

DISPOSAL



What you choose to do with your 'waste' will fit into one of five options: avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, or disposal. Disposing of products or materials is the least viable option and generally occurs when the product is no longer used.

The large volume of waste we currently generate shows an inefficient and irresponsible use of resources that cannot be replaced. Most household waste is disposed of into landfill, meaning it gets buried in the ground. It is also buried with industrial, construction and other commercial business waste. By sending waste to landfill we have lost the opportunity to capture resources for future use. If we want to conserve our resources and become an effectively

sustainable society, our excessive creation of waste must stop.

Household waste has more than doubled during the last twenty years, and finding new landfill space is a hard task as not all areas are environmentally suitable and most communities oppose disposal facilities in their neighbourhoods.

Although landfill sites must fulfill certain environmental requirements, they can cause a range of problems. These include groundwater and surface water pollution (as landfill liquids seep into the ground, damaging water supplies), greenhouse gas emissions (through decomposing materials) and loss of many valuable resources that are potentially reusable or recyclable.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Be a conscious consumer! Avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle.

Avoid purchasing goods that generate waste, reduce waste by buying durable and long lasting products, reuse materials wherever possible rather than dispos-

ing of them, and recycle materials as it saves on landfill space. It also reduces the environmental problems of landfill and helps to conserve our natural resources. Supporting charity shops by giving unwanted clothing and household items is also a great way of avoiding disposal.

MORE INFORMATION

- www.wastenet.net.au - Wastenet Western Australia has information on different ways that we dispose of our waste
- www.environment.sa.gov.au/epa/waste.html- Waste to resources (EPA South Australia)
- For the Environmental Protection Agency's report of Waste disposal in NSW go to: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/soe/95/19_3.htm