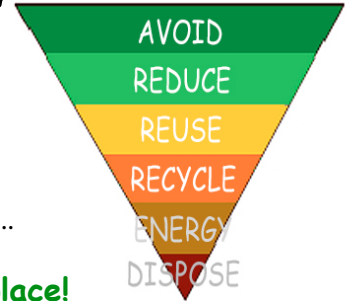


Discover the Waste Pyramid

When we throw waste away, it is never really "away", it has just found a home somewhere else. To avoid having to find a home for lots of waste, it is important that we produce as little of it as possible. We can use a pyramid to help us see and understand how we should handle the waste we produce. The pyramid is upside down, to show us that the best option is at the top - that is to avoid creating it in the first place! Read on to see which options you could choose...



Avoid creating waste in the first place!

We should do everything we can to AVOID producing waste. Sometimes we may be able to avoid buying unnecessary items. For example, instead of buying bottled water, fill a reusable bottle from the tap. We can also buy goods without wrapping, which will need to be disposed of.



Reduce the amount of waste you create

You cannot always avoid creating waste but you can reduce the amount of it. Buying a large bottle of lemonade to share rather than everyone having lots of small bottles will not only save money but will also create less waste. Using both sides of a sheet of paper cuts your paper use in half!



Reuse or repair something

Do you have something you no longer need that can be used again in another way? As you get older, you may have toys that you have out-grown, which can be passed on to a younger child to play with? They might like the clothes you have out-grown as well!



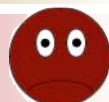
Recycle anything that can be recycled

Many items come in packaging which is necessary, such as shampoo and cereal. When these containers are empty, they can easily be recycled at recycling centres (or may be collected from your home by a refuse collector). The effort it takes to clean and store these items really helps the environment.



Energy can sometimes be produced from waste

Waste can sometimes create energy. For example, some wastes produce gases and once collected can be used to produce energy for heating homes or running machinery.



Disposing of something should be the last resort!

If we throw everything in the rubbish bin, this waste could eventually end up in a big hole and stay buried for hundreds and hundreds of years. We cannot keep digging holes to keep our rubbish in. Use the pyramid to help find ways of making a difference to the amount of rubbish we produce.