

RETHINK WASTE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Avoid, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Reth!nk Waste
TASMANIA

Our current rates of resource consumption and pollution are unsustainable because they exceed the rates at which resources can be regenerated and assimilated by the Earth's natural systems.



cradle coast
WASTE SERVICES
Operated by Dalveon Waste Management

NORTHERN TASMANIAN
Waste Management

SOUTHERN
TASMANIAN
WASTE
MANAGEMENT
GROUP

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Introduction

About the Rethink Waste Schools program

Rethink Waste Schools throughout Tasmania reduce waste by implementing the waste management principles of avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle - while developing positive environmental values in students and the entire school community. Rethink Waste Schools model responsible environmental behaviours through hands-on learning experiences that are linked to the Australian Curriculum. The program helps schools set up infrastructure and provides resources aimed at changing attitudes and behaviours in regards to sustainable waste management. The program is free and available to all schools in Tasmania.

What's involved?

The Rethink Waste Schools program consists of three main documents.

The first, this document, outlines what is involved in the program and how schools can participate.

The second and third, the Action Plan Toolkit and Waste Audit Toolkit, are designed to be completed concurrently, with the results of the Waste Audit informing what's to be done in the Action Plan Toolkit. Essentially the Waste Audit will allow your school to measure the waste that needs to be managed, and the Action Plan will allow your school to manage the measured waste.

Rethink Waste Schools:

- put together a team to champion the ideals of sustainability and drive the school community towards achieving waste management goals,
- develop an action plan to improve waste management in the whole school environment
- undertake waste audits once a year
- use the action plan in the classroom to help students meet their learning goals.

The Rethink Waste Schools philosophy

The Rethink Waste Schools program has been developed based on best practice education for sustainability principles. The overarching message of the program is to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle, to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and minimise our collective environmental footprint.

Your Waste Management Groups

The Rethink Waste Schools Program is an initiative of the Cradle Coast (CCWMG), Northern (NTWMG) and Southern Tasmanian Waste Management Groups (STWMG).

These regional groups were created to help local councils manage waste and educate the community on waste related issues. This education program is the result of successful cooperation between the groups and is a step towards unified waste management in the state.

The Rethink Waste Schools program has been developed based on best practice education for sustainability principles

Chapter 1

Why should your school participate in Rethink Waste?

Schools throughout Tasmania have chosen to participate in the Rethink Waste program for a variety of reasons.

Whether your school is interested in saving the planet or saving some money, the Rethink Waste program will help you to meet your goals. In fact, some schools in the ACT, when participating in a similar program, have reduced waste to landfill by up to 58% in their first year!

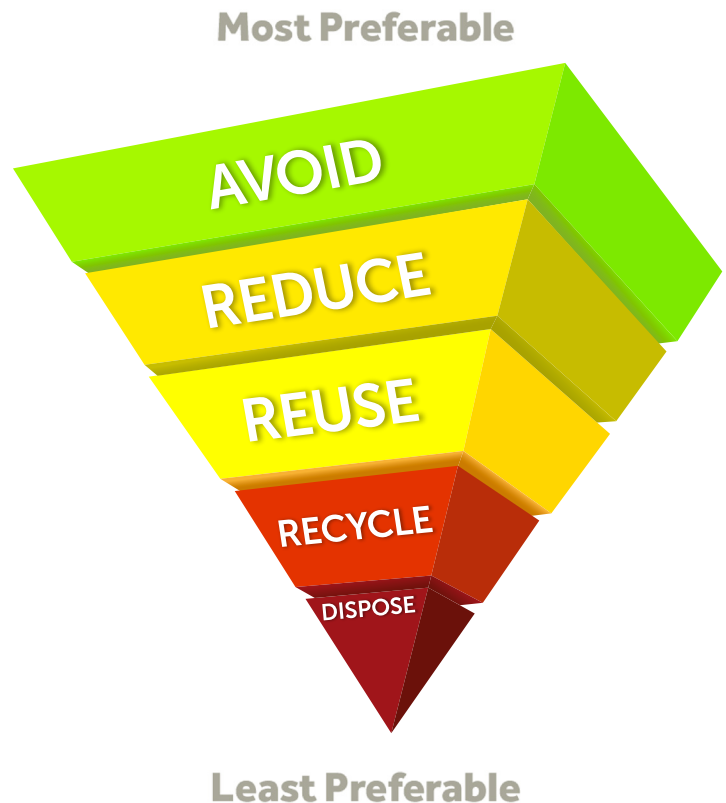
The Rethink Waste program follows the waste management hierarchy - an internationally accepted guide for prioritising waste management practices with the objective of reducing environmental harm.

It sets out the preferred order of waste management practices from most preferred to least preferred, and the Rethink Waste program will help guide you through it.

Environmental benefits

Implementing an action plan and using the waste hierarchy will allow your school to reduce the amount of waste it sends to landfill and, as a result, help the environment in several ways, including:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from landfill sites
- Reducing resource use in the production of consumables including food, plastics, paper and cardboard and more
- Protecting plant and animal life from injury and death due to habitat pollution and accidental ingestion of waste materials



Sustainable living

The sustainability cross-curriculum priority of the Australian curriculum aims to assist all students "to develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary to contribute to more sustainable patterns of living" (ACARA).

Rethink Waste agrees, and believes education can also instil an environmental conscience in the broader school community. Adopting the Rethink Waste program in your school will provide the means necessary to involve and educate the entire school community. So the next time a parent, grandparent, staff member or student is asked 'Would you like a bag for that?' the answer could come from a considered, broader state of mind.

In summary, the Rethink Waste Schools program will help your school community to think global - act local.

Financial savings

Once your school has implemented an action plan, you should be able to reduce your waste management costs by reducing the size of your bins and the frequency with which your bins are collected.

Meet curriculum requirements

The materials provided to your school through the Rethink Waste program will be a valuable resource to help with the development of lesson plans that are relevant and practical for the day to day operation of a school environment.

The Rethink Waste Schools program will help your school to meet its triple bottom line goals.

Chapter 2

How can your school participate in Rethink Waste?

Create a Rethink Waste team

For this program to be truly successful it is important that all the right people are on board.

This includes the principal, deputy principal, business manager, building services staff, teachers and administration staff - their support will be crucial to maintaining long term, consistent change.

Once 'the team' has been pulled together, your school can begin its journey to becoming a Rethink Waste school.

STEP 1

Waste Audit Toolkit

The first step in the Rethink Waste program is to complete the waste audit. The Waste Audit Toolkit will be provided to your school to assist in completing this, along with an electronic spread sheet to help you record your results. An Audit Kit, consisting of gloves, tarps, signs and scales will be needed to complete this step.

The audit should be completed every 12 months.

STEP 2

School Action Plan Toolkit

Once the audit has been completed, you will have a better idea of what areas your school should be targeting to reduce the waste generated and increase reuse and recycling.

The School Action Plan Toolkit is the second step in the Rethink Waste program and it will guide you through creating an action plan to manage waste generation and disposal.



The Rethink Waste Schools program will be most successful if you have a team to help with implementation.

Chapter 3

How does your school keep up the good work?



Tasmanian schools can continue to use the Waste Audit and Waste Toolkit resources to track their progress.

Monitor your progress

After completing the waste audit, use the School Action Plan Toolkit to draw up a plan of action to reduce the amount of waste your school sends to landfill. Implement the action plan and then, after 12 months, conduct another waste audit to see just how much your school has improved, and review the action plan to see if any changes need to be made.

Help is on hand

During your journey to reduce waste at school, you can contact your regional Waste Management Group, local council or Waste Education Officer to assist with any questions or advice.

Thank you for rethinking waste in Tasmania!

Notes

Reth!nk Waste
TASMANIA
www.rethinkwaste.com.au