

ARTG 5120 RESEARCH PROJECT

Recycling in Boston

Interview Transcripts

December 2022

Interviewee: Jason:

[Can you tell me about your recycling routine?](#)

Sure. So as part of normal cleanups or whatever, let's say I come home with a bag of groceries and the bag happens to be a paper bag. I first take everything out of the bag, put that stuff away and then hold up the bag, put it into a special bin in my kitchen labeled recycle. I throw it in the plastic lined garbage bin basically. It's a 13 gallon garbage bin that I labeled recycle. And then that pulls up over the week. And then every week around, let's say, every seven, eight days, take out the trash, which includes the recycling bag. So take out both of the plastic bags, the one would be recycling stuff in it which could include let's say, glass bottles or paper bags again or letters, paper letters that I receive that I no longer want. Anything that's like paper, cardboard related goes into that bin. And then there's a separate blue bin outside that's used for recycling. I throw the plastic bag in there along with all the contents inside, bring out that bin to the curb and then the trash goes into a separate trash bin - black trash bin. And take that also outside for trash day.

[You live in a house?](#)

I live in an apartment. There's three floors. So there are three trash cans and three recycle bins but the house as a whole usually doesn't generate enough recycling to need to pull out all the bins. So usually there's only one recycling bin out there, either myself or one of the other tenants brings out the trash, or brings out the recycling bin for the trash. Usually two or three trash bins are out there.

[So it's not like the truck will come every day for pickup.](#)

Yeah. Trash comes every week on Thursdays or Fridays at 8 to 9 AM.

[How do you get information on recycling?](#)

Are you saying what I determine as recycling, or what way I would find out if it's supposed to be recyclable? I know where to find it. There's a government website for Summerville. SomervilleMA.gov or something like that. That's the government website. Go there, you can search recycling and it gives you a full list of things that you can recycle, but to be fully frank, I don't check that. I do it based on past experience of things that I know are recyclable, and then there's never been an issue in terms of them taking the recycling. They've always taken it as is. So if there is something that I've been recycling, that isn't allowed, I had not been told so.

[So your past experience includes education from school and parents.](#)

Yes

[When do you sort recyclables immediately after, or at the specific time?](#)

Immediately. So when you're throwing something away, you either pick the trash can, or the recycling bin.

[So you don't just roll it on the floor.](#)

No, do you?

[What if I receive a package from Amazon, so I have to decide if I need to return it or not. So I just keep it until I make my decision.](#)

Sure. I keep the boxes? But if anything you're throwing away, you're like, all right, to see if it's recyclable or it's not. You throw it in the right bin. You don't throw it into a general bin and then sort it later. That seems dumb to me.

So when you receive a paper box, the package in the box, you immediately put it in the recycle thing and you don't keep it in your home first?

Sorry, sorry there's two separate questions here then. So when you talk about, like an Amazon package, right? A box, a carpet box that bubble wrap in there and you have your item. I do the same thing as you. So like I open the package, I put the box aside, I take out the packaging material, I put that in a recycling and then I take out whatever content inside and use it. But I sometimes keep the cardboard box in my room, just in case, I need to wrap up a gift or use it for something. But over time, let's say a month or two months, I do a spring cleaning like, oh, I'm never gonna use this box. I cut it out, I flatten it into, you know, the cardboard form. And then recycle it. That's specifically for like packages though. I'm talking about, like, otherwise, like you've received, you know, the grocery bag scenario, you bring food home, you fold up the grocery bag and you bring them to recycle. I don't keep those.

So you immediately sort them and then wait until trash day to take it out, right?

Yes. Every seven days, I take out the trash.

Do you have any challenges with recycling? What are they?

Challenges? Not recently. The only challenge I've had before is when I lived in Cambridge. So when I lived there, they're more strict on their, I guess, recycling methods? What happened was we just threw everything into plastic bags and the recyclable materials is flying in terms of, you know, the recyclable stuff. But what happened was be through the whole bag there, tied up whatever and we got an orange sticker the next day. On top saying, you need to take out stuff from the plastic bag and we're like, it's recyclable, it doesn't matter. It all goes in the same place but apparently, at least for Cambridge. They want you to dump out everything out of the plastic bag and then they'll take it. So that was the only time I've ever had issues recycling, otherwise in Sommerville right here now, I can throw the whole plastic bag in there with all the recyclable content without issues.

Was there recyclable recycled back clear or just white. I mean can it be seen through?

It's white. It can't be seen through, it's not transparent.

So did you follow the instructions later when you lived in Cambridge?

Yes. When we once got that orange notice, then we took it out of the plastic bag every time and threw it each day.

So that was the only one you experienced. I mean challenges.

Yes.

INTRODUCTION

We conducted interviews with eight participants, evenly distributed between males and females in their 20s and 30s. The interviews aimed to gather qualitative insights into participants' recycling routines, their sources of recycling information, their recycling habits, challenges they face, and their experiences with the gamification activity.

Interview Questions:

Tell me about your recycling routine:

Participants were asked to describe their typical recycling practices, including how they sort and dispose of recyclables.

How do you get information on recycling?

This question aimed to understand the sources participants rely on for recycling-related information, such as online resources, government guidelines, or community channels.

When do you sort recyclables?

Participants were asked if they sort their recyclables immediately after use or at a specific time, providing insights into their recycling habits and routines.

Do you have any challenges with recycling?

Participants were encouraged to share any difficulties or obstacles they encounter when recycling, allowing us to identify common challenges and potential areas for improvement.

The gamification activity

Participants were asked about their experiences with the quiz game that tested their recycling knowledge. This question aimed to gather feedback on the engagement level and effectiveness of the gamification approach.

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS

Interviewee: Moh

Tell me about your recycling routine. Please.

We live in Framingham. The recycling comes every Thursday, so basically we have to take our recycling bin out and put it on the sidewalk and the recycling truck comes and picks up whatever is in the recycling bin. So we basically recycle cans, bottles, cardboard, plastic, sometimes if it's recyclable plastic recycled that. Yeah, so that's pretty much our recycling routine. In terms of how frequently our recycle bin gets full, I want to say twice a month, because our recycling can is pretty big, so twice a month, we go out and give everything to recycle. So yeah, that's our recycling routine.

So you live in a house, right?

Yes. Yes.

Your recycling bin is outside the house. So how do you, how often do you take your recyclables out?

Twice a month.

Every Thursday, you take it out to the club side, right?

Yes, yes, yes.

Question number two, how do you get information on recycling?

The city of Framingham? They have a website that details, when the recycling van is gonna come, when they're not gonna come, especially if it's like a government holiday, they don't come that frequently. So the city of Framingham does a pretty good job on the front of the website. They do a pretty good job of informing when the recycling, what date, what time the recycling van is gonna come and pick up the recyclables.

Okay, so that's for the schedule part. How do you know what kind of stuff is recyclable?

It is on the website as well.

Yeah. Do you check?

Yes.

And also, you have to buy recycling bins from the city of Framingham and that recycling bin details, all the stuff that you can and cannot recycle.

It's on the cover, right?

Yeah. It's on the cover of the bin.

And question number three, when do you sort recyclables immediately after or at a specific time?

Like when you bring something home and then something inside is recyclable.

Yeah. So yeah, so in our home we have a trash can and a recycle can. So we immediately. Whatever is supposed to be recycled. We put it in the recycle bin. So the sorting is quite immediate

But when you get something from Amazon, that comes with a paper package, do you also right away?

Right away. Yep

How do you know if you are gonna return it or not?

Most likely, we don't return it. So I would say that because everything is separate, you know, if we do need to recycle we will, you know, take the box out. So, I will say in almost 95% of the cases, recycling and sorting is done immediately.

So you flatten the box?

Not always. If I have a lot to recycle, I will flatten the box. If I don't have a lot to recycle. I will just... because our recycle bin is pretty big. If I don't have a lot to recycle, I'll just throw the box as it is.

So for those milk boxes like those food boxes. Do you clean the food residues before you throw it to recyclables?

Yes, yes, absolutely. So yeah if there's like a pickle jar glass because or anything will make sure to clean the can or the glass bottle before it goes out for recycling.

Okay. So you clean it but do you also rinse it?

Yes, yes. But not very clean, basic rinse

Question number four, do you have any challenges with recycling? What are they?

We don't have challenges with recycling, I guess I mean, if it's like a large item, you know, like if it's like a very big item that cannot fit in a recycled box, then that might be a challenge. But other than that, like, you know, we don't really have a challenge with recycling. It's fine.

So, your county does not monitor what you recycle, you put in the recycling, like, if you done something, but they don't take it. Will that happen?

No, that does not happen. Okay. That's the end of the questions.

Interviewee: Yuhao

Can you introduce yourself and tell us some basic information about yourself?

I am now in my fifth year in the U.S. I previously attended Auburn University as an undergraduate and now live in Boston. I share an apartment here with two roommates. Originally, during my undergraduate years, there was no rule about separating trash, we would all throw our trash together.

Thank you for your cooperation, I have learned about your background. Now I have a few questions for you, first of all "tell me about your recycling routine"

Usually, all I need to recycle are my favorite soda drink cans. Usually, when I have a paper box in my living room, I will just throw all the finished drink bottles in the paper box. I learned here in Boston that many supermarkets buy drinks and water can be taken back for recycling to get a certain refund, so I will take a special big bag to collect these finished water bottles and bring them to the supermarket for exchange when I go shopping next time.

You just mentioned the benefit of getting the refund, I'm curious if you really got the corresponding cashback reward for recycling the bottles. What is the approximate amount?

I really got the refund, in my impression Costco there is a special station to recycle recyclable waste, and all the water, and beverage-related products that we buy in Costco after we finish drinking can go there for recycling, and scan the barcode to identify. I can probably get about \$5-10 at a time.

Okay, I understand. The next question is "how do you get information on recycling?"

Our apartment has more prominent signs and instructions on the trash pipes on each floor and the recyclable trash deposit point on the negative floor, which is how I learned about them all.

When do you sort recyclables? Immediately after, or at a specific time?

I will immediately throw away the recyclable garbage I drink and use in the space I have allocated in my own home. But if I move it downstairs for the apartment to dispose of, I don't have a fixed time, it's a paper box collection as soon as it's full. For those bottles that can have a refund, I remember to bring them with me when I go to Costco once every two weeks, because the money redeemed can be used directly for spending.

Do you have any challenges with recycling? What are they?

This is too much trouble. Because the rule of our apartment is that the paper boxes cannot be put in the trash room on the same floor, you need to take them to the first floor specially to collect them. And general trash we just need to throw down the trash pipe on the same floor. So I need to throw out the trash in two places, and sometimes there is so much trash that I even have to use the luggage cart of the apartment to finish the whole process of trash collection and disposal.

Quiz activity (Kahoot)

This test is pretty interesting and doesn't take too much time, and there are point rankings. I found it very interesting and I learned a lot of trivia about garbage collection policy that I didn't even know before.

Interviewee: Tracy

Can you introduce yourself and tell us some basic information about yourself?

This is my first year in Boston and I am in graduate school. I lived in Shanghai for five years before coming to Boston, and Shanghai has a very strict waste separation policy, and I learned all about recyclable waste from my community science education in Shanghai.

Thank you for your cooperation, I have learned about your background. Now I have a few questions for you, first of all "tell me about your recycling routine"

Generally every time I finish using or drinking a thing will throw him promptly into the paper bags I had put in place, these paper bags are used to hold goods after I shopped in various stores, but I habitually leave them so I can use them to hold some milk bottles, cans, and plastic water bottles or something very convenient.

Did you know that there are some recyclable bottles that we can take back to the appropriate buying store for recycling and there will be some cashback rewards?

This is something I seem to have heard of, but I have not successfully implemented it. The only thing I have done personally is to return the glass bottles from trade joe's because I put a deposit on them at the time of purchase. I shop at trade joe's every week so it's not hard for me to return the bottles and I would like to get my deposit back.

And how do you deal with the general recyclable trash, I mean the type without cashback?

If my recycling paper bag is full, I'll drop it off at our trash room, although it doesn't seem like it should be over there.

But did you know that there is a special collection area for recyclable waste on the negative floor of our apartment?

A little bit ashamed that I knew there was such a place, but I never went there to throw it.

Okay, I understand. The next question is "how do you get information on recycling?"

Because I lived in Shanghai for several years before, Shanghai has a very strict waste separation policy. So my awareness of garbage sorting now is left by my memory at that time, and sometimes I also rely on my feelings.

So with your own feelings, what do you think should be recycled? Can you name a few specific ones?

I think boxes, bottles and cans are all recyclable. As long as it's in the can category I'll stay and consider it recyclable. Before each collection, I make sure the vessel is clean and empty, and I usually take water and rinse it before throwing it away.

When do you sort recyclables? Immediately after, or at a specific time?

I will put the recyclables in my own paper bag right away, but it may depend on the situation, and I will only think of throwing them away when I can't put them away or when I have time.

Do you have any challenges with recycling? What are they?

I didn't seem to have any difficulty because I was already a bit spontaneous and didn't seem to follow the rules to sort and discard. So I don't seem to have any difficulties either.

Interviewee: Hannah

Hi, my name is Victoria. So, I'm a student in Experience Design at Northeastern University. The project my team is doing now is related to recycling sorting in Boston. We want to know how you feel about the system and your experiences related to recycling. Just remember there is no right or wrong answer, and everything you say will be recorded to help us get insights, if that's ok to you.

So, what is your name?

My name is Hanwen Zhang. You can also call me Hanna.

Alright. How old are you Hanna?

Well, I'm 23 years old, studying at Northeastern University as well, like you.

So how long have you lived in Boston?

About 5 years, since my undergrad school. Although I lived in the house before, near Boston, not this apartment.

Oh, it is a long time. So you are familiar with the system here right?

yeah. Definitely. I mean, the process seems very simple here, just dividing them into recyclables and non-recyclables.

Sounds easy, please tell me about your routine and how you usually do it?

Personally, I'll separate them every time I throw trash away. For example, waste paper, bottles and cans, which are recyclable, I will put them in my used cardboard boxes. Well, then something like batteries and metals? I don't think I can recycle it or randomly throw it away like garbage, because it is highly toxic and will cause serious harm to the environment. Other than that, I think you should recycle all you can. Because right now the environment is affected by all the garbage that we create. Recycling is actually good. It can improve our living environment.

What about this recycled information?

Sometimes, I'll find those related information on the news. I will also search the website. In addition, I will also learn about the classification policies in other countries. For example, for Japan, they will carefully deal with regular trash, recycles and others. They even divide it into ten to twenty categories to recycle or dispose of. One interesting thing that I've learnt is that they also have a classification name called "Resource". They also have "Combustible" and "Non-combustible" types of trash.

Their ways of doing so may cause inconvenience and trouble. but it may also have something to do with the good environment in Japan. About websites, I always search directly on the search engine to see if this thing can be recycled or not. If they can be recycled, I will put them in my recycling carton.

Looks like you believe that the environment is related to trash classification and how we deal with it. And you are included by how Japanese sort their trash. So how is your family dealing with recycling? Does it change your way or opinion about recycling? How?

Well, actually, my parents are a little more picky about that. At some points, I've learnt from my parents, about how to sort them. To be honest, back in China, I think the reason for pollution is that we are not properly sorting and recycling the trash we created. For some garbage like trash in the kitchen should be

directly thrown away. But for others, we should know how to recycle it. This is a kind of protection for the environment.

Can you describe one of your recent recycling experiences? And why you choose to recycle it rather than just throwing them away.

About why I choose to recycle? I think maybe because of my habit and what I learnt from my friends and my family members. What they did and how they dealt with each classification have influenced me on my behavior. I learn and sort information from them. Besides, it can also help with sustainability and our living environments. One of my recent experiences...oh, maybe after I finish my snacks and unpacking my shopping goods or packages, it will produce a lot of trash. For those snacks bags, they are just general trash I think, because they are made of plastic. In this case, I'll just throw them in the trash can. But for those package paper bags or cardboard boxes, I'll bring them to the recycling can in the trash room in the building. There is a unique trash room on each floor to help collect all the recycles. I think my apartment hired someone to collect it for us everyday, so I don't have to go downstairs to do it, which is easier for me. The general trash and recycles are two or three cans, in different colors. I also noticed that there is a notification paper on the trash room wall to help me remember how to do the classification.

What do you do if you come across garbage that you don't know how to sort?

Please give me a minute to think about it.

No problem. Take your time.

I can usually tell if it's bad for the environment. If it's bad for the environment, I definitely will not throw it in the trash bin as regular trash. But sometimes I can't find a particular trash can for toxic trash. In this case something like batteries will be thrown into the recycle bin. To be honest, the trash that I don't know how to deal with will always go into the regular trash bin. Sometimes I don't care if it's in the right place.

So in this case, you would not search on the internet to figure out which classification they are in?

Yeah. Because sometimes it is hard to find the correct answer. There are so many classification variations on the internet, which is hard to distinguish.

How often do you recycle? Or when do you sort recyclables?

Well, it depends. As you know, recycles are different from the general trash like organic ones. They don't have bad smells. So it depends on how many boxes or recycles that I have on the floor. Like I said before, I'll put them in a bigger cardboard box or paper bags I have. Then I put them on the floor. If there is no bigger container, maybe I'll use plastic bags although I don't think it is the right thing to do. I'll try to get rid of it when it blocks the way. I have a roommate so I also have to consider the tidiness of the common area. I can't tell the exact number of how often I recycle because it really depends on the quantity and size of our recyclables. Sometimes, my roommate will also help me to get rid of those recyclables.

Do you have any difficulty with recycling? For example, sometimes you don't know what to do with it? Or lack of information?

Not really. But sometimes I do have a moment that I don't know where to put and I can't find clear information, neither online nor in the trash room. But those things will always end up in a regular trash bin.

I know you are from China, so do you think there are differences between the sorting system here and there, back in your hometown?

Yeah definitely. Maybe because of different thoughts about recycling. When I'm in China, it was already three years ago. People will still throw all the trash into one bin, including recyclables. But later, the policy changed. However, in some rural areas, they still don't know how to recycle. But for busy cities like Shanghai, they have a totally different and complex system. I don't know, maybe because of education and the government.

[If you have a magic wand, what do you want to do with the current system in Boston?](#)

I know that even for recycling, there are also different types of recycles. In this case, maybe there will be more detailed classification, with clearer information provided. If we do so, it is easier for workers to do the classification. Or maybe they don't even need to do extra work on classification, they can just pay more attention to how to deal with them, which is a way of saving more time.

[Hanna, as you mentioned before, you are influenced by your friends and family members.](#)

[Can you be more specific?](#)

Sometimes I'll listen to them if they say that I'm wrong with what I'm doing. For example, I did not know that milk boxes can be recycled. I always put them in the trash bin, with unfinished milk in it. But more than one time, I saw my roommate take out my milk box from the trash can and empty it before putting it in the recycle bin. Moreover, she also told me that they are recyclable materials. After that I try to pay attention to not putting it in the wrong place. But you know, sometimes, habits or behaviors are hard to change in a short time.

[Last question~ You said that you lived in the house before moving into this apartment right?](#)

[What's the difference between these two situations?](#)

Well, they all have somebody to collect recycles for you. However, it is hard to distinguish the bins. Some of them are the same color, maybe just in that area. After I moved in, I noticed that there are houses on the back of the street. But the bins there are colorful, also with those "recycle" symbols on some of them. I did not remember the color, but I can tell which one is the recycle bin once I see it. The information is clearer than before. Another difference might be...the sorting time, for workers. Maybe they use different companies. For houses, usually workers will collect them once a week. But I'm not sure about the apartment, maybe everyday? I don't need to wait till that day to take all my recycles out and put them in the recycle bin.

[I think that's all the questions we have for now. If we have further information, can we reach out to you for more information?](#)

Sure. No problem.

Thanks for your time and have a nice day.

Interviewee: Sheen

Victoria:

Hi, my name is Victoria. So, today I'm gonna give you an interview about our project today. Basically, our project is trying to find out how people sorted their recycling, especially in Boston, and the recycling system. So we want to know how you feel about it and how you do it during your daily lives. Okay, so there's no wrong or right answers. We just want to know your feelings, get information and move forward.

Sheen:

Okay

Victoria:

So what's your name?

Sheen:

Hi, thank you for inviting me to join your interview. My name is Sheen. And I'm a graduate student in Massachusetts college of Art and Design. I lived in Boston for about a year.

Victoria:

Oh, just one year?

Sheen:

Yeah.

Victoria:

Are you familiar with the current trash sorting or recycling system in Boston here?

Sheen:

Yeah. Actually, we also have some projects related to recycling. So we did a little bit of research about the recycling system in Boston, trying to find a way to help people dealing with their cardboards or boxes issue. And yeah, I'm familiar with that.

Victoria:

Okay. So can you tell me about your recycling routine? How do you do that?

Sheen:

Ummm, actually, I think in my life, I mean in my current life, I don't have any kind of recycling routine, because all of our trash is just put in a single one trash can. I'm not sure if our apartment has different places for recycling items. I only know the trash room on every floor. It is an old dumping system.

Victoria:

Can you describe it more specially? About the system in your apartment?

Sheen:

We don't have trash cans in the trash room, but a kind of tube thing. I have to squeeze the trash bag or boxes so hard to help it fit in that tube. Sometimes, boxes are too big to fit in. In that case, I may just leave them on the floor in the trash room. Or if I have time, I may take them downstairs and throw them into the bigger trash cart. I realized that there are some larger carts at the back of the building. However, they are always locked down. I have to throw them over the locked fences. It is hard for a woman like me, and sometimes, it is hard to get all the recycles down at one time. But I know that our apartment hired workers to collect those big carts for us. I've seen it once.

Victoria:

So will you separate the kitchen waste, recycling and other types of trash?

Sheen:

We just put those trash in one box because it is not convenient to separate them. Sometimes the information is not clear enough to let me know how to classify them.

Victoria:

Why do you think it is not convenient?

Sheen:

The first thing that influenced my decision to not to separate them is that they don't have a specific category list that helps me do that. Then the recycle carts are too far away.

Victoria:

So when do you sort your recycles?

Sheen:

For me, maybe after shopping or getting boxes from amazon or other online shopping. Then maybe I'll separate the boxes and think about whether I can reuse them in the future. If it is useless, I'll just throw them away.

Victoria:

So before you live in Boston, where do you live? And how is the system there?

Sheen:

Ohhh, I used to live in Shanghai with my husband and my parents live there too, but not with us. For the system in Shanghai, they have strict policy about how to classify different types of trash. And in my previous community, residents are even asked to separate different boxes. For example, we can not combine the milk box with the cardboard box. They are different trash cans in different colors and signs to help us recognize each of them. For example, for kitchen trash, we'll put them in a white can, and if we have plastic bottles, it should be in the other can. Sorry I forgot about the color, cus it was a long time ago.

Victoria:

So from your answer, I know that there is a huge difference between the system here and the system back in your hometown Shanghai. So I wonder, after you moved here, how do you manage the way you are gonna recycle?

Sheen:

Yeah. In Boston, one problem is where I can put all my big stuff. For instance, the mattress. They are huge. If I don't want it anymore and I don't even have time to sell them, I can't find a place to put it or recycle it. I know that there is a tradition here. Everything on the street, I mean those furniture, there is a "rule" that says all the furniture on the street is free to take. However, if nobody wants it, who is in charge? I think that's one challenge for me. But you know, back in Shanghai, there are some places where you can put all your big stuff like a mattress. It is very convenient because it is near my community. Then the government will send people there to collect them.

Victoria:

That's cool. When you are doing recycling, are there any problems like you don't know where to put them?

Sheen:

Yeah. I think the most important thing is that sometimes I don't know that it can be recycled and I put it with my regular trash. I don't know how to separate them.

Victoria:

How do you get that information if you don't know how to classify them?

Sheen:

For information, I'll use Google to search about recycling. Also, if I have some electronic stuff I want to recycle but I just searched the place around our apartment. There is no place to recycle that product. So I did some research. And I found that the Boston government will hold some activities. They will send out somebody to help the residents who live in Boston to recycle their products, something like the electronics products, fabrics or plastics. There are

bunches of websites that teach people how to classify their trash, as well as some videos. However, I'm not sure about it. Sometimes, two websites might have different categories.

Victoria:

Okay, so why do you choose to recycle, I mean back in Shanghai, but not recycle here?

Sheen:

The first reason might be the policy, which influenced me most about recycling or not. With the policy, I'll search for information about how to separate them. If we don't do so, there might be a penalty, they may charge me or so.

Victoria:

So do you think your parents, friends or surroundings will affect your actions or opinions about recycling?

Sheen:

Yeah. My family members liked my grandmother and she preferred to recycle, because she didn't want to waste anything. Maybe carry us. Yeah. So when we look at her just recycling some stuff. She will find out something that can be reused, from the trash bin, if they're put in the wrong bin. Maybe sometimes I've learnt from her and mimic her actions to see if anything can be recycled or reused.

Victoria:

If you have a magic wand, what do you want to do with the current recycle system in Boston? Especially for recycling.

Sheen:

Okay. I think for recycling we need to have different advice for different stakeholders. Like if we have like, for example, the government can have some policies in Boston to push their aid to the recycling systems. I think that may be a really good point to help them improve that. Also for the residents, I think the government should focus on information education. The school or community can educate the residents to know how important the recycling action is, especially for our environments. Also, maybe the government can also seek help from non-profit organizations. Some experts may better know how to recycle a product. For example, Apple encourages people to trade in their products. On the one hand, the company can use some parts of the product. On the other hand, customers can earn money from that, so they are more willing to recycle.

Victoria:

Here is a small Kahoot activity, I'll send you the link now:

Sheen:

(Playing the game and learn something)

Interviewee: Shreya

Question: Tell me about your recycling routine:

Shreya:

Currently we just have like two different trash cans in the house for one will be for like food waste and the other is for recycling. So whenever I use stuff or anything that can be recycled, I just put it in the trash can which we use for recycling and then put it out for trash day.

Question: When do you sort recyclables? Immediately after, or at a specific time? So for instance, if you were drinking something in a container that is recyclable, once you're done do you put it in the recycling bin, immediately or wait for much later to sort that out?

Shreya:

Yeah, I don't really wait. I just throw it out in the recycle when i'm done

Question:

How do you get your information on recycling?

Shreya:

How do I get it? I don't really have a particular source of information which tells me how, when, and what should be recycled? I just have a general idea that I use to do it

Question:

Have you tried to, out of curiosity, checked for any information specifically, just to test your assumption of what should be recycled or not recycled?

Shreya:

No, before this, I have never.

Question:

Ok, how did you score in the quiz?

Shreya:

Especially with picking out the recycling stuff, I realized that there are a few things that I think are recyclable, but they generally aren't. Yeah, that is one thing I found out.

Question:

You also probably thought that bubble wrap is recyclable, yea?

Shreya:

{laughs} yes I did

Question

Yeah. Then do you have any challenges with recycling?

Shreya:

I think mainly it would be like, trying to sort of what is recyclable? What isn't recyclable? like even like, cans of juice or something? Is it recyclable or not? Do we like need to clean it before putting it into recycling?

Question:

In your apartment, are there any instructions to help anyone with recycling?

Shreya:

No, we don't have any such information.

Question:

Okay, what do you think would be valuable or helpful to improve your knowledge of recycling?

Shreya:

I know this information is easily available if we look up online, but no one really does it. But I feel like if they handed out like flyers or something, I would read that. Otherwise, I don't think I will sit and look for stuff to see how recycling should be done.

Interviewee: KC

Question: Can you tell me about your recycling routine?

KC: So usually we have two dustbins, one is for basic recycle material and one is for the waste, which is not recycled. In my house, every room has their own small bins for the waste before throwing it into the larger bin which we have like one for recycling and one for the wet waste or non-recyclable waste. For recycling, we usually put the milk cartons, anything cans, or any glass bottles, papers, all that stuff goes into the recycling bin and the other waste goes into like the wet waste or the other bin.

Question: How do you get your information and recycling?

KC:

Basically, each and every recycling product has a recycling sign on it. Like we do know like the paper bags and the bags which we get from the grocery store are recyclable. So we do like if we don't want them we just throw it in there. That's the only way we do that.

Question: Does your building provide any information on recycling?

KC:

No, the building does not

Question: Have you tried to check for information to test or verify your knowledge of recycling?

KC:

No, not really.

Question: When do you sort recyclables? Immediately after, or at a specific time? So for instance, if you were drinking something in a container that is recyclable, once you're done do you put it in the recycling bin, immediately or wait for much later to sort that out?

KC:

Like usually what we do like our building management has given us big dustbins which are kept downstairs in the backyard of the building. So whenever our recycling bin is filled in the house, we pick it up, tie the knot to it and we will just go down and throw it in the recycling bin and we do that with the other waste too.

Question: Do you have any challenges with recycling?

KC: hmmm, not really.

Question: In there anything you feel can be done to help you recycle better?

KC:

If each and every person in the house does that properly, it is good but sometimes it does get mixed up. So sometimes it is a hassle that we again have to re-segregate. Because when I used to live in Malden, they had specific rules and regulations like they had provided specific garbage bags for recycling and other waste. were different for the waste or the other waste. The bags were totally different so that was like a more easier way to figure out which is recycling and which is non recycled.

Question: How did you perform in the quiz?

KC:

It was okay. I didn't do that well. The first your answers, some of them were correct, and some of them were not.

Question: So based on the quiz, do you feel like you know enough about recycling?

KC:

So I think I have an "okay" knowledge about it, but I do feel like I can learn more about it.