

Think Zero Waste

Use this hierarchy to make decisions on what you purchase and consume to lower your environmental impact and work toward zero waste.

Rethink

Rethink everything you consume. What is it made out of? Do you need it? Why are you buying or consuming it? How does it affect nature? What happens when you don't need it?

Refuse

Say no to all single use items that are used once and thrown away. Refuse straws at restaurants, convenience food, balloons and plastic bags.

Reduce

Reduce what you buy. Purchase items with reduced product packaging. Reduce the amount of stuff in your home in general. Decluttering can be very therapeutic.

Reuse

Use reusable containers to refill bulk food, reusable bags for groceries and refillable mugs for coffee. Only buy items that will last a long time.

Re-gift

Keep items in good condition, and give them to others instead of purchasing gifts. If your friends and family don't need your items, sell them online or at a garage sale.

Repair

Fix or upgrade your objects rather than throwing them away (or recycling them). Find repair shops or save items for free repair cafes. Ask a friend/neighbor to help, or post online.

Rent

Rent items you only need for short projects, or borrow from your neighbors and friends. Utilize local tool and toy libraries in your community.

Recycle

It takes a lot of energy to collect, transport and recycle material into new objects, but it is still better than landfilling items. Participate in all local recycling programs.