

# Problem Statement

Americans are not recycling as much as they should be; the USA is only recycling 34% of the waste that could be recycled. Trash has been around for centuries and has always been a problem. Although recycling has been around for years it was the environmental movement in 1970s that really got people going. Currently, most recyclable goods are either ending up in landfills or in the ocean harming the environment which could be prevented by just recycling.



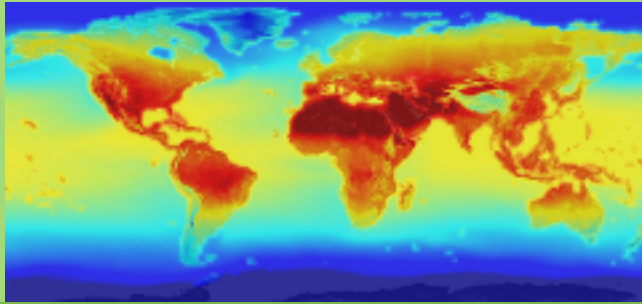
## SCROUNGER

ALAN OSWALDO LOPEZ  
AXEL MARTINEZ VASQUEZ  
GABRIEL JASON SANCHEZ  
SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL  
ALANLOPEZ720@GMAIL.COM  
2312 S BURNSIDE AVE



## A Green Earth





## Background

- Large cities, such as Los Angeles, struggle to surpass the 34% national recycling average.
- The production of new plastics release CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, aiding global warming.
- Plastic buried deep in landfills can release harmful chemicals that can contaminate the ground water.

## Statistics

- 75% of glass ends up in landfills.
- 90% of recyclable material ends up in landfills.
- It takes over 1-2 million years for one glass bottle to fully decompose.
- Recycling reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy.
- The average person generates 4 pounds of trash every day.
- Americans throw away about 28 million bottles and jars every year.

## Reasons

- Most recyclable materials are not being recycled.
- The recycling industry can employ new workers and save millions of dollars.
- The global recycling industry is valued at 600 billion, while recycling only 10% of total materials available.