

Consumer

Role:

You are an everyday person who buys and uses products. You throw away packaging, food scraps, old clothes, electronics, and more.

Key Questions to Consider:

- How much responsibility do you have for reducing waste?
- Should you make better purchasing decisions (like buying items with less packaging, recycling more)?
- Is it fair to expect you to change your habits if manufacturers keep producing wasteful products?

Challenges You Face:

- Sometimes, sustainable products cost more.
- Disposable products make life easier in the moment.
- Recycling rules can be confusing.
- Many products are designed to be thrown away quickly.

Manufacturer

Role:

You design, produce, and package goods that people buy. Your choices impact how much waste is created, and make material choices as well (ex, plastic packaging, disposable products).

Key Questions to Consider:

- Should you be responsible for reducing waste?
- Can you make products that last longer or are easier to recycle?
- How does the cost of sustainable packaging impact your business?
- How do you balance the cost of packaging choices with the profit your company can make?

Challenges You Face:

- Sustainable materials can be expensive.
- Many customers expect cheap and convenient products.
- Switching to eco-friendly production methods takes time and money.

Waste Disposal Company

Role:

Your facilities manage garbage, recycling, and yard waste. You run landfills, recycling facilities, hazardous waste facilities, and compost facilities.

Key Questions to Consider:

- What more can you do to recycle and manage waste responsibly?
- Are consumers and manufacturers making your job harder by creating too much trash?
- What kind of costs do you take on to better handle waste produced by the people in your community?

Challenges You Face:

- Recycling requires strong partnerships between the community, your company, and manufacturers.
- Landfills are filling up quickly.
- Sometimes services like recycling cost more money than they make.

Government

Role:

You create and enforce laws about waste, recycling, and environmental protection. You decide on things like bans (ex, plastic bags, straws) and incentives (ex, bottle return programs).

Key Questions to Consider:

- Should you pass stricter laws to limit waste?
- How do you balance environmental concerns with business interests?
- Should you fine people or companies that create too much waste?

Challenges You Face:

- Businesses may resist strict rules.
- The public often has very strong opinions about waste-related rules and environmental protection.
- Some waste problems (like plastic in the ocean) require global cooperation.