Recycling and Separation at Source

Why recycle?

Recyclable waste has **value,** as materials can be used to create **new** products or packaging.

The recycling economy is built around this value.

It involves **collecting, sorting and reprocessing.**

Value & price is determined by:

- How **easily** the material can be **recycled**
- How much **demand** there is for the material
- How **easy** it is to **collect** the material
- How **far** the waste has to travel

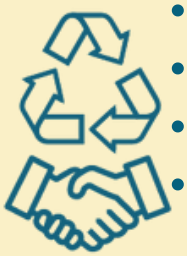
How to recycle responsibly:

Collect & sort

source

- Set up a **system** that **separates waste** where you **live & work**
- **Separate recyclables** from food & non-recyclable waste
- **Be mindful** of your purchases & opt for recycled packaging

Dispose



- **Municipal curbside** collection in your neighbourhood.
- Employ & arrange with a **local collection company.**
- Take to a **drop-off point** if you have transport.
- Place a clear bag of recyclables on top of your municipal bin for **waste pickers.**

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Tin and Metals

Most recyclable material

Made from steel or aluminium

Infinitely recyclable

Finite & precious

Metals are reclaimed & returned to buyback centres & recycled

When metals enter the foundry, they are **melted down and recycled** into new products

Preserving finite resources for generations to come.

What can we do to help:

- **Clean** off any scraps left over in tinned food
- If you can **crush it** - do it!

Don't have access to a recycling collector in the area? Have scrap metal lying around?

- **Locate** the nearest buyback centre or municipal drop-off point
- Can't locate one? Then **separate** it!
- Place in a clear bag at the top of your municipal bin for a **waste picker**

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Waste Hierarchy

Every single **product** wrapped or contained in a piece of **packaging** we **buy** and **dispose** of **impacts** the **environment**.

We need to get into the mindset of asking:

- **Where** did my product come from?
- **How** is it made?
- **What** resources are used in this process?
- **Where** does it go after I'm done?

This way of thinking allows us to **make better choices and create less impact.**

A tool to help prioritize actions

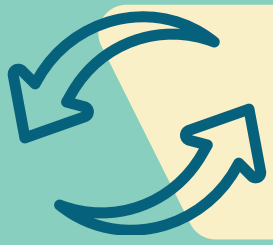
most preferred

Refuse

Question if you need the product or find a **suitable alternative**

Reduce

Avoid single-use items & packaging if possible



Reuse

Get **inventive** & creative

Recycle

Purchase products in **recyclable** packaging

least preferred

Landfill

Where waste lands up if we **don't use** any other options

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Plastic - PET

What?

code number 1

One of the plastics that can be **recycled many times**!

Cooldrink or water bottles, home & personal care products

Why do manufacturers use it?

- Strong
- Shatterproof
- Lightweight
- Transparent

How to responsibly purchase, use & dispose:

- Ensure you opt for products **packaged** in PET that **can** be recycled
- Choose **clear** or **light blue bottles** as these can be recycled into new bottles or packaging.

At home

- PET can go into the **same bag** as mixed recyclables but **separate** from landfill waste.
- If there is a **shrink sleeve** on the bottle, **remove it**!
- **Never place anything inside** the bottle.
- **Remove** the cap, **squash** the bottle, and place the cap **back on**, ensuring that nothing will get inside & then dispose of it correctly.
- Some plastics **look & feel** like PET but **aren't** (like biodegradable and compostable items) - keep these **out** of your recycling bag!

Why?

So that plastic doesn't go to the **dumpsite** and is rather **reprocessed** so it can be used **over and over again.**

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