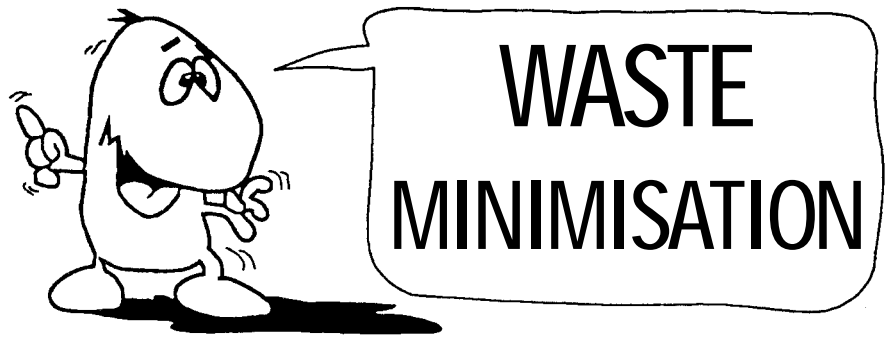
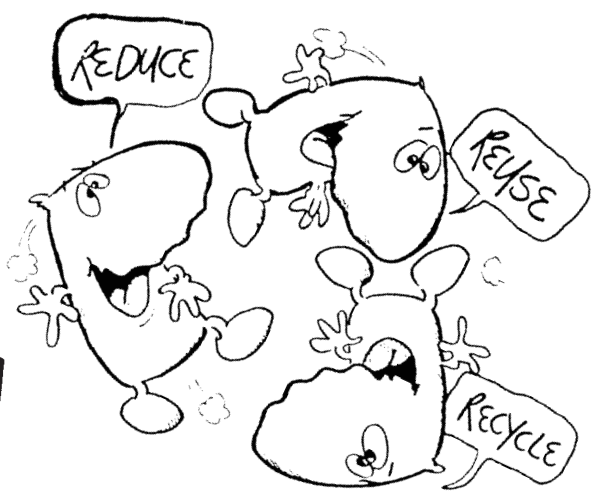


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Waste is not necessarily rubbish - waste is a reusable resource. We dispose of material as waste only when we think it is no longer useful or if we believe it cannot be reprocessed economically. If an ecologically sustainable future is to be assured, we need to conserve all our resources, especially non-renewable resources and energy.

On average each year, Aucklanders generate over 900,000 tonnes of industrial, commercial and domestic waste. Most of this ends up in landfill sites. In addition to this, there is demolition waste, sewage sludge and agricultural waste.



### WHAT IS WASTE MINIMISATION?

Reduction, Reuse and Recycling are recognised world wide as the "3R's" of Solid Waste Management.

**Reduction**, the most important, keeps materials out of the waste stream. Methods to reduce waste include changing packaging, substituting reusable items for disposable ones and developing products that are more durable or at least repairable.

**Waste minimisation** aims at eliminating waste before it is produced and reducing its quantity and toxicity. Waste prevention is the primary goal. Not only do such practices conserve raw materials, they also lessen some of the effort and money that would otherwise be spent on waste collection and disposal.

Waste includes unwanted end products of manufacturing, packaging items of metal, paper, plastic and glass, chemical-substances and vegetable and garden waste. Pollution of water air and land occurs from the

production and disposal of wastes. Reducing the quantity of waste generated will lessen environmental impacts.

Indirectly, we also generate toxic and hazardous waste through the use of every day items such as detergents, solvents and pesticides.

Better planning and management can minimise the need for landfill waste disposal.

## WHY MINIMISE WASTE?

A combination of world population increase and high consumption of products in the developed world has created a global waste problem. The rate of waste generation is now estimated to be greater than the capacity of the environment to absorb this waste.

The benefits of minimising waste include

- reducing demand for landfill space
- saving resources and energy
- reducing pollution increasing the efficiency of production.

A change in attitude and behaviour by industry, government and individuals can bring about massive waste reduction.



## WASTE MINIMISATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

### Who Does What?

In order to achieve sustainable development, every person, company and organisation must be aware of ways to minimise waste.



### Industry/Commerce

As environmental concerns increase and disposal costs rise, industry is implementing waste prevention practices. The first step in an industry waste-minimisation and prevention plan is a waste audit. This involves listing and measuring wastes produced at all stages in manufacture and counting disposal costs. Many wastes can be reused or recycled in the same process or in another process in a different factory. Industry can also limit the production of throw away items and develop and market long lasting reusable products.

### Individuals

Actions by many individuals can have a dramatic combined effect in reducing the mass of wasted materials ending up in a landfill.

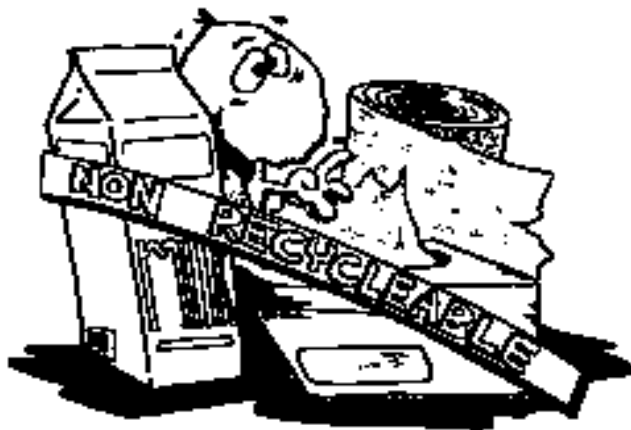
Here are some ways you can reduce waste, save money and send a message to manufacturers to make recyclable,

reusable, degradable or otherwise less wasteful products.

#### RE USE CONTAINERS FOR STORAGE



- Use your buying power by only purchasing goods in **bulk, in refillable or reusable containers, or** items which have **minimum packaging**.
- **Compost** your vegetable scraps and garden clippings. This will reduce your garbage disposal by up to 50 percent.
- Ensure you reuse or recycle all possible items at schools, work or home.



- Purchase goods made from **recycled products**. Avoid buying non recyclable or disposable items.
- Be an environmentally conscious consumer. Don't buy goods you don't really need.

- **Don't ask for a bag** when buying only a few items.



- Repair an item rather than throw it away.

Despite the benefits associated with waste minimisation and reduction, it is not easy to put in place. First, consumers, industries and institutions must be educated to change habits, practices, and processes and these processes may prove costly in the short term. Second, politicians must show resolve to see the programmes through, despite the fact they may be controversial and lack support among some segments of the business community.

Finally, all those involved with implementing reduction programmes, must show patience since regulatory and education processes move slowly, so widespread significant benefits may take some time to become apparent.

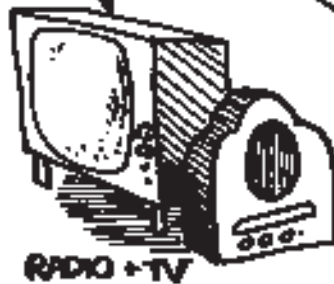
The Auckland Regional Council has waste audit booklets available to help you minimise waste in your business or office.

**HELP PRESERVE OUR  
ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVE  
RESOURCES**

**REDUCE WASTE AT  
HOME AND AT WORK**



LOOK FOR BAREAINS AT RECYCLE CENTRES



Auckland  
**Regional**  
Council

*For further information*  
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Private Bag 92 012  
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February 1999