

REUSE

Reuse is using the same item more than once (or preferably more than once!) instead of disposing of it after a single use. By reusing you save the energy and resources used to create new products. Fewer items unnecessarily end up in landfill.

Renting is a form of reuse through the repeated use of a product by many different people. Renting products such as catering equipment or videos that are not used the entire time can save money and storage space. Loaning is also reuse through the repeated use of a product by many

people or perhaps just one other person. For example, borrowing books from public libraries or lending an item to someone you know.

Reusing is not only about waste minimisation, but also saves the energy, resources, time and money needed to buy or produce new products or to recycle items into other materials. In the long run, buying durable and good quality products that can be used many times, is better from a waste, environmental and financial perspective

WHAT CAN I DO?

Be creative! What and where can you reuse? Does your local landfill site have a reuse centre? What about noticeboards in your area?

- Reuse empty jars and containers for leftovers or donate them-many schools and preschools appreciate clean items for artworks.
- Reuse a basket or cloth bags when shopping. Do not accept plastic bags.
- Hire, share or borrow items.
- Open envelopes carefully so that they can be reused.
- Reuse plastic drink bottles rather than continually purchasing throwaway plastic.
- Buy second-hand books.
- Hold a garage sale instead of throwing unwanted items out, or donate them to charities.
- Buy reusable items rather than disposable ones (e.g. cloth nappies and rechargeable batter

MORE INFORMATION

- www.reusedirectory.com - The North East Waste Forums reuse directory lists a wide range of businesses on the NSW north coast who are involved in the reuse sector, from auto wreckers to second-hand furniture sellers.
- <http://www.ecooffice.com.au/toolkit/> - click on 'reuse and recycling leads' for options on seeking and selling reusable goods
- http://www.recyclenmore.org/article_subpage.asp?subpagekey=4 - further explanation on the reuse of items
- www.freecycle.org.au - The freecycle network provides a database of free stuff in your local area, log on and find something you want or give something away- for free!
- <http://www.arnnetwork.com.au/> - Construction connect provides online trading for secondhand material in the construction industry. It specialises in things like clean fill and secondhand bricks, aiming to reduce construction waste and consumer cost.