

Waste Reduction Tips

Simple changes in daily living can help improve the environment. The following ideas can be used to reduce the amount of solid waste that must be managed.

Pre-cycle. To pre-cycle is to make environmentally aware decisions in our day-to-day activities that will prevent the creation of the waste in the first place. Buying in bulk quantities reduces the amount of packaging that must be thrown out. Looking for non-toxic cleaning solutions, soaps, polishes, paints and solvents reduces the amount of these materials which find their way into landfills and water treatment facilities. Buy items with the minimum amount of packaging. When making purchases, make sure the items you purchase are recyclable in your area.

Avoid disposable goods. Buy items that are durable and repairable. Make your preferences known to merchants, community leaders, and politicians.

Items of hazardous or toxic nature should be avoided. Look for alternative products.

Reuse. Buy items which can be used over and over, such as jelly jars which can become glasses, or peanut butter jars which can be used to store sugar, flour, jellybeans or marbles, Styrofoam “peanuts” used in packaging can be reused.

Recycling. Purchase materials from post-consumer waste. (Post-consumer waste is material collected and recycled from residential and commercial waste, excluding recycling of material from industrial processes that has not reached the consumer, i.e., glass broken in manufacturing process.) Some of these products include paper products, tissues, toweling, cardboard and insulation. Glass, aluminum, retread tires, re-refined oils, composted materials, plastics, steel, clothes, and rubber materials are all producible from recycled products. Please ask for these types of products when making purchases in order to complete the recycling loop.

When you prepare your items for the recycling center, remember to rinse and separate the materials. It is important to prepare the items for recycling in the manner your local recycler requires. This makes recycled materials more marketable to the end user.