

Learning Group discussion: **Waste minimisation**



To start discussion...

- When is it better for the environment to buy a second-hand item compared to a new one? Suggest examples and say on what criteria?
- When is it OK to have single use plastic items, *and* whilst on throw-aways, are single use plastic shopping bags acceptable?

(Activity 2)

Rubbish or Resource?

- Is what we send to landfill today going to become a resource 'mine' in the future?



photo: www.waste-management-world.com

(Activity Four).

Take home activity: **review 'durables'**

On a sheet of paper, make three columns. The column headings, left to right, are:

1. Item (describe it)
2. Useful years life (here or re-used)
3. Years 'recognisable' in landfill?

The three (or four) R's, in order:

- **Reduce** what goes out of your home. It may involve **refusing** to buy 'disposable' things!
- **Re-use** the goods and their packaging.
- **Recycle** what you can not re-use, at home (paper, compost) and with District/City help.



Music link: Jack Johnson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1mFymbRmv4>

What are people doing already?

- Make compost (50% of potential domestic waste)
- Take reusable bags when shopping
- No circulars at mailbox
- Avoid burning rubbish, especially plastics
- Use three R's

(Activity Eight: your score from 5)

Are you buying recycled?

- Recycling instead of disposal requires a market to make it 'better value' than landfill. What could **you** buy that is recycled? Do you?



Habits to drop, or adopt?

- Is there a gap between wishes and action?
- What makes taking on a new habit easier?
- What are the barriers to change?



(Activity nine)

Has it ever been alive?



Look at the contents of a kitchen bin (or a dry sample box, prepared earlier). Each person lists on paper all “items that were once alive” Score 1 for each found, with bonus points for ways to retrieve an item of waste back into natural cycles, instead of landfill. Compare notes and find the top scorers! (Activity 10)

30 second recycling test

- Listen to the list about to be read out quickly, about 3 seconds per item (refer to Guide).
- Can you answer confidently as we go, that YES this item is recycled here, or NO it is not?
- Discussion to follow the list: just voice quick decisions out loud to the group, for now!

Shopping choices make waste

- Think *is this rubbish?* when you see packaging
- Buy in bulk – perhaps into your own containers
- Make your own cleaners (see recipe download)
- Prefer quality and durability, buy less frequently?



Support an up-cycler!

- One person's waste may be another's creative opportunity. Give them your custom...



Furniture examples from
Pinterest pages, see also
<http://www.rekindle.org.nz/>



Activity 14. Music to accompany: Charlie Magee
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgZkn56dpk8>