



# NetWaste School News

**NetWaste**  
A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

*A Collaborative Approach*

**The average Australian household generates over 1 tonne of waste per year.  
Let's RETHINK  
REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.**



## IT'S ALL IN THE PACKAGING.

Until the early 1970's packaging was not a major issue in Australia or the world. We did not have the need for the large amounts of packaging we find in the shops today. Communities were smaller, and people were more self sufficient. People used the local shops to buy their groceries.

Packaging has changed in many ways over the past thirty years, leading to an increase in the amount of waste we produce. When we go shopping we buy the goods we need but we also buy the rubbish we will throw away as well. Packaging comes in numerous layers some of which is unnecessary. We all need to become 'smarter shoppers' and look at the packaging, avoiding excess packaging and asking ourselves can the packaging be reused or recycled rather than be disposed of. This way we will buy less and therefore throw away less.

To become a successful smart shopper and avoid producing waste we need to:

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>RETHINK</b> our action | <b>REDUCE</b> packaging    |
| <b>REUSE</b> packaging    | <b>RECYCLING</b> packaging |

**If we all made one small change, together we could make a big difference.**

## SMART SHOPPING TIPS

Successfully avoiding waste means **RETHINKING** our actions, particularly when shopping. **REDUCE** the amount of waste collected wherever possible.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I really need this product?
- How am I going to dispose of it?
- Is it reusable?
- Is it recyclable?
- Can I buy the same or similar product with less packaging?



We can also do these simple actions to reduce our waste when we go shopping:

- Take your own bag, box or basket
- Use a list and only buy what you need
- Avoid over packaged and 'mini' sized goods
- Buy in bulk
- Buy concentrates or refillable items
- Buy fresh food if possible and compost the scraps



**Waste Hotline  
1300 725 415**



**Waste Education Program Dates. For education enquiries ☎ Sue Clarke 6393 8772.**





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## DID YOU KNOW...?

When you recycle the items are reprocessed and made into new products. This reduces the amount of natural resources such as water, coal, oil, sand and metal ore used to manufacture new products. When you recycle 1000 tonnes of recycling you save:



**6** Olympic swimming pools of water



Greenhouse gas savings equal to removing **121** cars off the road



Energy savings equal to the annual electricity needs of **71** households

There are three basic steps to recycling:

1. Collecting recyclable items
2. Producing new items from the recyclables
3. Selling the new product that contains recyclable content

When we 'buy recycled' we are increasing the demand for recycled content products and encouraging the manufacture of recycled products. This is called 'Closing the Loop'.

## Student Activity

Fill in the blanks to make the story complete.

1. List two ways you can save resources by using less:

----- and -----

2. List three items that can be reused:

-----, ----- and -----

3. List four items that we can recycle:

-----  
-----



4. Why should we recycle?

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5. Use the words below to fill in the blanks.

We should be \_\_\_\_\_ and not waste our \_\_\_\_\_.  
We have to deal with environmental \_\_\_\_\_ associated with the use of resources.



We will \_\_\_\_\_ energy and resources which will help us in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Recycling and reusing reduces \_\_\_\_\_ and waste caused by the manufacture of packaging items.



Reducing our household \_\_\_\_\_ will allow our landfills to last longer.

pollution      future      rubbish  
 responsible      **WORDS**      problems  
 save      resources

## Plastic, Plastic Everywhere!

### Ten Ways to Reuse Plastic Bags

1. Reuse plastic shopping bags as bin liners for household waste.
2. Place wet or soiled clothing in plastic bags to separate them from other items.
3. Use a plastic bag to store items in to keep them dust free.
4. Make a kite.
5. Use a plastic bag as a tidy in the family car.
6. Take a plastic bag with you when walking your dog. It is easy to carry and you can pick up any little surprises your dog might leave behind!
7. Use a plastic bag to carry several things at once, saves juggling things in your arms.
8. If you need to decorate a cake you can reuse a clean plastic bag to pipe icing.
9. Place dirty nappies in a plastic bag.
10. Tie them around your shoes when in the garden to protect them from mud.



'Chooks' made from plastic bags. Part of an entry from Forbes in the 'Waste to Art' Competition. Artists: Rosie, Claudia, Louise, James, Liz, Melanie, Mady and Simon.



## WebLink

To find out more about reducing waste see these useful websites:

- **Ollies World** [www.olliesworld.com](http://www.olliesworld.com)
- **Packaging Council of Australia** [www.pca.org.au/education](http://www.pca.org.au/education)
- **EcoRecycle Victoria** [www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au](http://www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au)
- **Australian Conservation Foundation** [www.acfonline.org.au](http://www.acfonline.org.au)
- **AMCOR Paper Recycling** [www.alcoa.com.au](http://www.alcoa.com.au)

**Waste Hotline 1300 725 415**