

Science
Class - VI
Ch - 4 , Sorting materials into groups
Case Study

Around the time that the Resin Identification Codes (RICs) were created in 1988, public opinion polls showed that an increasing percentage of the general public believed that plastics were harmful to public health and the environment. The plastics industry pushed for recycling — including creating the RICs — which it lobbied to have state legislatures adopt. Facing public skepticism, the plastics industry also launched a \$50-million-a-year and campaign to improve plastic’s image. Part of the message was "recycling is the answer." Within the plastics industry, however, it was later revealed that even then there was serious doubt that widespread plastic recycling could ever be made economically viable.

From the beginning, there was pushback on the RICs from local recyclers and environmental groups. The problem was (and still is) that the average person saw the symbol and believed the packaging was recyclable, but many of those plastics were not actually being recycled. The Federal Trade Commission later developed guidelines around how and when the symbol could be used. People trust recycling, even if that trust isn’t always warranted.

1. Write the full form of RIC and in which year it was created ?
2. Explain the statement - "recycling is the answer"
3. plastic recycling could ever be made economically viable ?
4. What were the major issues regarding the recyclable plastics ?
5. How was the trust broken by the people on recycling process ?
