Congratulations on being appointed to the Utopia Grand Council. Unlike other groups, you have a broad and balanced understanding of the entire community. You also have a strong sensibility of the interrelationships between the various stakeholders and realize they are often motivated by subjective goals that primarily serve their interests.

Your group understands the history of dumps and evolution of engineered landfills and the implications of both on a community’s wellbeing. This knowledge helps you understand the dynamics of how the changing values in society can shape people’s perceptions about various waste streams and their role in the waste management hierarchy.

Because of your Grand Council wisdom, your group will conduct online research and prepare your own Utopia Waste Management plan that supports the best interest of the community’s citizens and governmental operations. When developing your plan, consider how the goals of the other groups may conform or conflict with your goals. In class Sessions 3 and 4, 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 the various groups, Utopia citizens (both present and future), and other ecological members within and near your community.

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

- Begin your research by watching the classroom video, Stewarding Our Waste (weblink TBD)

- Because other groups lack your understanding of how the entire community needs to function, you must speak strongly on behalf of the citizens in Utopia. If their wellbeing is negatively impacted, your voice needs to provide balance and reason; and you must convince them that your wellbeing depends on conservation of key species.

- Some groups will present research and arguments to support their individual goals. Because they might not comprehend the concept of “community wellbeing” and the responsibility that goes with that, you debate using the “greater social wellbeing” as your guiding principle.

- As members of the Grand Council, you will also take a leadership role in assisting the teacher in facilitating classroom debate and keeping order within your community.