

## ACTIVITY

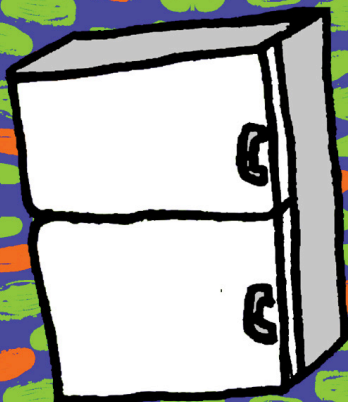
# City-wide Litter Index

When mobilizing against the issue of litter and illegal dumping, identifying the most commonly littered items is a great first step. That's why the Citywide Litter Index was created. It helps us understand the how, why, where, and what of litter in Philadelphia. Local groups like Trash Academy are already working to understand and address the issue of trash. They create fun yet informative games. We've borrowed their illustrations to create our own game based on the Litter Index. **Can you rank these items from most-to-least common in Philadelphia?**

## DIRECTIONS

**Cut on the dotted lines then sort the cards from most-to-least common in Philadelphia.**

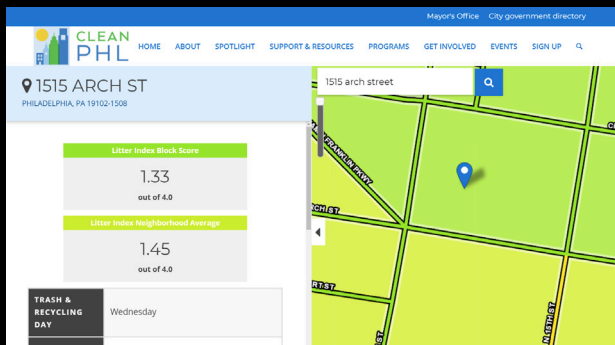
**Each card has an image on the front and a fun fact on the back.**



**TRASH ACADEMY** is a project of Mural Arts Philadelphia's Restored Spaces Initiative. The group uses art and creativity to transform communities and shift perspectives. Trash issues are often seen as behavioral issues but Trash Academy works to reveal systemic injustice. Following the principles of environmental justice, the intergenerational group supports those most impacted by environmental challenges to be at the forefront of crafting solutions.

Learn more about Trash Academy at [www.trashacademy.org](http://www.trashacademy.org).

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### Litter Index

Last year the Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet released its 2019 Litter Index Report. As part of the report, over 36,000 blocks in Philadelphia were surveyed, including streets, parks, recreation sites, public schools, SEPTA property, and more. According to the Litter Index, single-use disposables like paper, bottles, cans, and plastic bags are the most common across the city, while oversized materials like construction debris and furniture tend to be concentrated in certain areas.

Check out the Litter Index and find out how you can help keep Philadelphia on its path to becoming litter free!

#### TAKEOUT CONTAINERS OR DISPOSABLE PLATES/BOWLS

# 22%

Takeout containers are often made of Styrofoam, which is not recyclable. Plastic takeout containers are also no longer recyclable in Philadelphia.

#### DRINK BOTTLE OR CAN

# 22%

Bottles and cans are single-use and are recyclable curbside. Consider getting a reusable bottle to cut down on waste!

#### PAPER OR CARDBOARD

# 25%

Non-glossy paper and cardboard are recyclable curbside and can also be composted.

#### PLASTIC BAGS

# 13%

Philadelphia residents and visitors use one billion plastic bags each year. Plastic bags are not recyclable.

#### SNACK BAGS OR WRAPPERS

# 16%

The shiny lining in snack bags and candy bar wrappers is made of aluminum or mixed plastic, making these items not recyclable curbside.

#### DISPOSABLE CUPS, LIDS, OR STRAWS

# 21%

About 1% of all disposable cups, lids or straws are not recycled because most are lined with plastic. Get reusable cups, straws, and cutlery to cut down on waste!

Visit  
[www.cleanphl.org](http://www.cleanphl.org)  
to get started!

THANK YOU TO

 Mural Arts  
Philadelphia

#### FOOD WASTE

# 2%

Food waste is most common at SEPTA sites, green stormwater infrastructure assets maintained by PWD, and public shorelines.

#### CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS

# 9%

Construction debris is more common on blocks with the most trash and litter. It can be? a sign of illegal dumping.