

THE MONSTER FROM THE LANDFILL

A One-act Play to Celebrate Earth Day and the Practice of Precycling

Precycle: 'Consumers who **precycle** aren't just content with throwing cans and bottles in the recycle bin and letting waste management sort it out. With increasing consumer interest in sustainable living, those engaged in **precycling** aim to avoid products that create more superfluous stuff ... It is becoming a more popular viewpoint that recycling cans, bottles, paper and such is an antiquated misuse of energy, so **precyclers** remove themselves from junk mail lists, read paper-based media online and even carry around "**precycling** kits" consisting of cloth napkins and silverware – anything to reduce waste and not contribute to the recycling bin ...' Brandweek Magazine, August 12, 2008

Cast of Characters:

- Mom
- Dad
- Landfill Monster
- Children (5)
 - Napkin Kid 1
 - Napkin Kid 2
 - Shopping Kid 1
 - Shopping Kid 2
 - TP Boy

Props/Costumes:

- Nightgown and rollers for Mom
- PJ's and nightcap for Dad
- Blanket
- Landfill Monster costume: large white shirt with plastic bags, Styrofoam cups and plates pinned on
- Cloth napkins, green and yellow
- Reusable shopping bags
- Refrigerator magnets with Precycle Instructions, enough for whole congregation
- A huge Costco-sized package of multiple TP rolls

Scene opens with Mom and Dad in bed asleep center stage. Mom is wearing nightgown and her hair is in rollers. Dad is in PJ's and a nightcap. They share a blanket. Dad is tossing and turning and moaning and groaning...

Dad: Oh, no. Arrrrggghhh. Help!

While this is happening, the Landfill Monster (dressed in white pants and a big shirt with Styrofoam meat trays, plastic bags and other "junk" attached) walks

Frankenstein style from back stage right, across the stage to the center. While there, it “drops” a handful of white packaging peanuts on the floor. It then continues down the aisle, stiff legged, and out the Sanctuary door.

Dad continues his moaning and then Mom wakes him up.

Mom: Honey, honey, wake up. You’re having a bad dream.

Dad: Oh it was awful. A monster was filling all the landfills with plastic bags, Styrofoam cups and other non-disposable items. Landfills were taking over the world!

Mom: There, there, honey. It sounds terrible but it was just a dream. (*Glances over to the white packaging peanuts on the floor*) Oh, dear, what is that white stuff on our floor? (*acts horrified*)

Dad: Oh, no! My dream was real. Those white things are Landfill Monster droppings! We have to do something!

Mom: Wait. Remember? We have our Precycle List on our refrigerator and we have been putting those suggestions into practice.

Let’s see...We have been using cloth napkins and that’s on the list.

Napkin Kids 1 and 2 enter stage right.

Napkin Kid 1: I want to use the green napkins for breakfast! (*Whiney voice.*)

Napkin Kid 2 I want to use the yellow ones. (*Argumentative pose.*)

Mom: Just use half and half today. Your dad and I have bigger problems to solve.

Napkin Kids leave stage left chatting about their agreement.

Dad: Right. And I remember another suggestion on the Precycle List...buy large quantities...

TP Boy staggers to middle stage carrying a huge Costco-sized package of multiple TP rolls.

TP Boy: Mom, Dad, we ran out of TP in the bathroom (*hurriedly but clearly*). I’m refilling the holders right now!

Mom: Thank you, dear. (*Turning back to Dad.*) One very important precycle practice is to take reusable bags to the store with us.

Shopping Bag Kids 1 and 2 enter stage right, each carrying a reusable shopping bag.

Kid 1: Mom, Dad, we ran out of milk and eggs.

Kids 2: We're running to the store to get them right now

Both: And we have the shopping bags. *(Hold up bags.)*

Shopping Kids 1 and 2: exit stage left.

Dad: You are right, dear, we have been teaching our children to precycle and we have made a commitment to do what we can to prevent the Landfill Monster from taking over the world.

What else was on that list?

Mom: I remember a few more...Buy products with the least amount of packaging. Read labels for ingredients. Buy long life batteries and light bulbs. Don't purchase Styrofoam packaging on meats. That list is very helpful.

Dad: And don't forget what we have learned at Unity about caring for our planet. God made our earth beautiful and it's up to us to protect it.

Mom: And *(speak to the audience)* we are giving each one of you a Precycle List to put on your refrigerators. Thanks for doing your part.

Cast comes out to center stage to take a bow.

THE END