

THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Waste affects everyone and we each have the potential to choose the impact our waste has on climate change. The biggest cause of climate change is greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from human activity.

Manufactured goods use natural resources such as water, fuel, timber and metals, but harmful gases like carbon dioxide and other pollutants are released during the production process. Even the fuel used to collect our recycling - and the energy taken to process it - create more GHGs! For waste that ends up in landfill sites, methane can be released – which is even more harmful than carbon dioxide.

The threat of climate change means we urgently need to reduce the amount of waste we create.

“Resource use drives half of the world’s climate emissions and 90 per cent of nature destruction around the world. Meanwhile, the UK’s use of resources – both renewable and finite – is twice the level considered sustainable.”

When we talk about ‘managing’ our waste, we simply mean there are some approaches that are better than others. The most important thing we can do is **REDUCE** our consumption, which means less goods are manufactured and there are ultimately less to be recycled or disposed of. If we need to purchase something new, we should try to keep this in use for as long as possible and **REUSE** it as many times as we can. Lastly, if it must be disposed of, we should make sure we **RECYCLE** it rather than putting it in our general waste bin and only buy things that we know are recyclable.

The things we choose to buy, how often we buy them, how well we look after them, and how we choose to dispose of them, will have a huge impact on the environment!



Did you know...?

UK households use 13 billion plastic bottles a year. A staggering 7.7 billion of these are plastic water bottles. It takes 162g of oil and seven litres of water to manufacture a one litre disposable plastic bottle (PET). This amounts to the release of 100g of carbon dioxide.

CLIMATE CONVER- SATIONS



Thelma
Hulbert
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THINK ABOUT SOMETHING YOU 'THREW AWAY' YESTERDAY...

- Why did you choose to throw it away?
- Could it have been reused or repaired first?
- Where did you throw it 'away' to?
- Will you buy another one?

Good waste management is an important part of sustainable living.

We may talk about the "waste hierarchy," which is the order of priority of actions to be taken to minimise the amount of waste we generate and throw away:

1. REDUCE

This includes rethink, refuse, buy less, only buy what you know you'll use.

2. REUSE

Including repurpose, rehome, repair, refurbish, refill.



3. RECYCLE

This means choose products that come in recyclable packaging, separate materials into the correct recycling bins and check for local advice.

Whilst the average recycling rate for England is just 45%, East Devon has achieved one of the highest recycling rates – a whopping 60%! If we must 'throw something away', the best approach is to put it in an appropriate recycling bin. Let's keep up the good work and aim even higher!

It can sometimes be confusing to understand if something is recyclable or not. Let's test your knowledge...do you know the meaning of these commonly found recycling symbols?



1.



2.

1. This indicates the item is widely recycled. But not always in all areas, so always check your council's website for up-to-date recycling information for where you live.

2. These products are certified to be industrially compostable. But remember, this 'seedling' logo doesn't mean it is suitable for home composting.

IT'S TIME TO START TALKING RUBBISH...

- Why is the good management of waste important to you?
- Why might it be important to your friends, family, neighbours and colleagues?
- How would you start a conversation with them about REDUCE or REUSE or RECYCLE?

Useful Information

