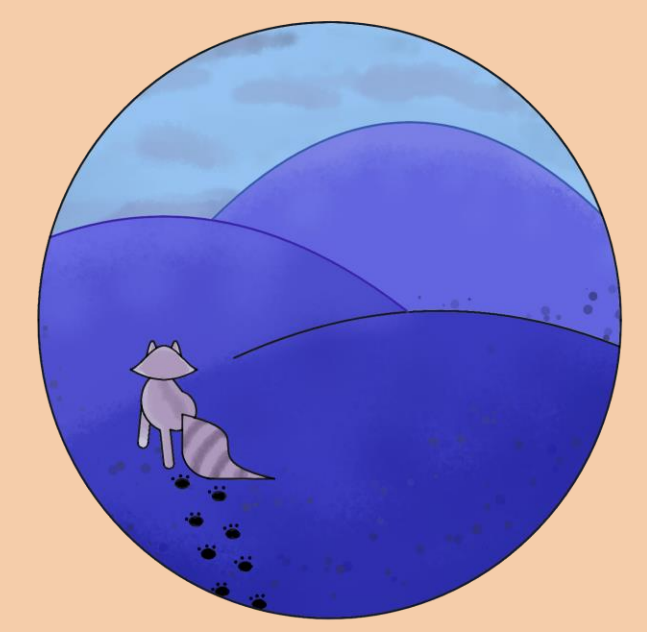


Out of Sight, Out of Mind

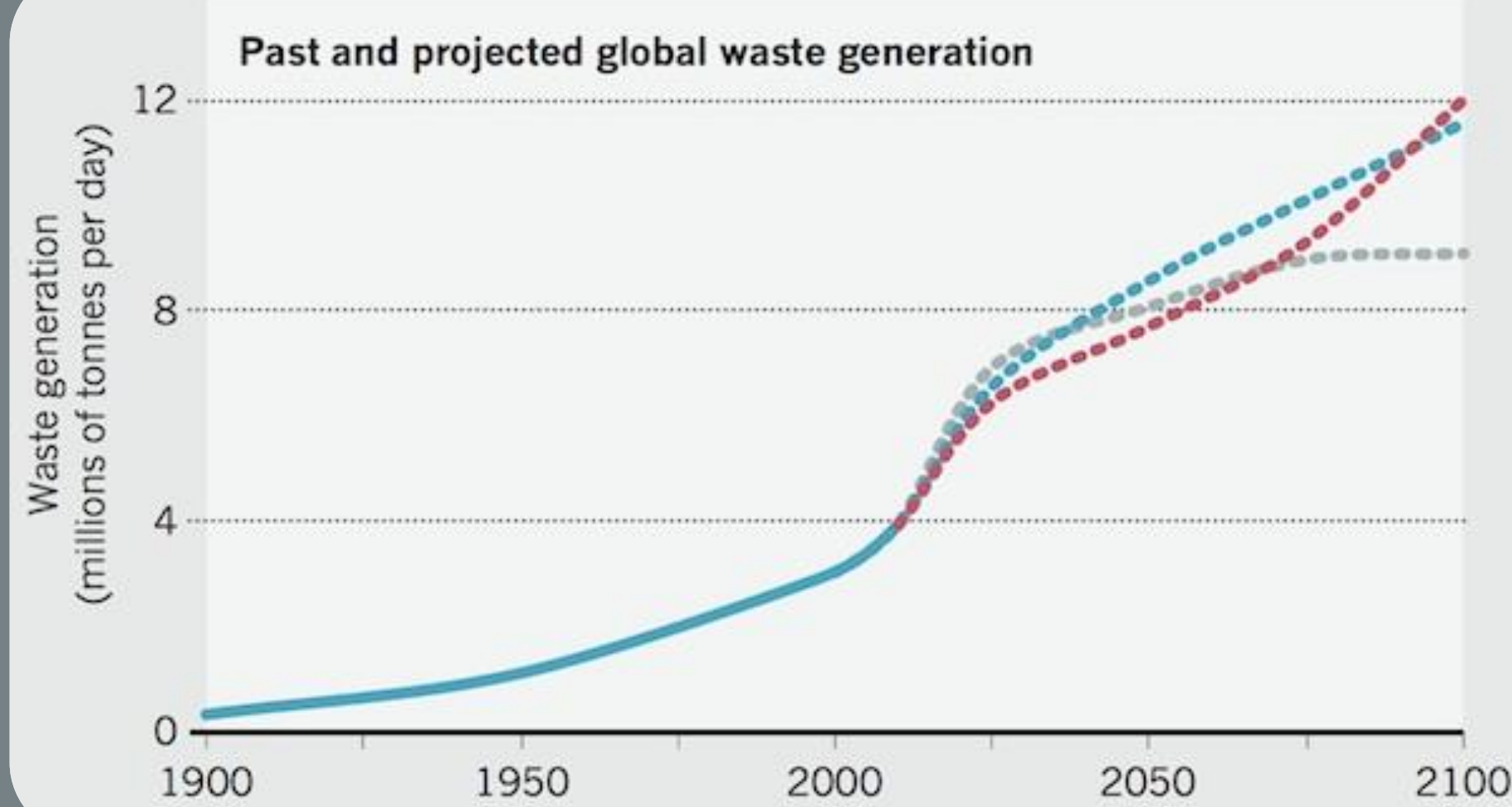
Can we afford to look away?

By Taylor Fiore, Grace Phillips, Jake Maglio, and Ainsley Clark

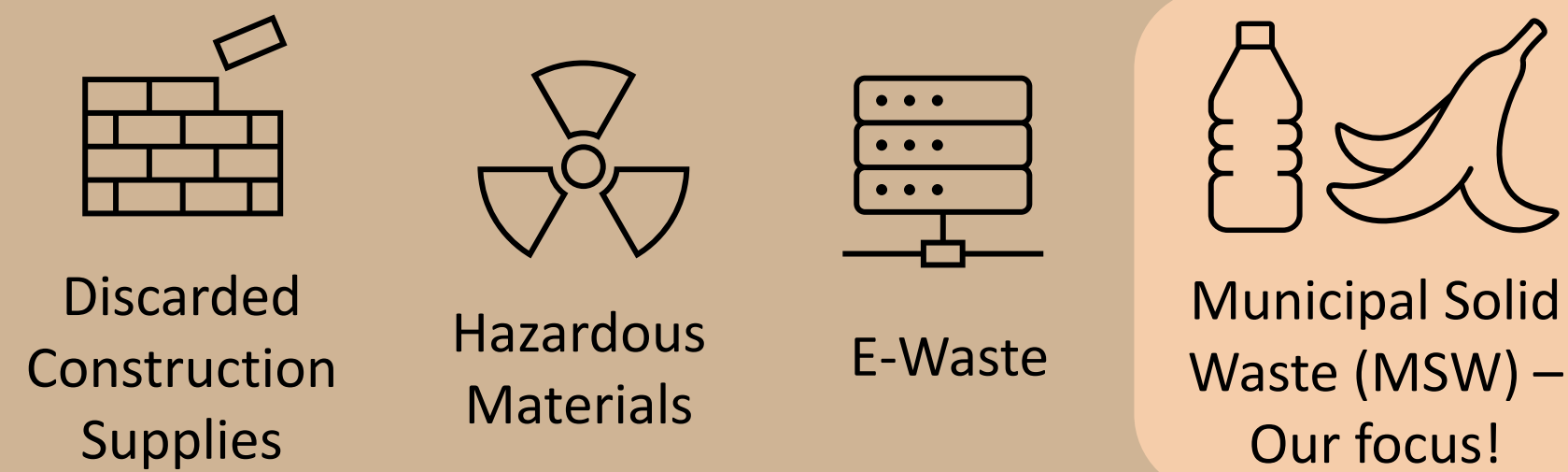


Waste Harms The World

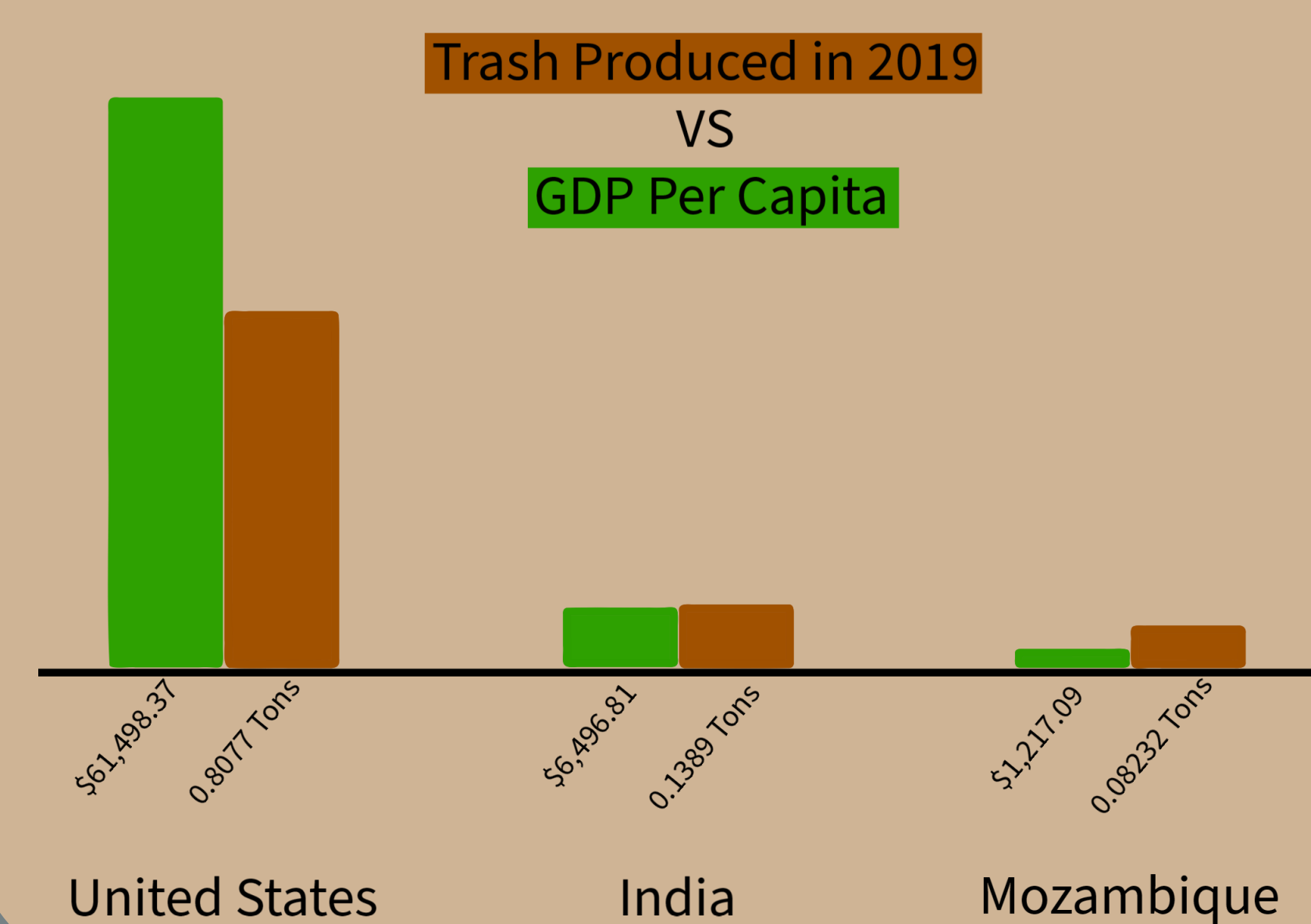
Overconsumption and consumerism cause high waste production that directly impacts the health of humans and ecosystems alike.



"Waste" includes...



The richer we are, the more we buy and the more we throw away.

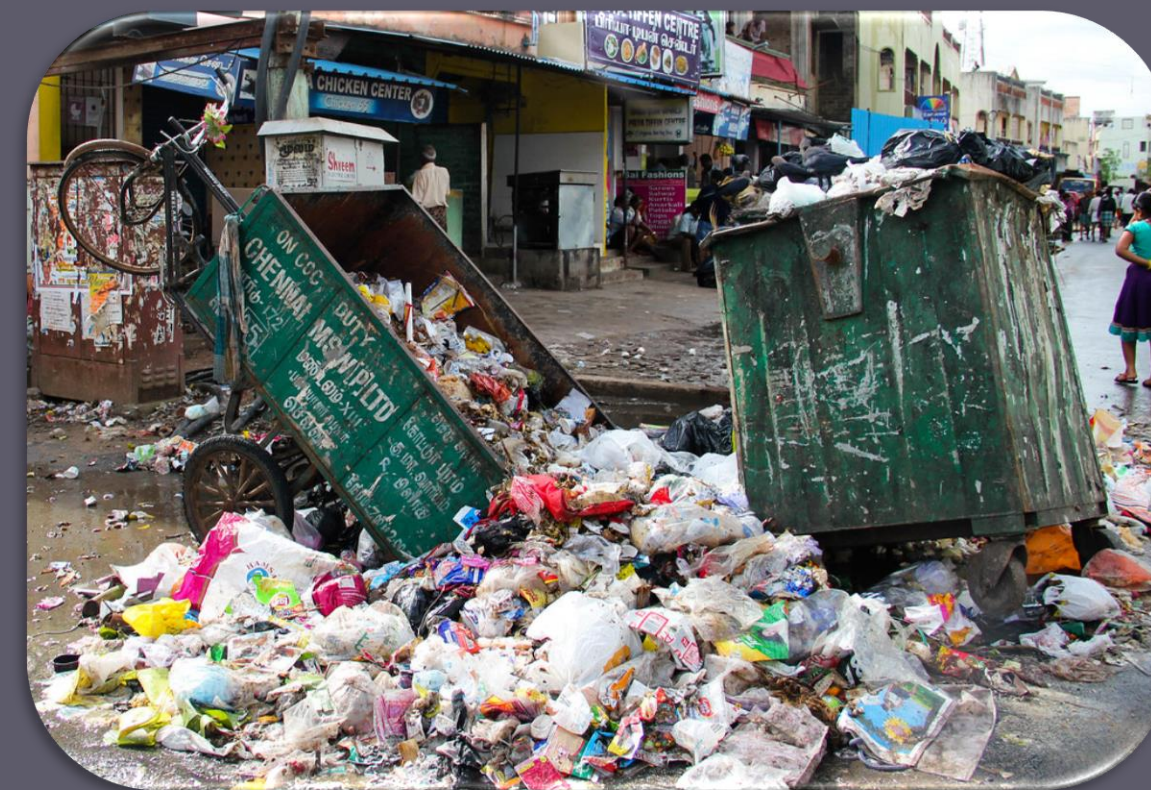


What We Did

After recognizing that pollution and mismanaged waste poses a threat to the world at large, we researched exactly how it threatens us and the ecosystems we share the planet with.

Waste Mismanagement

- "Wishcycling" - putting trash in the recycling - devalues raw recyclable materials
- Trash may enter the open environment from the consumer/landfill
- Waste or pre-waste is purposely exported to places with little to no waste management

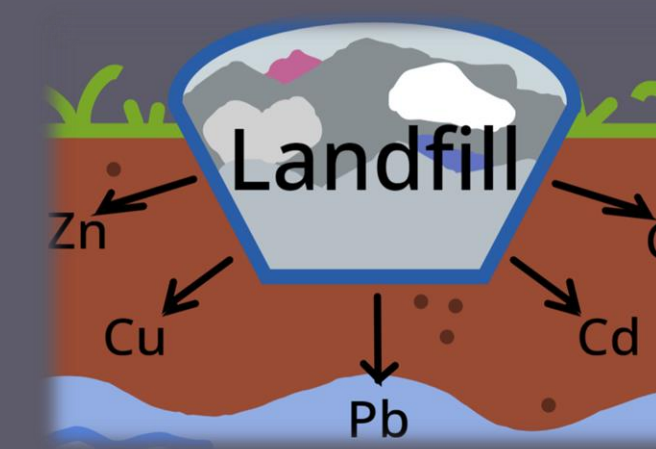


60,000,000 out of the 300,000,000 tons of trash produced per year end up in unsanitary landfills/open environment.

Properly managed landfills *do* help prevent trash from harming the environment.

Impacts on Animals

Habitat Loss



- Heavy metals seep out of landfills into local soil, water, and plants

- 90% of marine plastic originates from land-based sources like mismanaged landfills
- Small plastic pieces mix into the ocean sediment, negatively affecting coral reefs

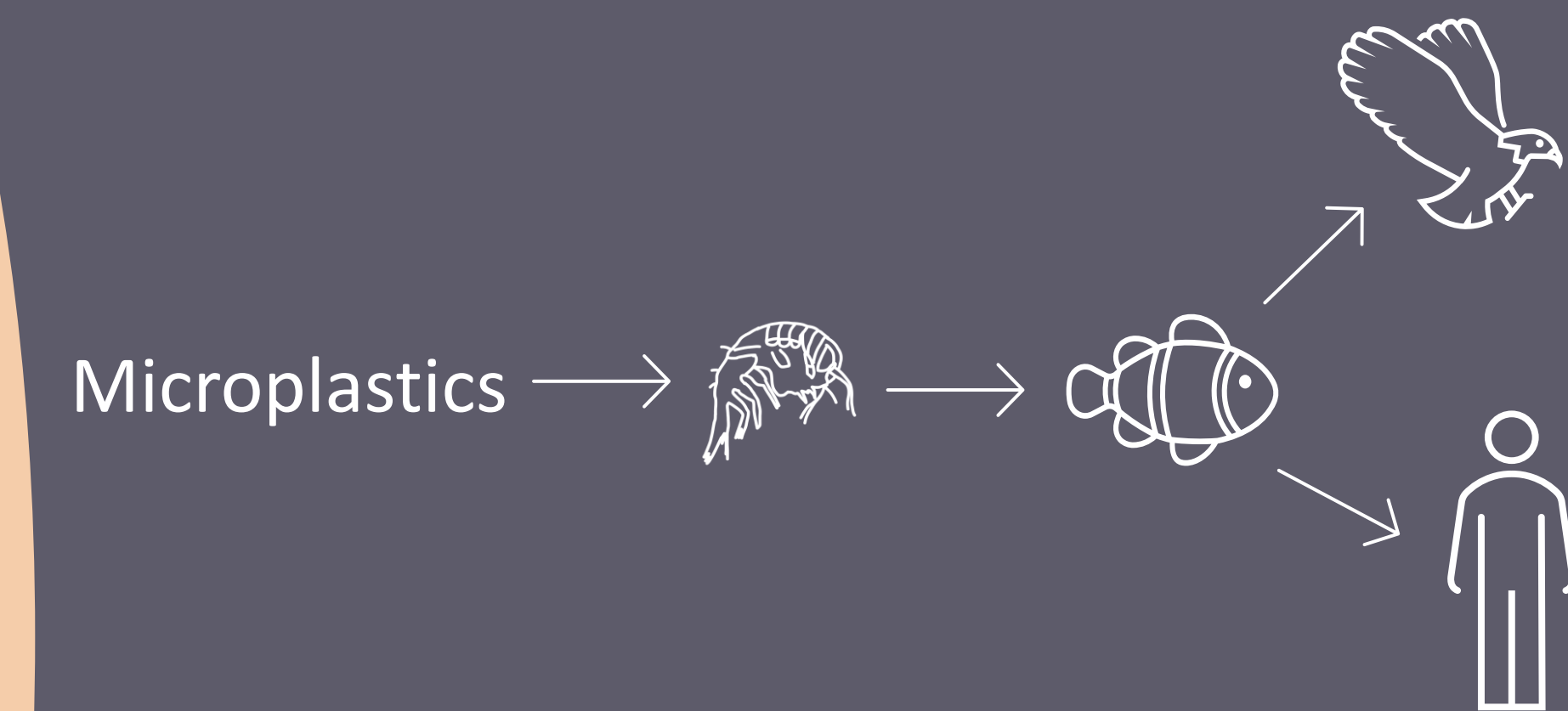
1,800,000 acres of US land have been lost to land clearing for landfills

Feeding on Plastic

Macroplastics accumulate in oceanic gyres. Barnacles, plankton, birds, fish, and other animals all come to feed on the plastic and are harmed by it.

Why Should You Care?

Bioaccumulation



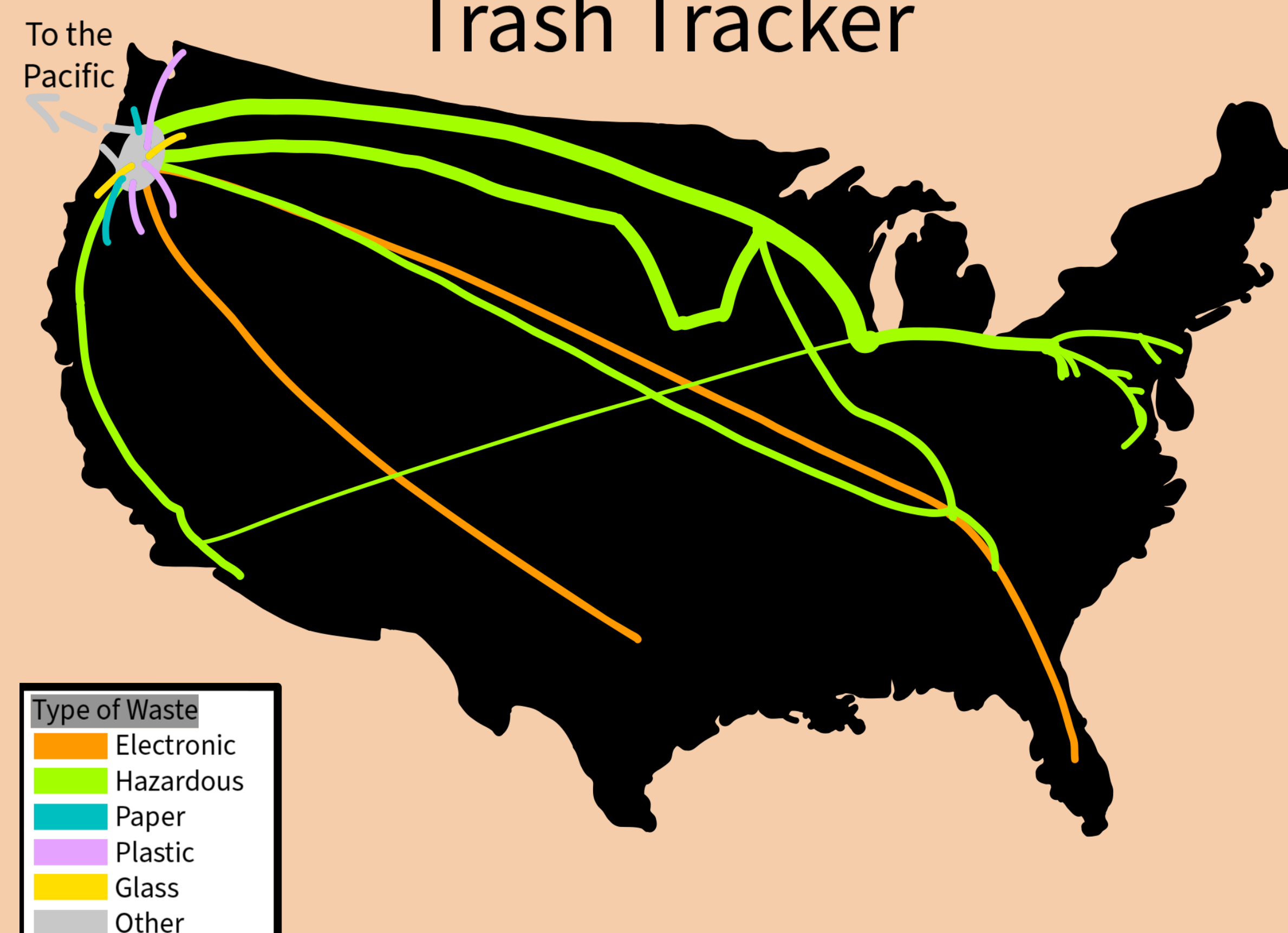
Health and Sanitation

Waste accumulates around places where people live and work. This accumulation provides breeding grounds, shelter, and food for disease carriers like mosquitos and rats.

Personal Action List

- Challenge your mindset. ✓
- Be aware of the trash you accumulate.
- Know the rules for recycling in your location.
- Begin conversations about waste management with friends and family.
- Incorporate reusable containers and bags into your daily routine.
- Try to repurpose any item before throwing it away or recycling it.
- Invest in a compost bin or send your organic waste to an organic recycling facility.
- Lobby for an increase in public trash cans and recycling bins around your city.
- Seek out local projects that aid in tracing municipal waste streams.

Trash Tracker



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