

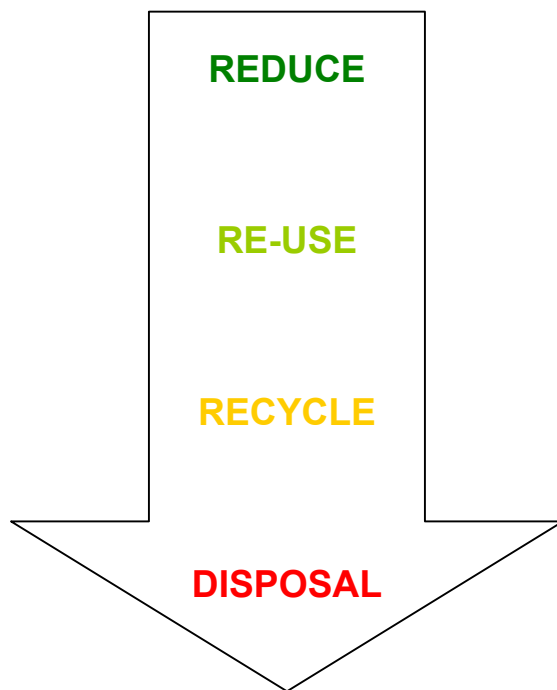
FIGHTING WASTE AT SCHOOL

What is waste?

Waste is any material that gets thrown away because we consider it to be useless. The used paper, plastic bags, tyres, bottles and cans that end up in landfills or on our streets are all examples of waste.

Why manage waste?

Most of our rubbish is buried in the ground in massive landfill sites. The problem is we don't have enough facilities to cope with the ever-increasing amount of rubbish. In South Africa we throw away over 566 million tonnes of rubbish each year. We can't just keep burying our rubbish and hoping it will go away because it won't.



Fortunately there are things which we can all do about it. We can follow the 3Rs – reduce, re-use, recycle:

- **Reduce:** reduce the amount you use in the first place so that you have less to throw away
- **Re-use:** use things again (and again)
- **Recycle:** use things which have already been used, to make new things
- **Dispose:** of what's left

Here's some ideas how to put the 3Rs into practice at school:

Ways to reduce your waste

- Rather than starting a new page for each piece of work, rule off below previous work and continue on the same page
- Buy snacks with less packaging on
- Encourage staff to use rechargeable batteries and refillable print cartridges

Rechargeable



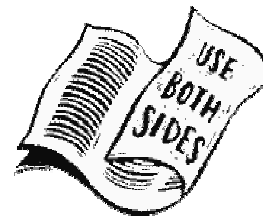
up to 500 times



Did you know it takes approximately 17 trees to make 1 tonne of paper?

Ways to re-use waste

- Use both sides of paper when printing and photocopying. Collect paper which has only been used on one side in a special tray and use this for rough work
- Re-use old paper for arts and crafts activities e.g. papier mache models/masks



Did you know that every plastic bag buried in landfill takes 100 years to decompose?

Ways to recycle waste

- Set up separate bins in classrooms for recyclable materials. Items which can normally be recycled include paper, cardboard, cans and plastic bottles.
- Raise money for your school by recycling aluminium cans, mobile phones and printer cartridges
- Set up a composting scheme or a worm composter for fruit, vegetable and green waste – this can include the staff's tea bags and fruit waste from your packed lunches e.g. apple core



Did you know that recycling 1 aluminium can saves enough electricity to run a TV for 3 hours?

Waste Free Lunches

A lot of the waste schools produce comes from all the packed lunches. Why not start a challenge to create as little waste from your lunch as possible. There could be a prize for the winner (the one producing the least waste), such as book vouchers or recycled stationary.

The secret is to go for stuff that's RE-USABLE or RECYCLABLE:

- avoid taking your lunch to school in a plastic bag. Use a re-usable container – a lunchbox or an old ice cream tub;
- take a flask or screw-top plastic bottle you can use again for drinks. Otherwise, choose an aluminium can or glass bottle that can be recycled;
- don't wrap food in clingfilm. Use aluminium foil, which can be recycled when you've finished with it; and
- Compost leftover fruit and veg e.g. apple cores at school or at home



What happens to our waste in the Drakenstein area?



Rubbish is collected from your house



It is taken to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) where people take out any materials which can be recycled



Materials which can't be recycled are taken to a landfill site



Recyclable materials are collected and made into new materials

Sorting materials for recycling at the materials recycling facility (MRF) isn't as good as collecting materials for recycling separately because when mixed with other waste they get dirty. Sometimes this means they can no longer be recycled. If items are collected separately then they can be sent for recycling straight away without going to the materials recycling facility first.

So remember to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste. It is much better to reduce waste in the first place as then there is less to deal with. Reusing things is the second best option as it saves you buying new things. After you have reduced and reused as much as you can, recycle.

More information/contacts

- www.wastenot.co.za – general waste information
- Local landfill site: Wellington landfill, Interpace Street, Wellington (near Industrial Park). Tel: 021 873 2530
- Materials Recycling Facility (MRF): Distillery Street, Huguenot, Paarl. Tel: 021 807 4715/ 021 807 4751
- Operating hours for landfill site and MRF
 - Monday – Thursday, Saturdays & Public Holidays: 8am - 4pm; Friday: 8am – 3.30pm; Sundays & Religious Holidays: Closed
- Residents in Drakenstein (not businesses) can dispose up to five bakkie loads of refuse free of charge at the MRF of landfill site
- Recycling bank locations
 - Bottle banks – Bergriver Boulevard (near Brug str.), Main Road (near Zomerlust Spar), Paarl Rugby Clubhouse, Boy Louw Sportsgrounds
 - Cans – can be brought to MRF
 - Steel – L.O.Rall, Paarl Scrap Metal - Oosterland Street
 - Paper – Mr Paper – Vosmaar Street