

The Waste Hierarchy

As a society, we have developed a 'throw it away' attitude. We buy things we don't need and we throw things away without thinking twice about it. More than ever, we need to make a change. When it comes to waste, following the waste hierarchy helps us to do our bit. Reducing will make the biggest change, whereas disposing should be our last option.

The waste hierarchy is a simple guide which helps us reduce our ecological footprint.



Write a list of all things that you would usually throw away during the day

Dispose:

Try and list some ways that you could reduce, reuse and recycle instead!

Reduce:

Reuse:

Recycle:

Tips and Information

The Waste Hierarchy is used all over the world in waste management. Below are some tips and information on how you can help. Remember, throwing something in your general waste bin should always be the last option. Once it goes in that bin, the resource is lost forever.

REDUCE

Am I going to use everything in this shopping trolley? The best way to reduce waste is not to make any. Never buy more than you need! The average NSW household will throw out over \$1,000 of food alone this year. By reducing what you buy, you're not only saving the environment but your wallet too!

REUSE

What could I make this into? After you finish off that jar of your favourite spread, don't be so quick to throw it in the recycling bin! Think of all the uses for that wonderful item in your hand. It could be your new cup, pencil holder, toothbrush holder or even the new container for your made at home spread!

RECYCLE

Can this item be recycled into something else? If you can't think of a way to reuse your recyclables, please put them in your yellow recycling bin. This means they can be made into something new! And for those leftover food scraps, put them into your compost bin which you can later use on your veggie garden. It's all about closing the loop!

RECOVER

Can anything else be salvaged? This is our last hope of getting anything from the waste we've made. This is where we recover energy from our waste through incineration or methane capture.

DISPOSE

Is there absolutely no other option? This is our least favourable outcome and should always be our last option. We need to be more kind to our environment. So please, before getting to this step, try everything you can to reduce, reuse and recycle.