



**green
school**

Waste Reduction Plan 2025-2026

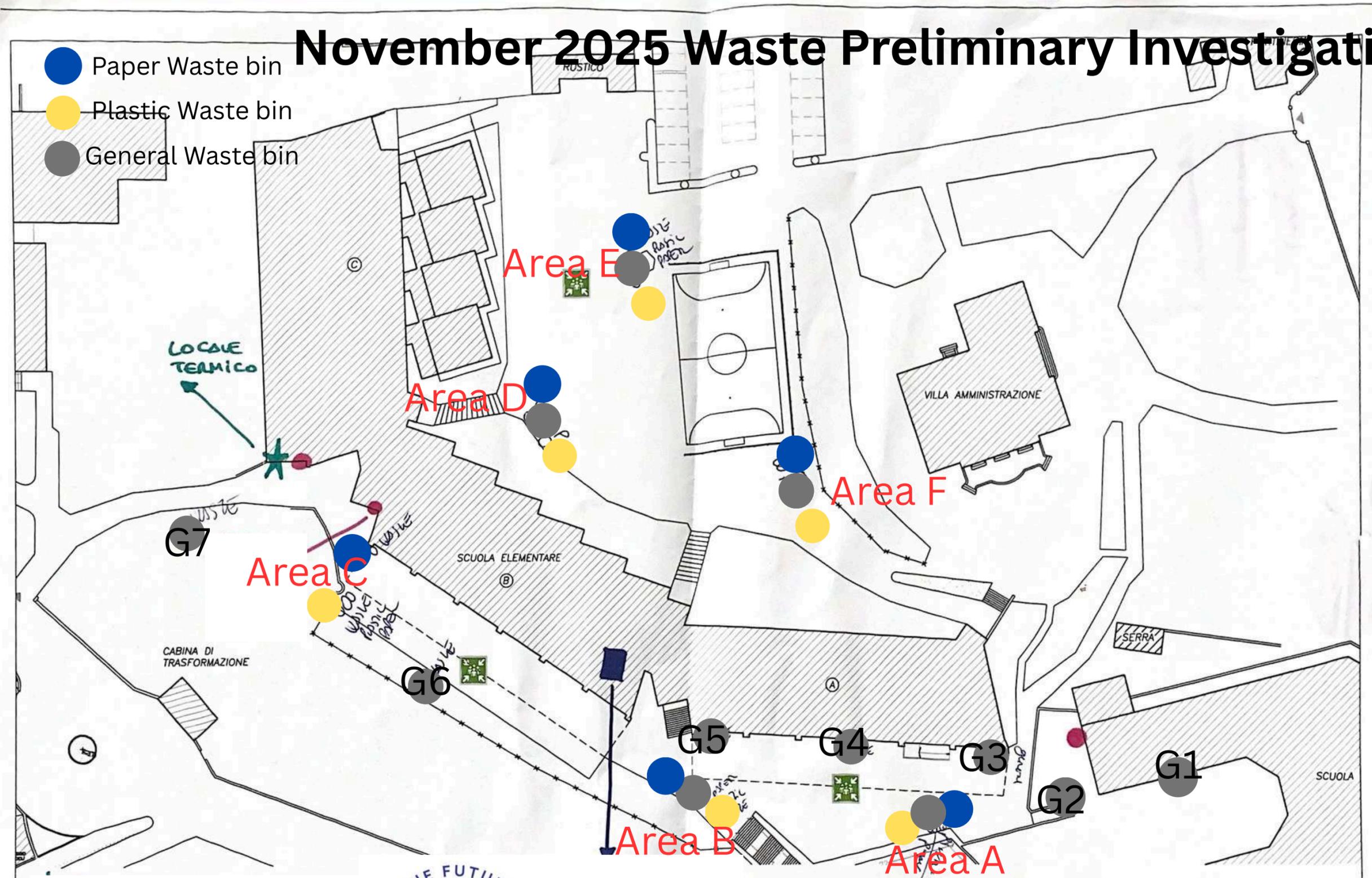


Project Plan and Timeline:

- November 2025 - Student Council meet to make a preliminary investigation about waste in our playground and begin measuring our waste
- January 2026 - Student Council make a plan to reduce our waste, improve recycling and reduce litter
- January 2026 - All classes are sent educational information about waste and asked to design posters for the bins
- January/February 2026 - New bins and procedures implemented
- March 2026 - Remeasuring takes place to assess the impact

November 2025 Waste Preliminary Investigation

- Paper Waste bin
- Plastic Waste bin
- General Waste bin



SCUOLA EUROPEA DI VARESE
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Planimetria Punti di Raccolta
ottobre 2022



External Waste Preliminary Investigation



Good Points

1. There are a lot of bins
2. There are bins to separate plastic, paper and general waste
3. The bins are well distributed around the school grounds
4. The bins are mostly colour coded and labelled



Bad Points

1. The bins are not all labelled properly - how can students know what does in each bin?
2. There are too many isolated grey general bins which means that recycling doesn't take place in that area
3. Inspecting the bins we see that the waste in the bins are not being properly sorted (food is put in all of the bins, plastic in paper etc)
4. There is a lot of litter around on the ground on both playgrounds despite the bins being in place.



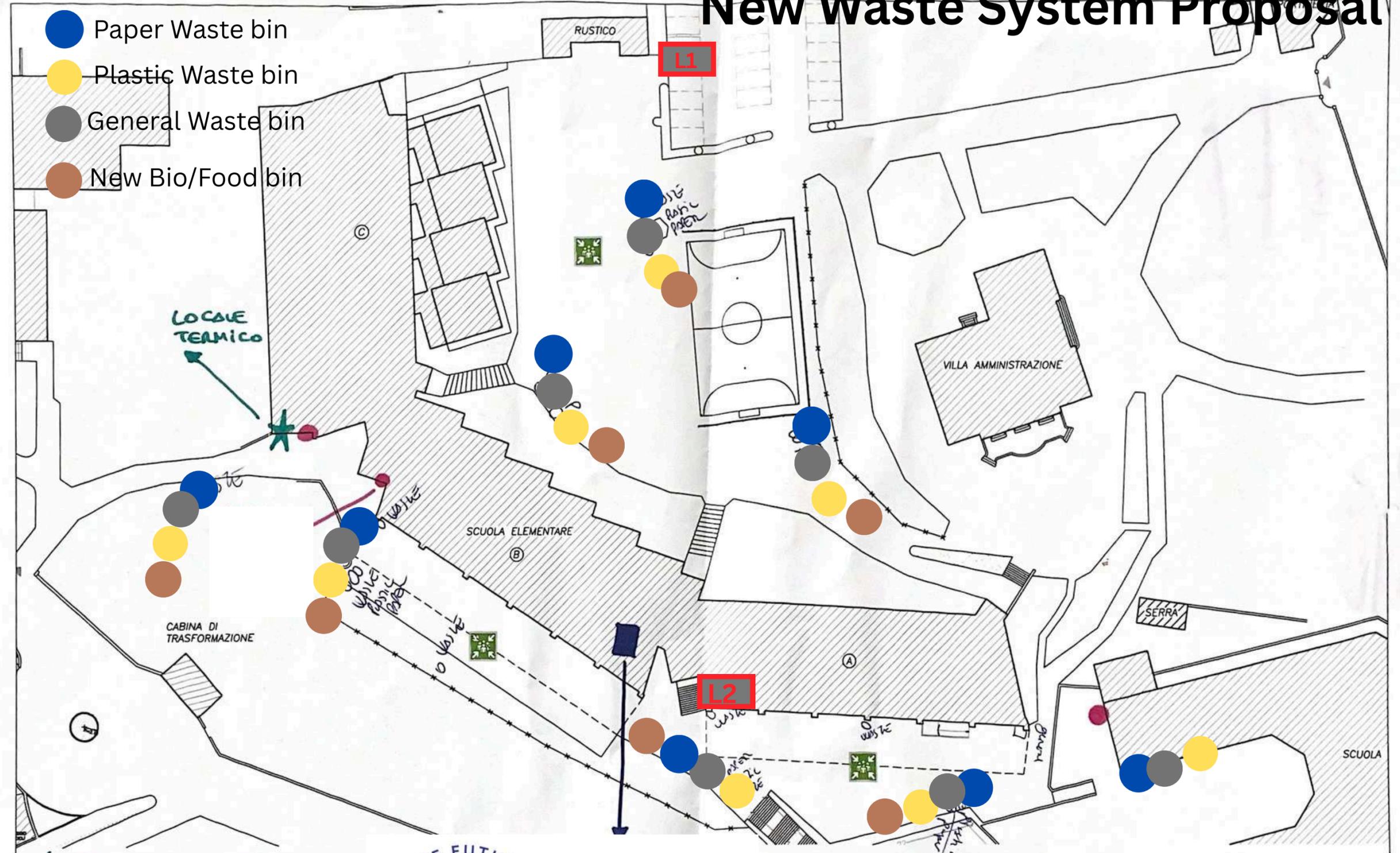
Recommendations:



1. Remove all of the isolated grey general bins that do not encourage waste separation (all G1-G7 bins)
2. Create more effective 'Ecological Islands' of 4 bins: Plastic/Metal, Paper, Card and Tetrapak, Wet/Food Waste and Non-Recyclable. This requires the purchase of 7 new Wet/Food waste bins and some grey bins.
3. Disposal will remain the responsibility of the maintenance team, but we will look for ways for the students to be involved to compost some food waste if it is feasible.
4. Create new 'Ecological Island' in the Tree Root play area near the Erasmus building as there are no recycling bins there.
5. Relabel all bins with picture-based posters showing what can go in each bin. Students to make posters explaining how to recycle for each Ecological Island that will be displayed by the bins.
6. In Materna, remove the 2 isolated grey bins and create a small "ecological island" of 3 bins - paper, plastic and grey (it is not necessary to have a food bin outside of Materna).
7. Educate students about the importance of reducing waste, recycling properly and not littering
8. Students should be responsible for litter by litter picking regularly
9. Work with parents and students to reduce waste in snacks

New Waste System Proposal

-  Paper Waste bin
-  Plastic Waste bin
-  General Waste bin
-  New Bio/Food bin



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Our New Bins



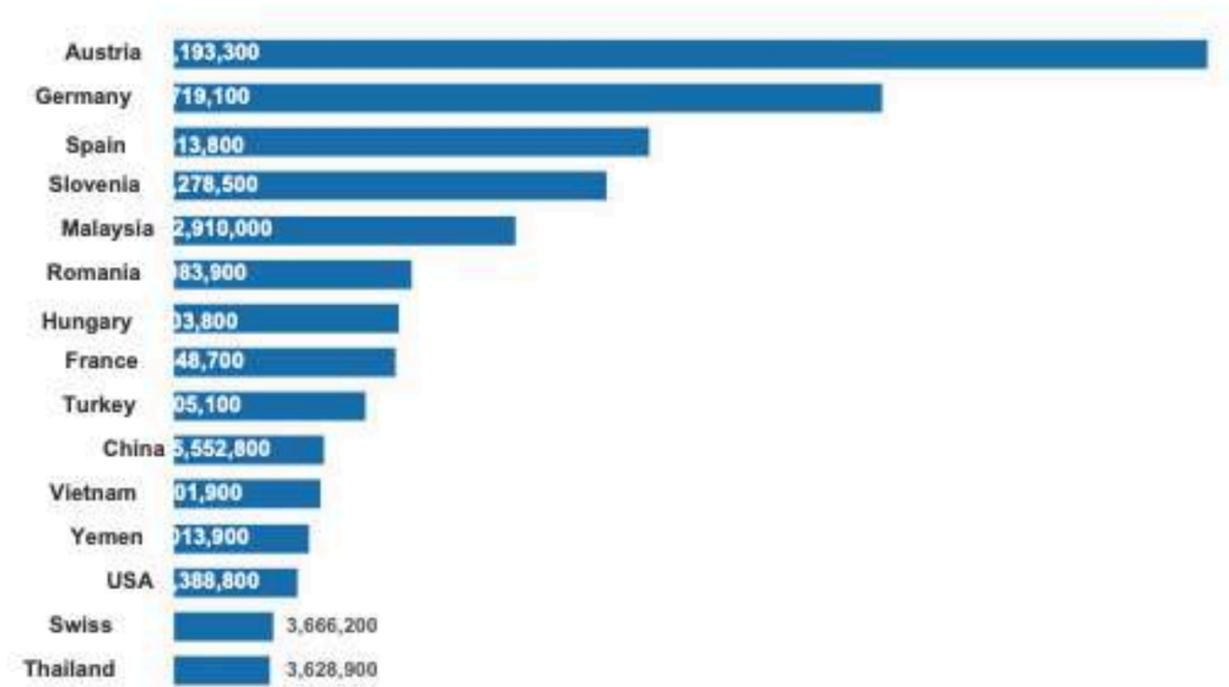
We now have a bin for:

- plastic
- organic
- paper and tetrapak
- generic
-

All bins are colour coordinated and have a poster made by the students to show what can go in each bin

The problems with plastic

Ranking of the top 15 countries (EU and non-EU) to which Italy exports Plastic waste sorting. Quantity in kg. Year 2018



Source: Eurostat

Plastic waste is a significant problem : in 2016 alone, 242 million tons of plastic waste were produced globally, accounting for 12% of all solid waste.

Like many other EU countries, Italy cannot cope with the amount of recycling needed and so they export their plastic waste to other countries to recycle. Now some of those countries like China are stopping this.

Of all the plastic we collect, around only 40% actually gets recycled. We need to reduce our plastic waste.

It is estimated that between 4.8 and 12.7 million tons of plastic waste end up in marine waters every year (source: WWF), creating veritable floating islands of waste.

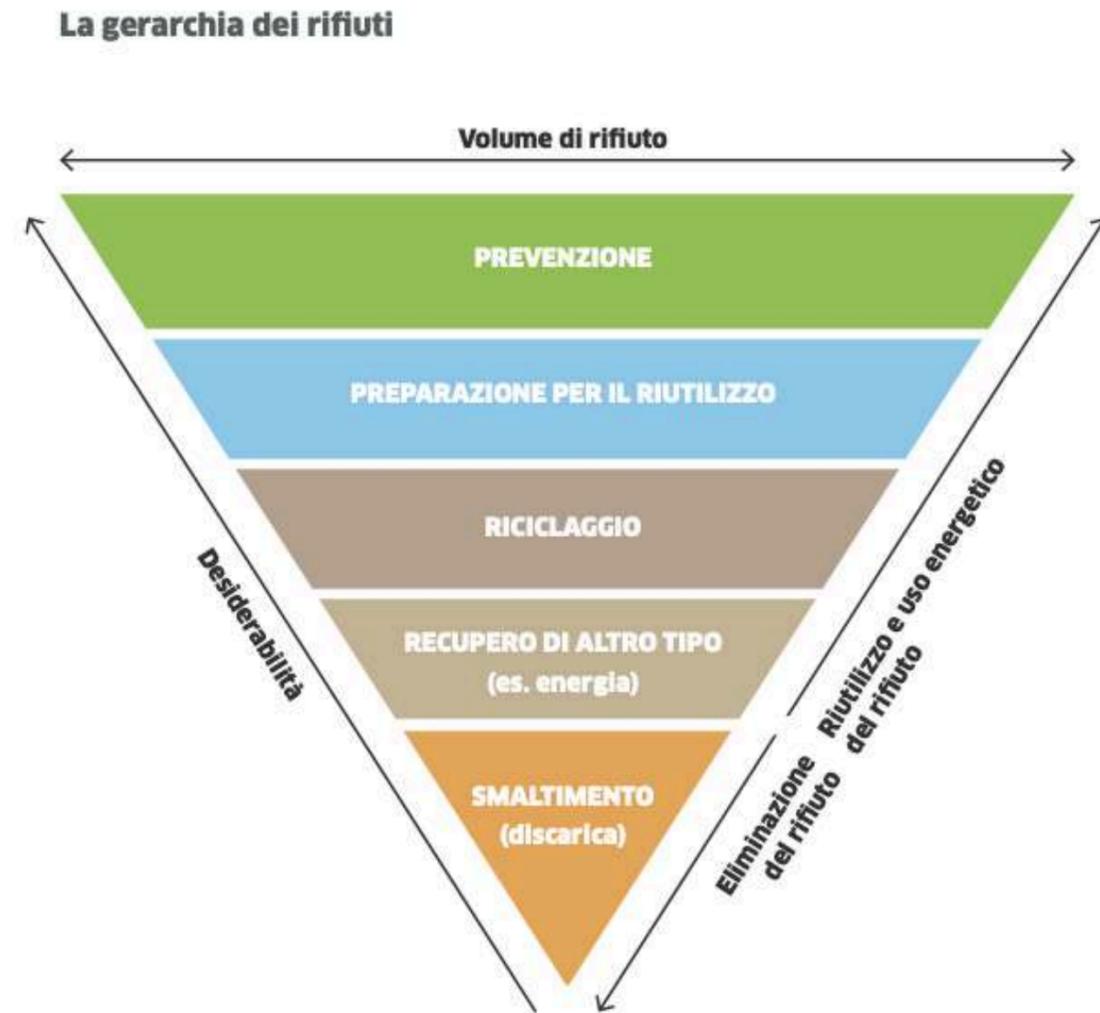
This is dangerous to animals and sealife.

Waste and the substances it contains can in fact pollute the subsoil.

Microplastics are small plastic particles with a diameter between 330 micrometers and 5 millimeters, caused from the disintegration or abrasion of plastic waste. These small particles can be eaten by marine life, thus entering the food chain and eventually reaching our tables. It is estimated that **each of us ingests an average of 5 grams of plastic per week, the equivalent of a credit card** (source: WWF).



The Importance of Waste Reduction



- Prevention - don't use single-use items and buy items with less packaging
- Re-use items where you can - paint pots, art projects,
- Recycling only works if items are properly sorted

According to the "Italian Report on Urban Waste 2020" compiled by ISPRA, in 2019, municipal waste production amounted to **30 million tons, or approximately 500 kg per capita annually**. The majority of this solid urban waste is recycled (53.5%), followed by 21% sent to landfill, and 18% incinerated.

Waste and the 2030 Agenda

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** is an action program signed in 2015 by the governments of the 193 UN member states and represents a commitment to peace, international cooperation, and security. The signatory countries pledge to achieve the Agenda's 17 goals by 2030.

The overall objective is to end poverty, fight inequality, promote economic development and social inclusion, and address climate change issues, all with a particular focus on sustainability and respecting environmental capacity.

Il pilastro rifiuti è legato agli obiettivi dell'Agenda 2030:



Waste is linked to:

Goal 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production," to ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns. Specifically, the goal is to achieve environmentally friendly management of all waste throughout its life cycle, reducing its release and resulting negative impact on the environment, and, by 2030, to structurally reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

Goal 11 "Sustainable cities and communities", which aims, among other things, to reduce the negative environmental impact of cities by taking particular action on air quality and waste management.