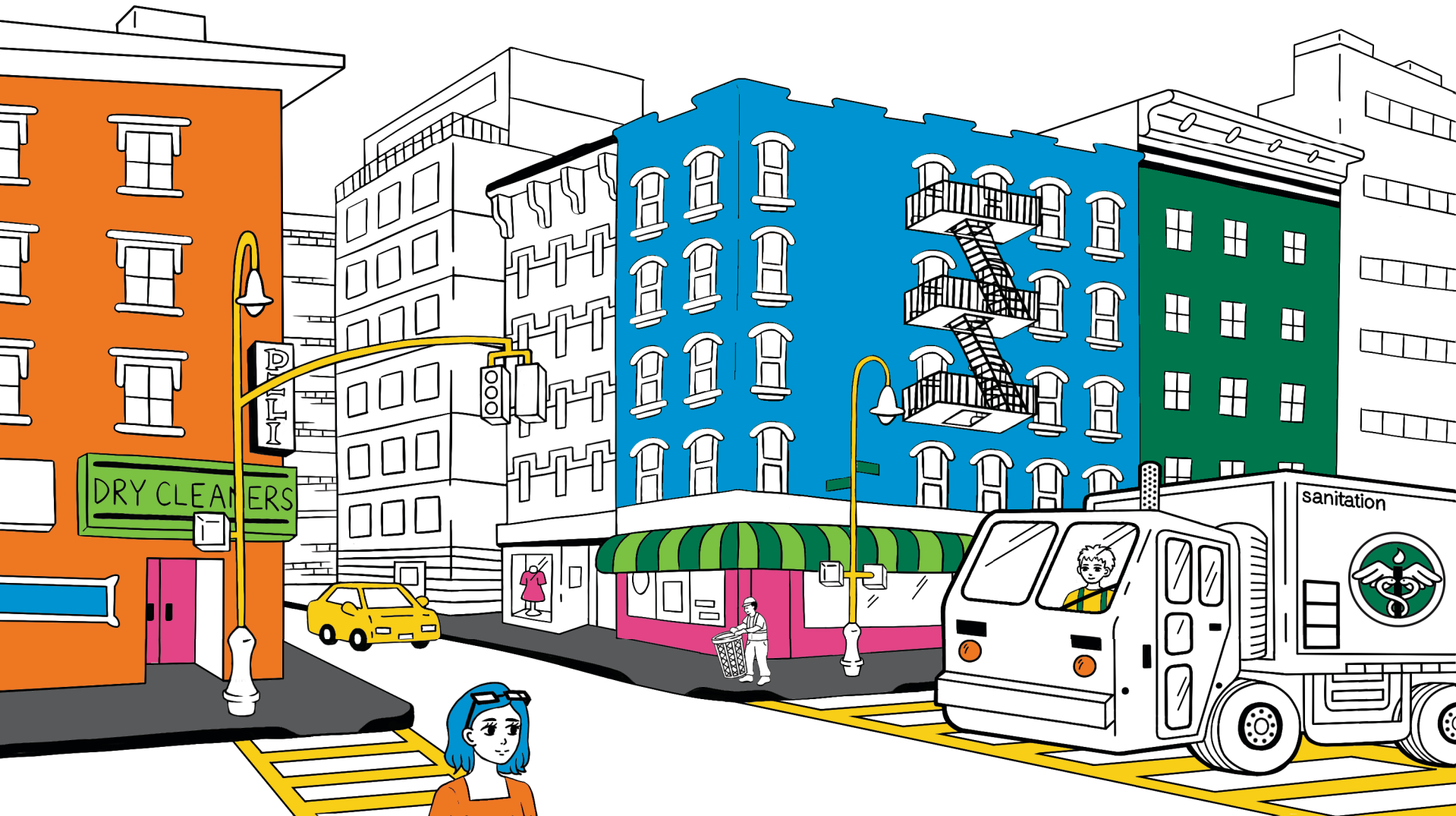




# New York's Strongest

The NYC Department of Sanitation Coloring Book





The NYC Department of Sanitation is the world's largest sanitation department.

In this coloring book, you'll read how the Department – also called DSNY – keeps our city healthy, safe and clean. Plus, you'll learn things you can do to protect our environment.

Together, we'll keep New York City a great place to live, work and play.



Our Department began in 1881. In those early days, we started working like the military, with strict rules. Back then, Sanitation Workers wore bright white uniforms.



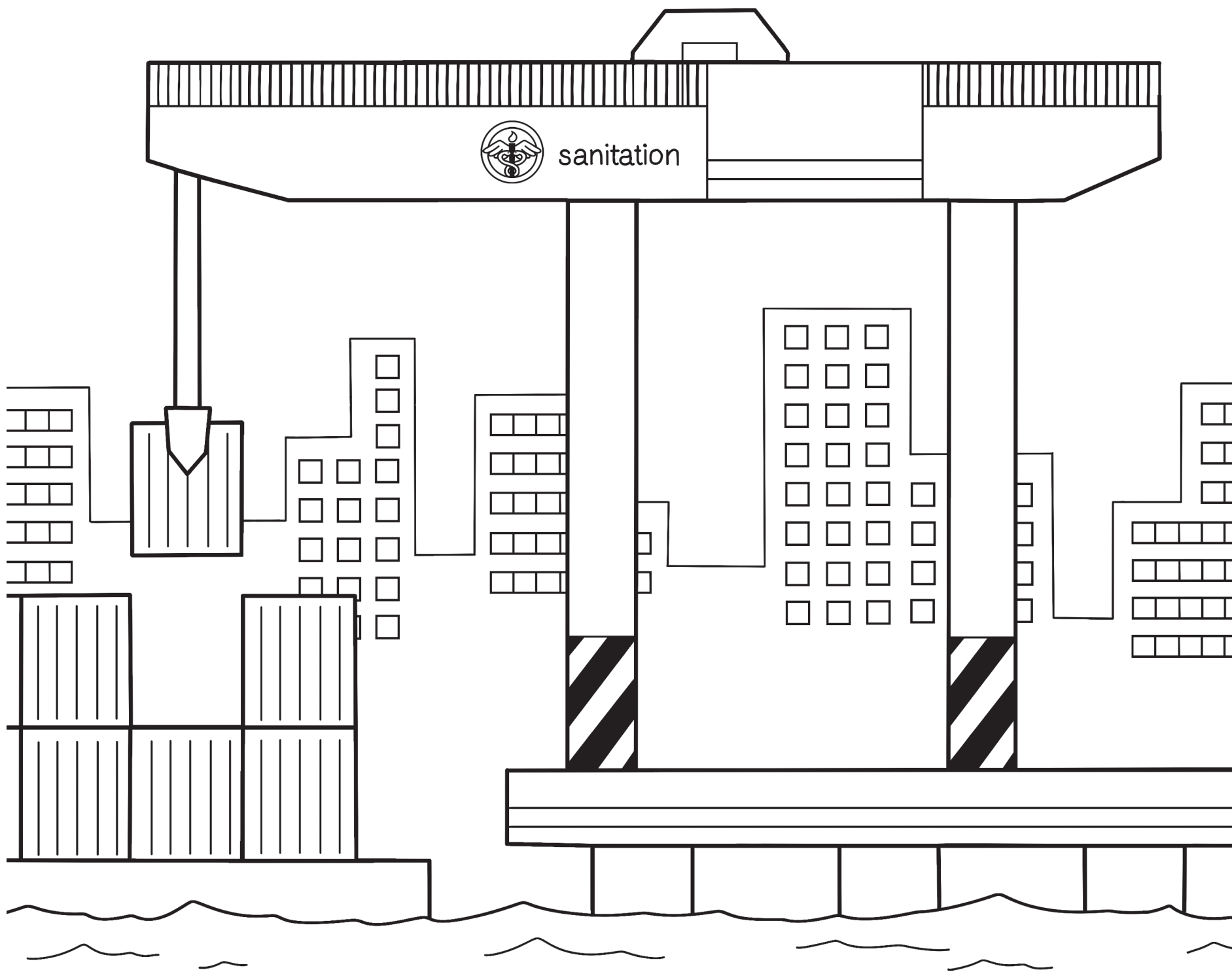
It takes a strong team to serve New York City. About 7,500 uniformed workers and 2,500 civilians work together. From Sanitation Workers to Chiefs, and from mechanics to engineers, we all have a role.



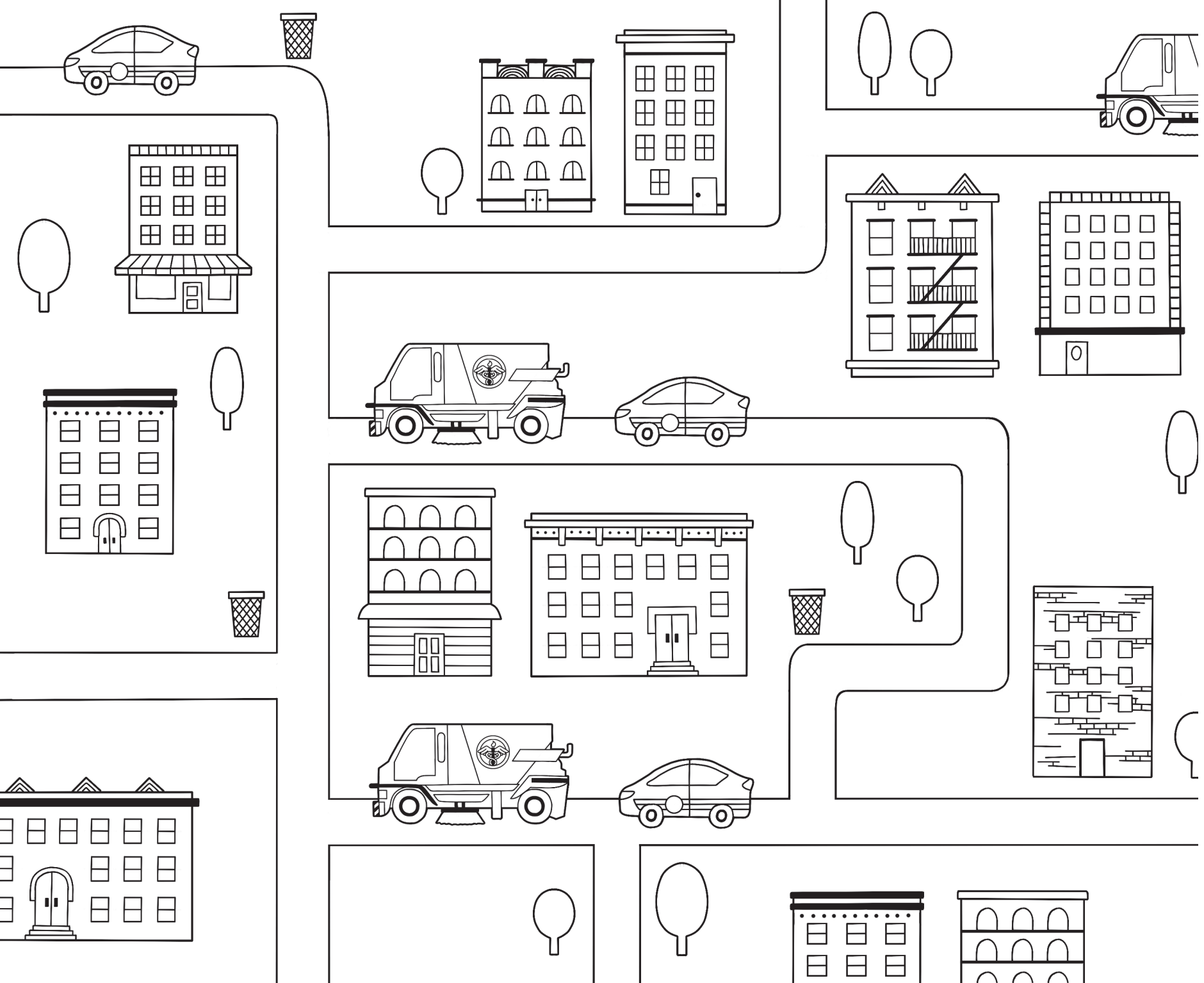
There are many ways to be on our team. Most employees clean our streets or collect trash and recyclables. Others teach students to recycle. Some experts use math to help us work better.



There are 8.5 million New Yorkers. Every day, they set out 12,000 tons of trash and recyclables for us to collect. To do this, it takes thousands of Sanitation Workers and thousands of trucks every day.

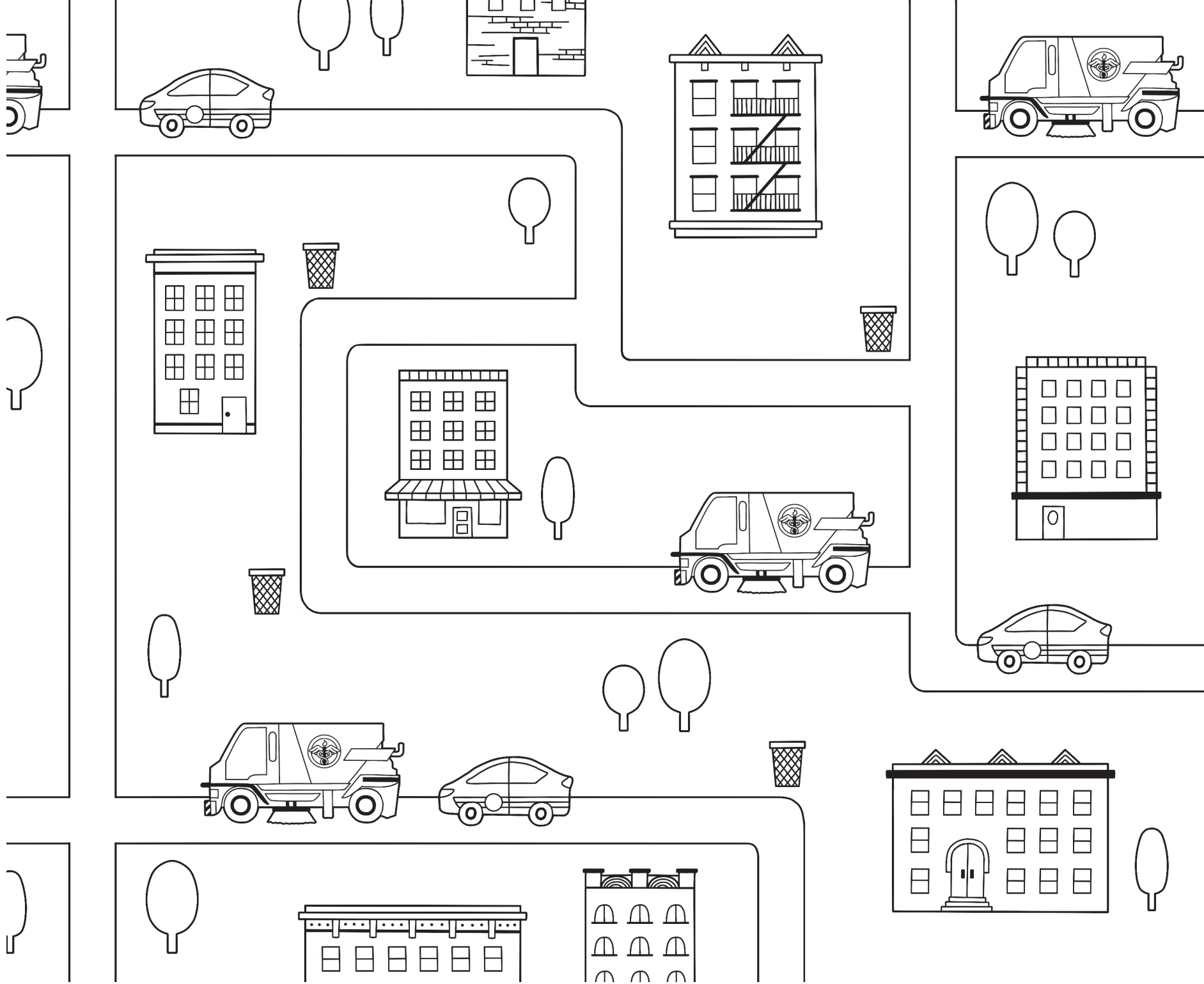


Trash usually goes to a transfer station. There, we use cranes, boats or trains to send garbage to landfills. Sometimes, we drive garbage to a facility that makes energy from the trash. We take recyclables to recycling centers.

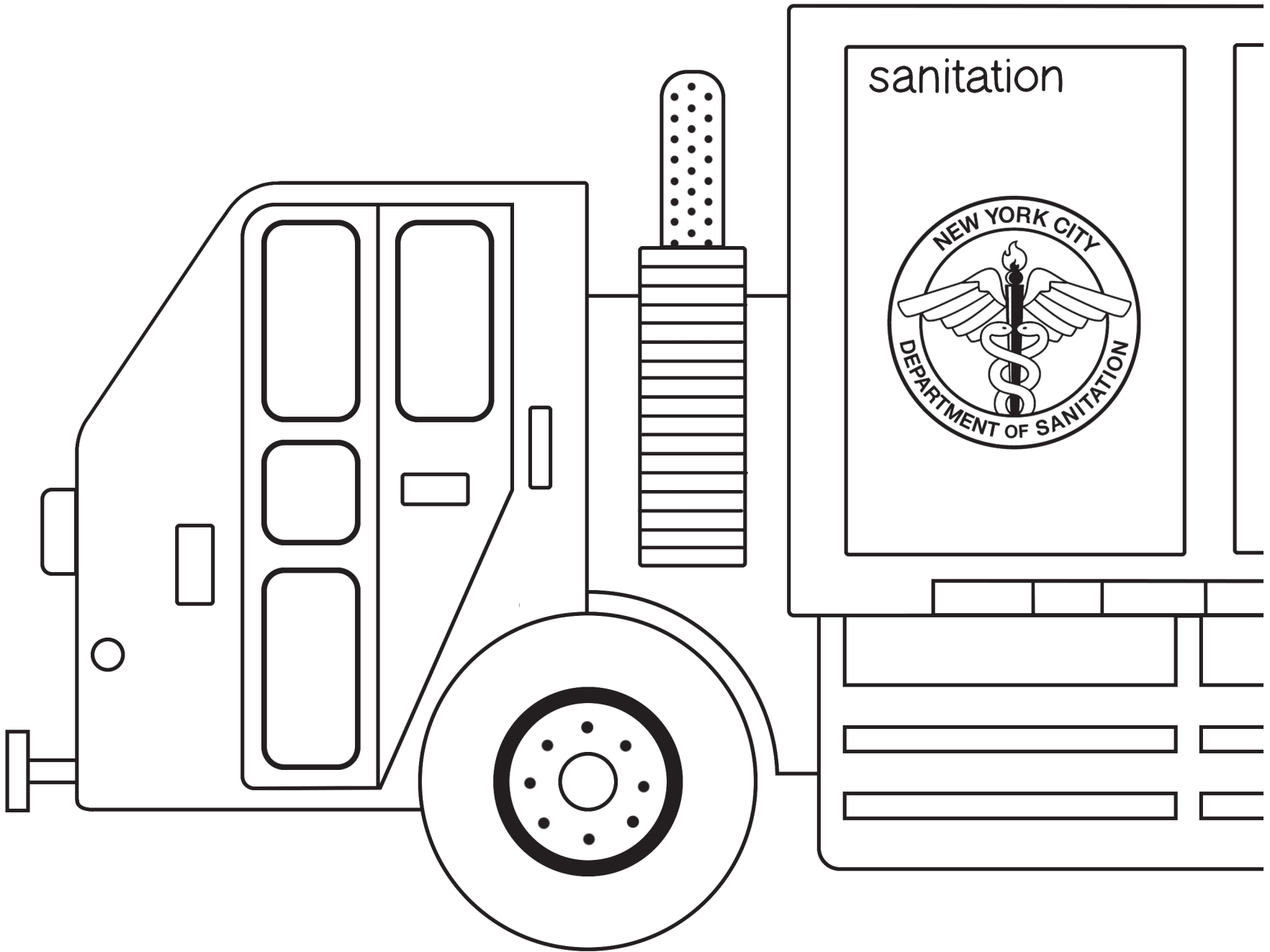


Sweeping streets is one way we keep New York City clean. We use more than 430 mechanical brooms to clean 6,300 miles of roads. Plus, we regularly empty our 23,500 public litter baskets.

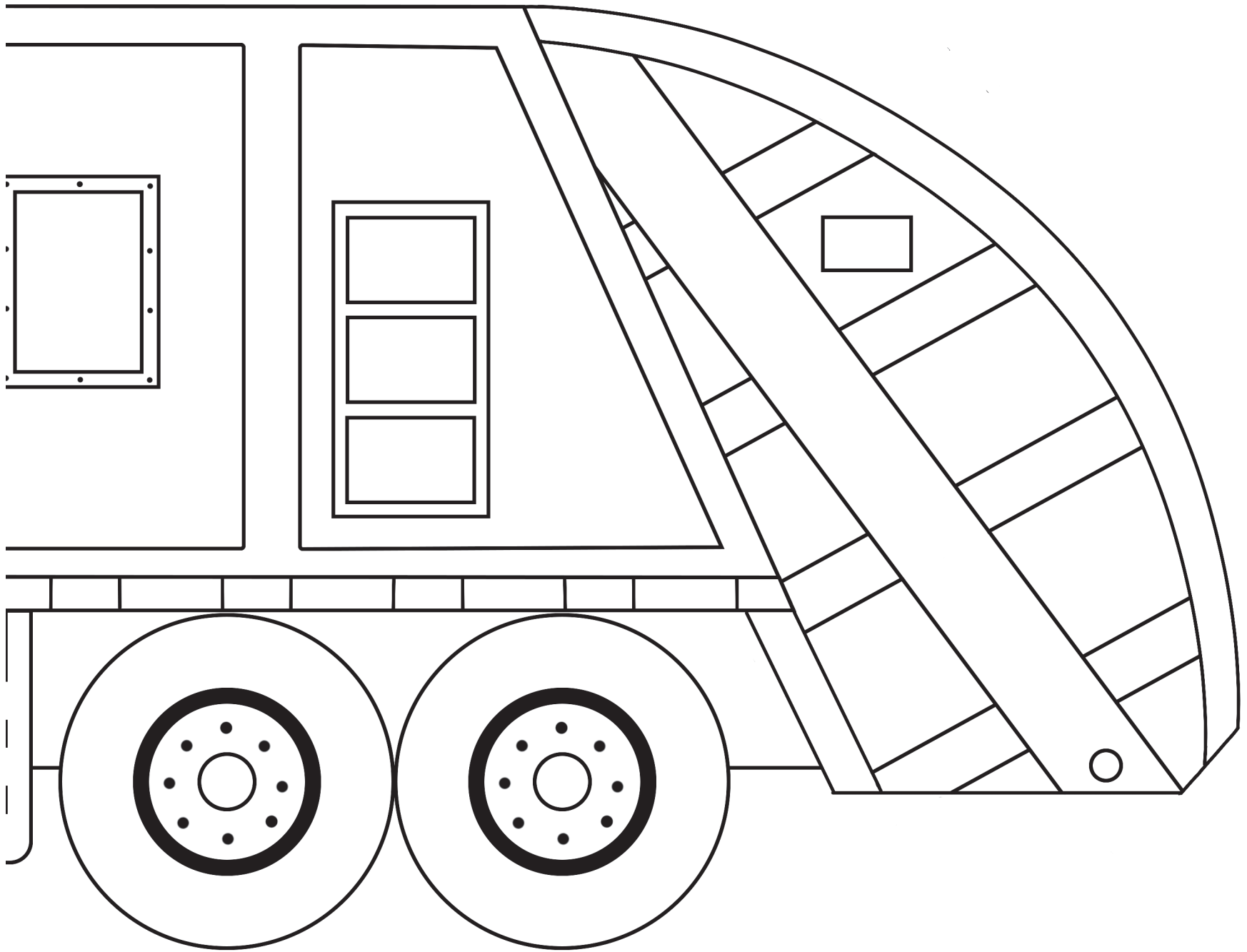




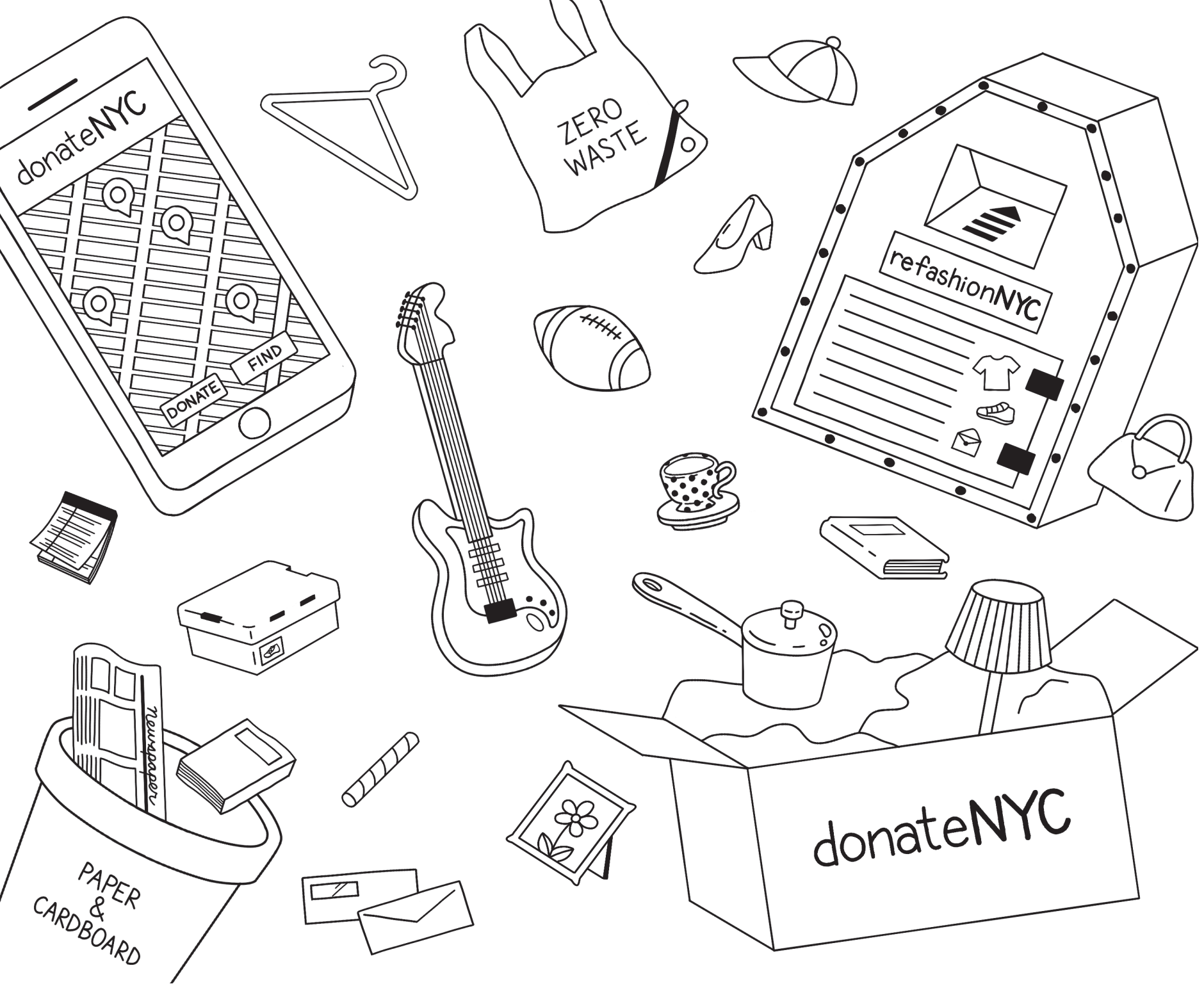
We need your help! New Yorkers use litter baskets, and Sanitation Workers empty them. Want to do more? Organize a volunteer clean-up! We'll loan you the tools you'll need.



It's easy to spot our collection trucks in action. We have 2,500 in our fleet. Empty trucks weigh 19 tons. After Sanitation Workers fill their truck, it can weigh 30 tons – more than 16 new taxis.



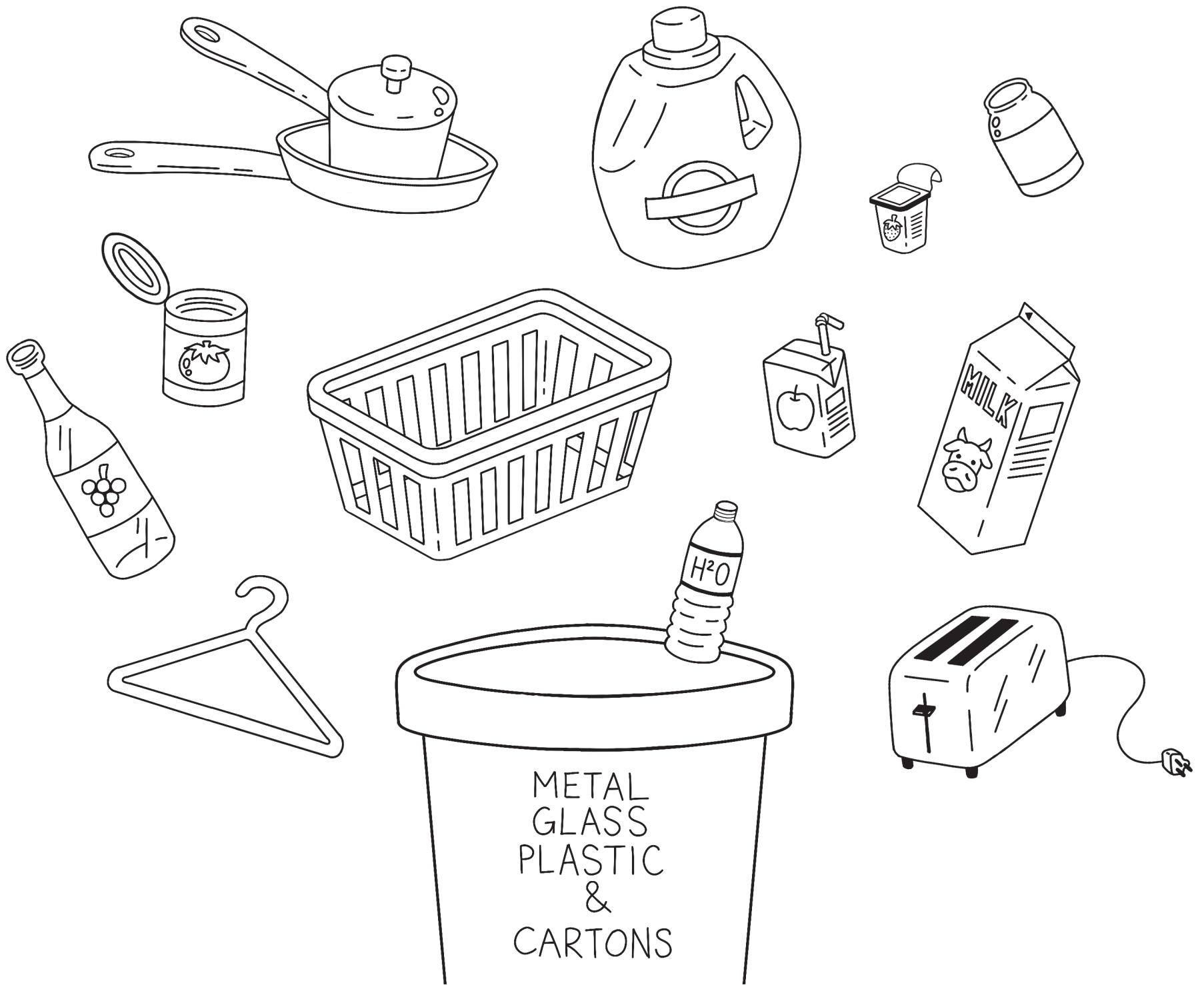
Our collection trucks are safer than ever. They have bigger windows, brighter lights and guard rails. For cleaner air, each truck uses some fuel made from soybeans.



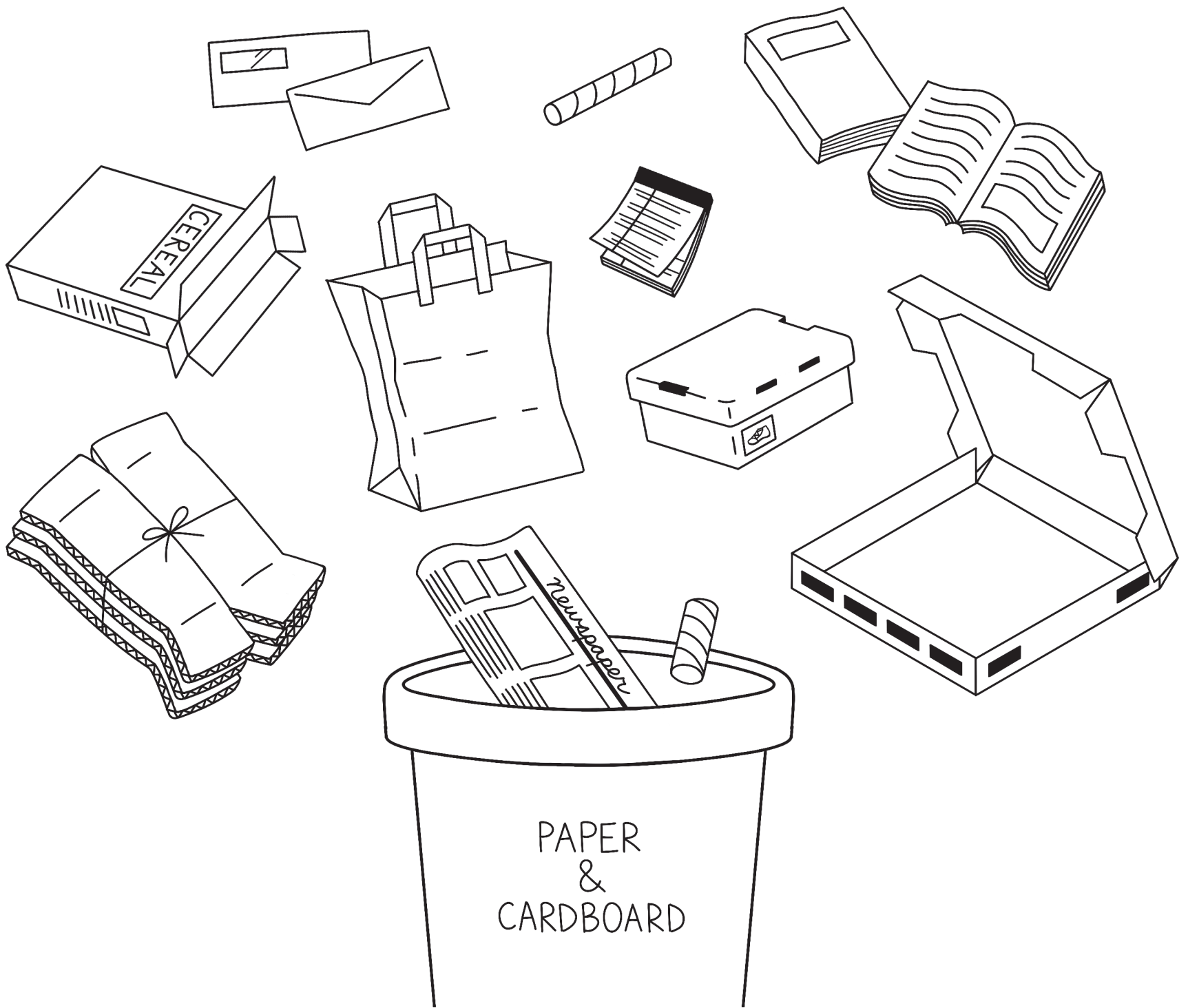
At home each week, New Yorkers throw away about 15 pounds of trash. Too often, people include things that aren't garbage at all, like clothing, dishes and toys.



We can recycle more. It's easy to recycle plastic, metal, glass, cartons, paper and cardboard, electronics, clothing, and food scraps. You can help others by donating useful things.



Remember things like soup cans, juice bottles, yogurt cups and milk cartons can become new products! Just put metal, glass, plastic and cartons into blue recycling bins, or bins with a blue recycling sticker.

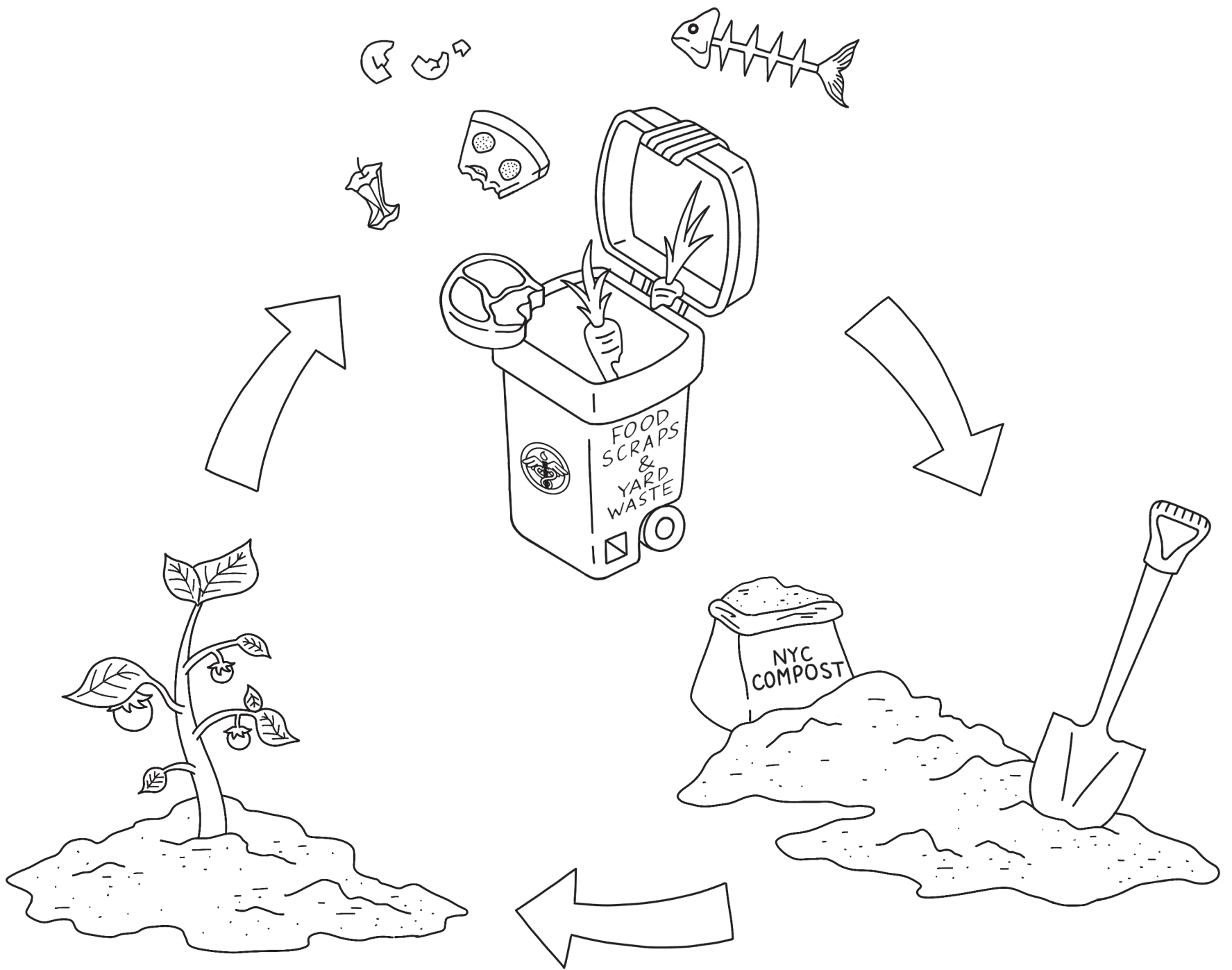


Let's turn today's newspaper into tomorrow's pizza box! All kinds of paper and cardboard can become new products. Just put them into green recycling bins, or bins with a green recycling sticker.



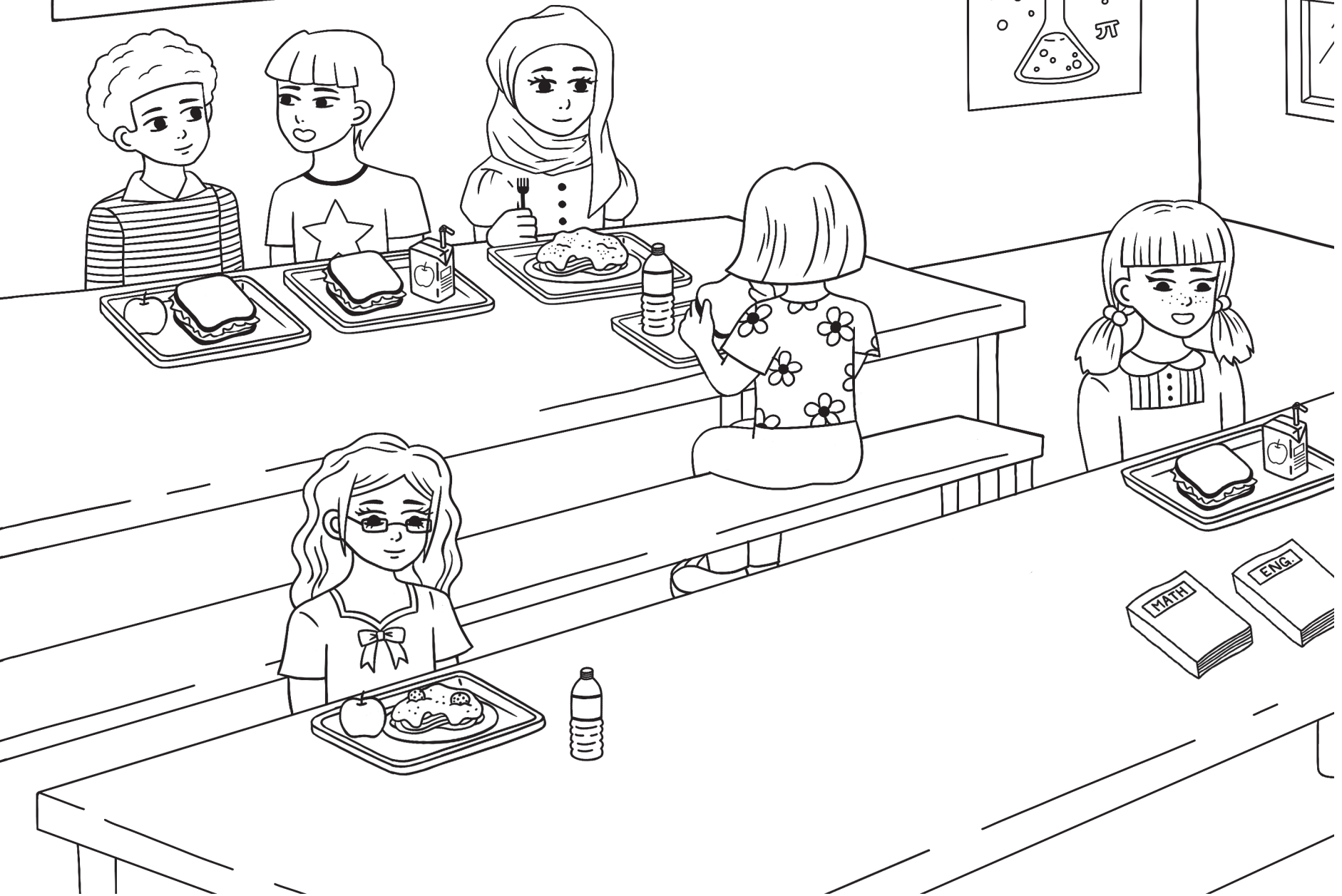
Recycle your food scraps, paper plates, napkins, plants and leaves. These are called *organics*, and they go into a DSNY brown bin for collection. You can also bring your food waste to a food scrap drop-off site or compost in your backyard!





Recycling organics helps our environment. We turn food and yard waste into *compost*, which we give away to New Yorkers. Compost looks and smells like dirt, and you can add it to soil to help plants grow.

PROUD TO BE A  
**ZERO WASTE SCHOOL**



Recycle at school! Signs in your cafeteria explain where to put your paper, plastic, metal, glass, cartons and food scraps. Teach your friends and family how to separate recyclables, too.



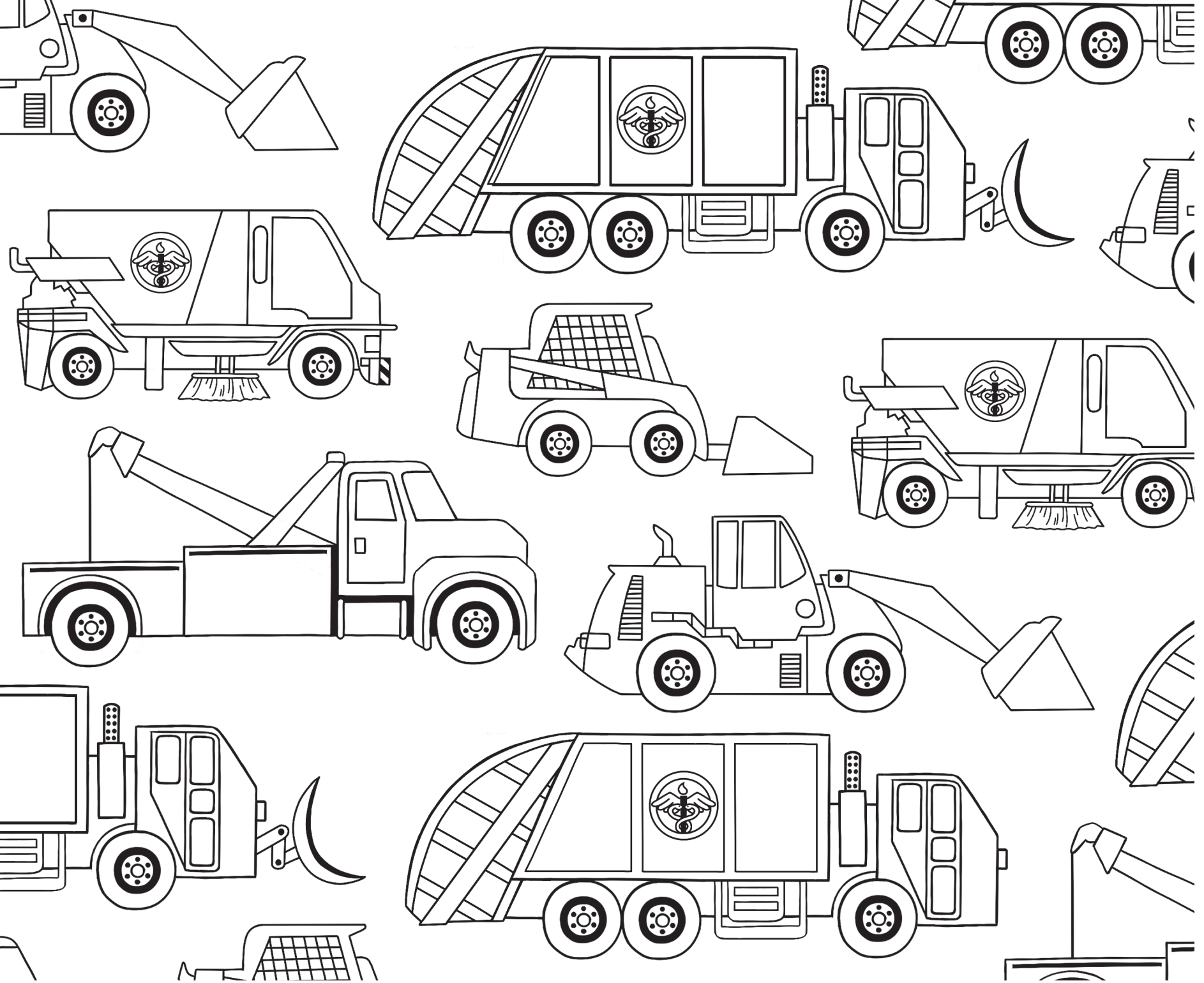
Help your school recycle even more—or even start a Green Team to work on environmental projects.



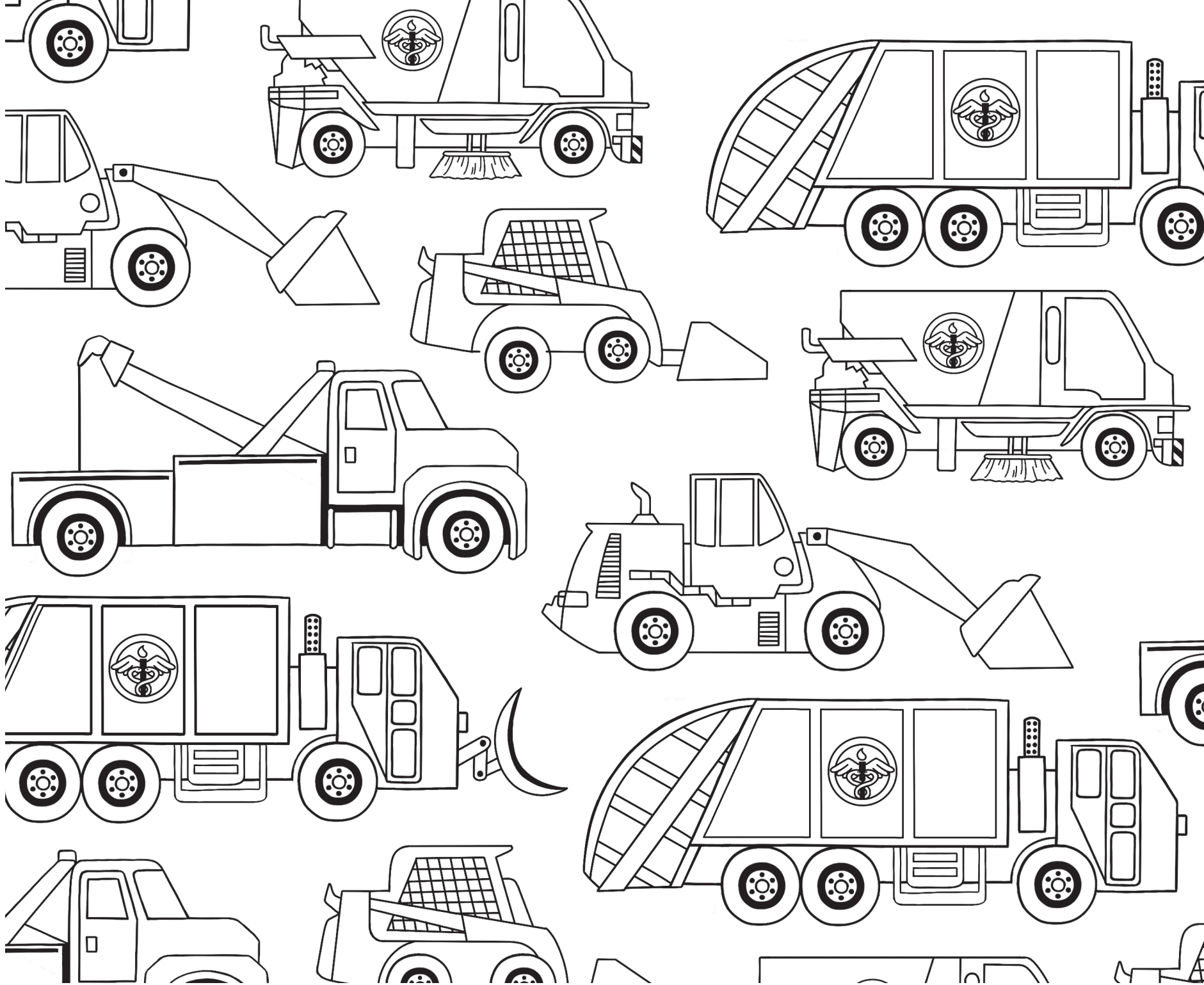
Before you see any snowflakes, our plows and salt spreaders are ready to go because we prepare for winter all year long!



We quickly clear snow and ice from the streets, so police cars, fire trucks and ambulances can reach people faster.



Our Department has about 6,000 vehicles, from hybrid-electric passenger cars to snow-fighting equipment.



On these pages you can see collection trucks, tow trucks, mechanical brooms, front-end loaders and skid steers.

# Word Find

R E C Y C L E G A R C I A M R F P  
M E C H A N I C A L B R O O M G L  
V I D A M E N I K A I C E G P A A  
L I T T E R L U C A S F E L L R S  
A T N I T S U J D S N Y I A O A T  
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Q S M A G E R J U J U C E A E J B  
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Clean  
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Compost  
Donate  
DSNY  
FEL  
Garage  
Glass  
Hopper  
Ice  
Litter  
Mechanical Broom  
Metal  
NYC  
Organics  
Paper  
Plastic  
Plow  
Recycle  
Reuse  
Safe  
Salt  
Sanitation  
Snow  
Trash  
Truck  
Zero Waste



# Sanitation Vocabulary

**ASP:** Alternate-side parking rules so DSNY can clean the streets

**Baskets:** Public litter baskets; a Sanitation Worker emptying them “is on baskets”

**Blade:** The moving part of the hopper that scoops up recyclables and trash

**Bulk:** Big trash, like a mattress; a Sanitation Worker collecting this “is on bulk”

**Calcium Chloride:** A liquid type of salt used to melt snow and ice

**Chasing Garbage:** Collecting recyclables and trash after plowing snow

**Civilian:** A non-uniformed employee, such as a lawyer, finance expert, mechanic or office worker

**Collections:** Picking up recyclables and trash from houses and apartment buildings

**Collection Truck:** Official name for DSNY’s large white trucks used to collect recyclables and trash

**Compost:** A mix of food scraps and plant trimmings that’s used like dirt to grow plants

**Cut-down:** A DSNY dump truck

**District:** How DSNY divides the city; there are 59 districts

**FEL:** Front-end loader; used to put salt into salt spreaders

**Hopper:** Back of the collection truck where recyclables and trash go

**Mechanical Broom:** Official name for the machine used to remove garbage by sweeping streets

**Organics:** Food scraps and yard trimmings used to create compost

**Relay:** Driving to a transfer station or waste-to-energy facility to empty a full collection truck

**Reuse:** Finding a new use for something

**RO/Rotating Officer:** A supervisor or superintendent who fills in for officers across the city

**Saddlebags:** Containers attached to trucks that hold liquid calcium chloride to melt snow

**Transfer Station:** Where recyclables and garbage are dropped off before being sent to landfills or recycling centers

**Uniformed:** An employee who passed the written Sanitation Worker exam, a physical test and then intensive training

**White Shirt:** Superintendent-level officer or higher

**Winter Schedule:** November to April when the work schedule is changed to be ready for snow

**Zero Waste:** Putting everything to good use so things don’t go to a landfill

**Visit us online!**  
**[nyc.gov/sanitation](https://nyc.gov/sanitation)**

**Recycle**

[nyc.gov/recycle](https://nyc.gov/recycle)

**Food Scraps & Yard Waste**

[nyc.gov/organics](https://nyc.gov/organics)

[nyc.gov/compostproject](https://nyc.gov/compostproject)

**Electronics**

[nyc.gov/electronics](https://nyc.gov/electronics)

**Clothing & Textiles**

[nyc.gov/textiles](https://nyc.gov/textiles)

**Harmful Products**

[nyc.gov/safedisposal](https://nyc.gov/safedisposal)

**Getting Rid of Other Things**

[on.nyc.gov/how-to-get-rid-of](https://on.nyc.gov/how-to-get-rid-of)

**Donations**

[nyc.gov/donate](https://nyc.gov/donate)

**Schools**

[nyc.gov/zerowasteschools](https://nyc.gov/zerowasteschools)

**Businesses**

[nyc.gov/zerowastebusinesses](https://nyc.gov/zerowastebusinesses)

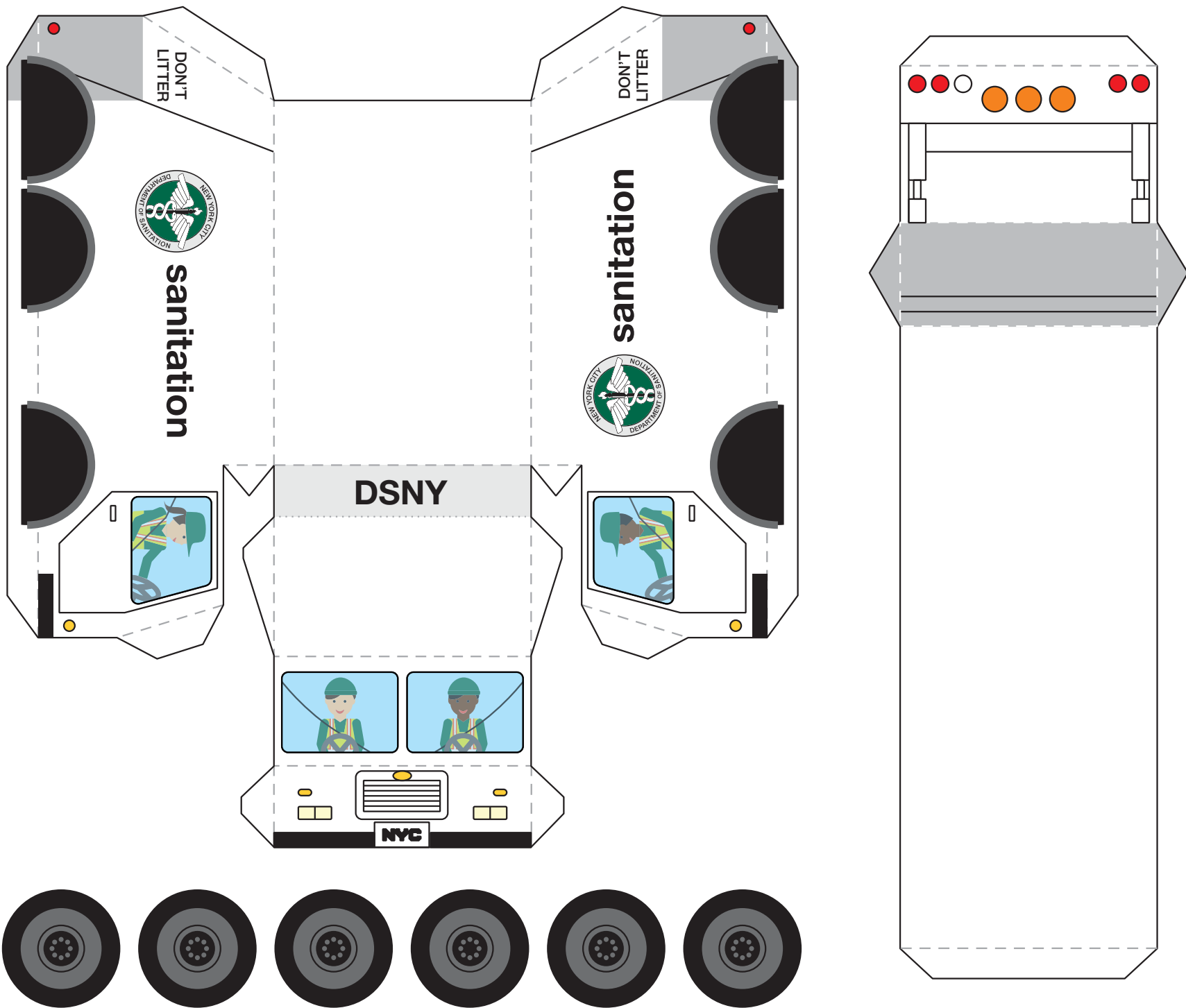
**Decals and Information**

[on.nyc.gov/recycling-materials](https://on.nyc.gov/recycling-materials)

**Illustrator**

**Winnie Liu**

[winnieliustudio.com](https://winnieliustudio.com)



Make a model collection truck! Cut out each piece, and fold sharp edges along the dotted lines. The tabs show where to use tape to hold the pieces together.



# sanitation

Kathryn Garcia Commissioner

