

## **Reduce, reuse, recycle**

The easiest way to reduce the amount of waste we produce is to reduce, reuse and recycle.

### **Reducing and reusing resources**

You can reduce demand on resources by:

- only buying appliances and goods that you really need
- purchasing products with minimal packaging
- reusing existing materials such as:
  - timbers
  - windows and doors
  - plastic bags
  - office paper

### **Recycling items**

The Brisbane City Council provides yellow-top bins for recycling. You should make sure the items you place in these bins are free of food scraps or liquid. It's a good idea to squash products such as cardboard, cans and cartons so there is enough room in the bin for all your recyclables before it's collected each fortnight.

Visit the recycling section for lists of what you can and cannot put in recycling bins, as well as bin collection information.

#### ***Tips***

- place containers to store recyclable materials in the kitchen and in other rooms such as your home office, bathroom, workshop and laundry
- save water by rinsing cans and cartons in the left over dishwater after washing up

### ***Paper and cardboard***

You can recycle all packaging cardboard and paper, such as cereal and washing powder boxes, newspaper and magazines (including glossy paper), junk mail, all office paper and envelopes (including those with plastic windows). Staples and plastic are removed from the paper during the recycling process. Pizza bases are no good for recycling because they are too greasy.

For every tonne of your waste paper that is recycled, 13 trees are saved.

### **Recycled products**

Most waste paper ends up as brown packaging cardboard. Newspaper can be made back into newsprint through a de-inking process.

### ***Aluminium and steel cans***

All types of steel and aluminium drink cans can be recycled. Sardine tins, empty aerosols and milo tins are also recyclable. You can also recycle aluminium takeaway trays and foil as long as they're free of food waste.

Recycling one aluminium can will save enough energy to run a television for three hours. The recycling process uses only 25% of the energy used to first make the can from iron ore.

### **Recycled products**

The primary use for your recycled cans is for making steel and aluminium packaging and other steel products.

### ***Milk and juice cartons (liquid paperboard)***

You can put all types of packaging cartons in your recycling bin, such as those used for milk, fruit juice, cream and custard, detergents, soups and wine.

On average, Queenslanders use two kilograms of liquid paperboard annually. Currently only 0.01kg per person is recycled in Brisbane.

### **Recycled products**

The paper pulp fibres of liquid paper board are used to make high quality recycled office paper.

**Plastics**

You can place all types of plastics with the identification code 1-6 in your recycling bin. You can usually find out if a product is recyclable by checking the plastic packaging for the code.

**Organics (green waste and food waste)**

Organics currently make up over 50% of Brisbane's total domestic waste. When organic waste is taken to the tip and used as land fill, it produces damaging environmental effects such as liquid run-off called 'leachate'. Leachate can pollute ground water and waterways and release methane to the atmosphere. Methane is a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect.

To reduce the problem of land fill liquid run-off, try sustainable gardening. For example, use your food scraps, lawn clippings and yard waste in a compost bin or for mulching.

**Household hazardous waste**

Household hazardous wastes require special care when you no longer need them or they pass their useful life. Household chemicals can be flammable, corrosive, explosive or toxic. If they are not disposed of carefully they could harm us and the environment.

Visit our household hazardous waste section for more information about hazardous waste, including the Brisbane City Council's collection program.