

“Decision Making Model”

Suppose you read in the newspaper today that the county commissioners were looking into the idea of allowing “Landfills Are Us” to put in a landfill just north of your town. This company is known for its outstanding reputation with environmental issues. They take great care in not allowing leakage of pollutants into the groundwater. The company also states in its bid for this project that they will generate 20 new full time jobs for local residents. The money brought in by other counties using their facility will help reduce your town’s residents’ tax bill. They also claim that the landfill will be placed in a way as to not be noticed by the local residents.

The environmental group Save Our Land is strongly opposed to the whole idea. They claim that “Landfills Are Us” has had some lawsuits against them for previous jobs that may have allowed contamination of the local waterways. None of the lawsuits were proven to be the fault of the company. Also, many acres of our Long Leaf Pine trees would have to be cut down to make room for the project. This is the only tree that the endangered red cockaded woodpecker will nest in. The environmental group is concerned that the project will cause a loss of these protected birds in this area.

“Landfills Are Us”, in their paperwork, claim they will be a very active community conscious company. They plan to educate the local residents and other area students as to how to be better recyclers and how to create less trash. They plan to do this both through advertisements and by talking directly to students in schools.

“Save Our Land” and “Landfills Are Us” plan to have an open forum town meeting on this subject next Monday evening. The public is invited to attend.

Your assignment is to create a decision making model to help you determine your decision on this matter. You must choose 4 values from the list provided to use in your model. Write down a positive and negative long term and short term consequence for each value you choose. You will work in groups of 3-4 and turn in one group project.

From the results of your decision making model, you will choose in favor or not of the proposed landfill. (You may disagree with the other members of your group!) Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. Put down your thought based on what you know at this time.

Be prepared as a group to tell the class what you decided on this issue!!