

# The three 'R's of waste minimisation

Everyone's heard of the three 'R's of waste minimisation – 1. Reduce 2. Reuse and 3. Recycle. This catchy phrase is a great way to guide our decision making each day.

However, always remember that to achieve the best outcome aim, we have to apply these actions in their order of preference. Keep it in your mind to first seek out ways to avoid or reduce waste before it happens, reuse materials wherever possible. Lastly, if you need to dispose of unavoidable packaging, make sure you recycle it.

By using these three actions, you can help save valuable resources from landfill.

## 1. Reduce

- Think about ways you can reduce your waste when you work, shop and play.
- Buy what you need and not what you want.
- Choose products with no packaging, minimal packaging or packaging that can be reused or recycled.
- Buy in bulk to reduce packaging and save money.
- Buy quality items that will last longer, or that can be repaired or updated easily.
- Use reusable shopping bags, to avoid using single-use plastic shopping bags.
- Avoid takeaway waste by taking your own containers. Check ahead of time what restaurants accept reusables by visiting [www.TrashlessTakeaway.com.au](http://www.TrashlessTakeaway.com.au). If ordering food by delivery, specify you don't want cutlery or any extra disposables.
- Repair broken items instead of replacing them with something new.
- Buy refills instead of products in new packaging.
- Buy only what you need.
- Get a 'no junk mail' sign for your letterbox.
- Pack a 'nude food' (rubbish free) lunch using reusable containers.

### Did you know?

If each Australian family used one less plastic shopping bag a week, there would be 253 million less bags used per year!<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Reuse

- Reuse items to extend their life and save them from being wasted in landfill
- Donate unwanted clothes, furniture and household goods to charities or Council's tip shops, and buy second-hand or pre-loved goods
- Borrow from friends, libraries or video stores, rather than buying new items
- Join a sharing network such as the Brisbane Tool Library or Share Shed
- Buy products that can be refilled or reused, such as refillable soap containers.
- Use waste paper for scrap paper
- Buy, rent, sell and giveaway goods from online sites such as eBay, Gumtree FreeCycle Australia and Facebook Marketplace
- Reuse glass and plastic containers to store food or household items
- Buy rechargeable batteries that can be used again and again



## Did you know?

Brisbane residents have bought more than 2300 tonnes of reusable items such as armchairs, teddy bears, cricket bats and gorgeous hats from Council's two tip shops. The Southside Tip Shop is located in Acacia Ridge and The Northside Tip Shop is located in Geebung. All goods are collected at Council's free resource recovery centres (located at the resource recovery centres) to be saved from landfill. Tip shop sale profits are donated to the Endeavour Foundation.

## 3. Recycle

- Recover valuable resources through recycling at home.
- Paper, cardboard, glass, metal cans and tins and plastic containers can be recycled in your bin with the yellow lid that is provided by Council.
- Recycle plastic shopping bags at some major supermarkets in the designated bins.
- Recycle organic waste, such as fruit and vegetable scraps, by using a compost bin, worm farm or bokashi bin, or by feeding leftover food scraps to pets or chickens.
- Purchase products made from recycled content and help close the loop on recycling by supporting the recycled product market.
- Investigate how you might recycle the many other types of household items, such as electronic waste and household appliances. Find out what materials can be recycled at Council's free resource recovery centres or through specialist recycling services in the community by visiting [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au) or [www.recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au).
- Download Council's free Brisbane Bin and Recycling app for a quick guide to recycling at home and at resource recovery centres.

## Did you know?

About a quarter of Australians recycle their food scraps in a worm farm or compost bin. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Planet Ark, *Recycling Revolution*, 2013