

**Conservation**  
**Produce Less Waste & Save Natural Resources**  
**by Practicing the 3 Rs:**

**Reduce**

Waste prevention, or "source reduction," means consuming and throwing away less. It includes:

- purchasing durable, long-lasting goods;
- seeking products and packaging that are as free of toxics as possible;
- redesigning products to use less raw material in production, have a longer life, or be used again after its original use.

Source reduction actually prevents the generation of waste in the first place, so it is the most preferred method of waste management and goes a long way toward protecting the environment.

**Reuse**

Reusing items -- by repairing them, donating them to charity and community groups, or selling them -- also reduces waste. Reusing products, when possible, is even better than recycling because the item does not need to be reprocessed before it can be used again. What items in your house can you reuse?

**Recycle**

Benefits of Recycling include:

- Conserves resources for our children's future.
- Reduces the need for new landfills and incinerators.
- Prevents emissions of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants.
- Supplies valuable raw materials to industry.
- Creates jobs.
- Stimulates the development of greener technologies.

Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources. In addition, it generates a host of environmental, financial, and social benefits. Materials like glass, metal, plastics, and paper are collected, separated and sent to facilities that can process them into new materials or products. Recycling is one of the best environmental success stories of the late 20th century. Recycling, including composting, diverted 72 million tons of material away from landfills and incinerators in 2003, up from 34 million tons in 1990. By 2002, almost 9,000 curbside collection programs served roughly half of the American population. Curbside programs, along with drop-off and buy-back centers, resulted in a diversion of about 30 percent of the nation's solid waste in 2001.

**By practicing the 3 R's in your daily life  
YOU can make a positive impact on our environment!**

*Source: The above information was adapted from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website - <http://www.epa.gov/garbage/reduce.htm>*