

Reduce Waste Sent to Landfill

Materials that are eventually sent to landfill have negative environmental impacts at every stage of their life cycle. To get a better idea of a product's total environmental impact, it is helpful to consider the energy and resources used to produce the goods and packaging that are eventually sent to landfill; the CO2 emissions due to transportation at every stage of manufacturing, sales, and disposal; and the loss of natural environments (such as forests and clean drinking water) that support this waste production system.

Additionally, once the materials reach the landfill, the environmental impacts increase as contaminants and greenhouse gas emissions which are caused from the breakdown of organic materials leach into the air, soil, and water tables. Therefore it is essential to reduce the amount of materials sent to landfills.

Your business can reduce the amount of materials sent to landfill by:

1. Reducing the amount of materials consumed (including packaging)
2. Thinking of innovative ways to reuse materials
3. Recycling materials and composting organic food waste

Did you know?

Food waste sent to landfill leads to the generation of methane, which is a greenhouse gas that has a global warming potential 21 times greater than carbon dioxide

Waste management tips tourism businesses

Sector	Waste management measures				
Accommodation and Hospitality	<p>No cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk purchasing of cleaning chemicals (instead of single use) • Reduction of purchases with excessive packaging • Returning boxes, crates, bottles and containers to suppliers • Inform suppliers of environmental policy or choose suppliers with a strong environmental policy already in place • Purchase local and fresh products • Use worn towels and linen as cleaning rags • Provide customers with adequate possibilities for waste disposal that is well signed • Set up awareness program for staff and guests to improve effectiveness of waste minimisation strategies • Print double-sided • Use scrap paper for notes • Use refillable pens, toner cartridges and re-inkable ribbons in the office • Minimise use of plastic bags – ask customers if they need a plastic bag <p>Low cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace paper napkins and other disposable material with napkins that will last a long time • Use reusable containers to store food instead of plastic film in kitchen • Use refillable amenity dispensers in guest bathrooms • Develop a comprehensive garbage separation system and support efficient garbage separation within the community • Provide a cloth bag alternative to plastic bags • Introduce composting, worm- framing, or raise chickens where appropriate <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white;">Compost</th> <th style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white;">Non- compost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>- tea leaves and bags - coffee grounds - over- ripe vegetables / fruit,</td> <td>- meat and bones - oil and grease - plastic, rubber, glass,</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Compost	Non- compost	- tea leaves and bags - coffee grounds - over- ripe vegetables / fruit,	- meat and bones - oil and grease - plastic, rubber, glass,
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Factsheet 3.3: Reduce Your Waste Sent to Landfill

Sector	Waste management measures	
	food scraps and peelings - grass, leaves and tree trimming	Styrofoam - cigarette butts
Retail	<p>No cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk purchasing of cleaning chemicals (instead of single use) • Reduction of purchases with excessive packaging • Returning boxes, crates, bottles and containers to suppliers • Inform suppliers of environmental policy or choose suppliers with a strong environmental policy already in place • Purchase local and fresh products • Use worn towels and linen as cleaning rags • Provide customers with adequate possibilities for waste disposal that is well signed • Set up awareness program for staff and guests to improve effectiveness of waste minimisation strategies • Print double-sided • Use scrap paper for notes • Use refillable pens, toner cartridges and re-inkable ribbons in the office • Minimise use of plastic bags – ask customers if they need a plastic bag <p>Low cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive garbage separation system and support efficient garbage separation within the community • Provide a cloth bag as an alternative to plastic bags 	
Transport	<p>No cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk purchasing of cleaning chemicals (instead of single use) • Reduction of purchases with excessive packaging • Returning boxes, crates, bottles and containers to suppliers • Inform suppliers of environmental policy or choose suppliers with a strong environmental policy already in place • Purchase local and fresh products • Use worn towels and linen as cleaning rags • Provide customers with adequate possibilities for waste disposal on tours • Set up awareness program for staff and guests to improve effectiveness of waste minimisation strategies • Print double-sided • Use scrap paper for notes • Use refillable pens, toner cartridges and re-inkable ribbons in the office • Minimise use of plastic bags – ask customers if they need a plastic bag and offer an alternative cloth bag to use instead <p>Low cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive garbage separation system (also in vehicles) and support efficient garbage separation within the community 	
Tours	<p>No cost measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk purchasing of cleaning chemicals (instead of single use) • Reduction of purchases with excessive packaging • Returning boxes, crates, bottles and containers to suppliers • Inform suppliers of environmental policy or choose suppliers with a strong environmental policy already in place • Purchase local and fresh products • Use worn towels and linen as cleaning rags • Provide customers with adequate possibilities for waste disposal on 	

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Source: QTIC

Useful Links

Business guide to waste reduction and recycling:

A readable manual developed by the Xerox Corporation to lead you through the design and implementation of waste reduction, reuse and recycling procedures and techniques.

http://www.greenbiz.com/toolbox/reports_third.cfm?LinkAdvID=7319

Electronics recycling

Electronics Recycling offers recycling/reuse information representing all industry work groups and guidance to households and organisations for promoting recycling and reuse efforts.

<http://www.electronicrecycling.org>

Envirowise – Practical Environmental Advice for Business

Envirowise is a Government programme offering free, independent practical advice to businesses to help reduce waste at source and increase profits. The services and advice they offer are expert and it is all free.

<http://www.envirowise.gov.uk>

Healthy Habitats (Australia)

Provides access to a range of eco-friendly and biodegradable cleaning products and ideas.

<http://www.healthyhabitat.com.au>

Ecocycle Victoria (Australia)

EcoRecycle Victoria is a state government agency providing information & advice to business, government and community on waste reduction and recycling.

<http://www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au>

Global Recycling Network

Global Recycling Network is an electronic information exchange that specialises in the trade of recyclables as well as the marketing of eco-friendly products.

<http://www.grn.com>

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The site provides information on what you will need to get your own worm composting system operating effectively.

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/worms/wormlist.htm>

Recycling Facts Sheets

Good fact sheets on recycling.

www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/recycling

Recycling Operators of New Zealand Inc (NZ)

An organisation that represents service providers, operators and educators in the recycling industry. Members include a range of businesses, organisations, local and regional councils, educators and individuals working towards a sustainable, resource efficient New Zealand.

<http://www.ronz.org.nz>

The Story of Stuff

A 20-minute animation dealing with the lifecycle of products. This video is highly recommended.

www.storyofstuff.com