them in the bins. For example at big events like in front of concert halls when young people have a drink and don't want to carry the empty bottles, they give them to people who are waiting to collect the returnable bottles to benefit from the money they get in return. For returning a bottle you can get between 8 and 25 cents per bottle (depending on the kind of bottle you return).

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Translation:

**In which bin does the waste belong? Which colors are the 4 different bins?**

The aim of this slide is to test how much the pupils have learned through a little game. Ask your pupils to match the different pictures of wastes to the respective bin and to define the color of the bin.

a.) Restmüll	= Schwarz	b.) Biomüll = grün
c.) Verpackung	= gelb	d.) Papier = blau

a.) 1,5,10 und 6  
b.) 3 und 7  
c.) 4 und 8  
d.) 2 und 9

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**List of important vocabulary**

<i>der Müll, der Abfall</i>	= <i>waste, refuse</i>
<i>die Müllabfuhr</i>	= <i>refuse collection</i>
<i>der Müllsack</i>	= <i>refuse bag</i>
<i>der Mülleimer</i>	= <i>waste bin</i>
<i>die Mülltonne</i>	= <i>refuse container</i>
<i>die Pfandflasche</i>	= <i>returnable bottle</i>
<i>das Pfand</i>	= <i>deposit</i>
<i>wiederverwerten/recyceln</i>	= <i>to recycle</i>
<i>der Müllberg</i>	= <i>pile of rubbish</i>