

Economic Optimizers Utopia Waste Management Plan Worksheet

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

You're in the top of your class in understanding real-world economics and business growth. And without the expanding dollar driving community prosperity for all, Utopia would be just another rag-tag jumble of buildings on a bleak landscape. So without your financial and business sense supporting any kind of plan, all the ideas from the other groups wouldn't be worth a \$2 bill.

Being so savvy on the economics of how the world turns nowadays will however cause you some friction with some of the other groups. For instance, the lofty Mother Earth Visionaries think that they can avert the natural forces of species extinction and climate change by spending the community's precious tax dollars on pie-in-the-sky ideas. Also beware of the Resource Recovery Squad. Their wild ideas often don't consider the long-range ROI or how their plan might stunt economic growth in other established industries, including some that are traded on Wall Street. And what's so infuriating is that most of them fail to understand that economics and GDP are the driving forces behind almost everything that's important to society.

Because of your superior economic intelligence, your group will formulate an innovative plan that doesn't spend Utopia's wealth on the insanity of a single engineered landfill that will simply fill up in a matter of years. Instead, you'll use raw rationale and the sound economics of simply digging a number of open dumps just outside the city limits. Rats and seagulls will carry away much of the garbage that the flies and decomposition don't consume. And the best part is that unlike those high-dollar engineers, dump rats, seagulls and flies don't demand a paycheck. Plus, when people use the dumps, you'll charge a hefty fee for dumping then use the money for developing new businesses within the community that spur more economic growth. It's a win-win made in economic heaven, or Utopia.

In class Sessions 3 and 4, you and the other groups will present their plans then have a class debate on solutions to developing an overall Utopia Waste Management plan that best serves the interests of Utopia citizens.

Consider these points below when developing your plan and debating in class:

- Begin your research by watching the classroom video, *Unearthing Landfills* (weblink TBD)
- Conduct research on the economics of building a large modern engineered landfill, including the salaries of all the engineers and operations staff. Then contrast and compare the costs of bulldozing four simple dump sites on the outskirts of town. List the economic pros and cons to make your points.
- Consider the interests of some of the other groups and be prepared to convert or challenge their ideas into ROIs and their economic "worth" to society. During debate, challenge them to make economic sense of their ideas.
- Be prepared to debate with some of the groups about the sensible balance between economic prosperity and harm to the planet. Research before the debate to support how all species have been going extinct for eons and that climate change has occurred for 4 million years... long before dumps and landfills existed on the landscape.