

Waste is the stuff we no longer need or want.

It's everything from leftover food to books we've finished reading and clothing we've outgrown. Each New Yorker creates about 4.1 pounds of waste per day. If everything we no longer have use for went into the trash, landfills would fill up quickly, and natural resources needed to make stuff would quickly get used up. Let's make better choices, reduce our waste, and conserve our resources instead.



First, **REDUCE**—
Cut back on how much stuff you use, and you'll save resources and the energy needed to make things.

Second, **REUSE**—
Your trash could be someone else's treasure, and vice versa. Give away or sell clothing, household items and books you no longer need or want. Organizing a game, sports equipment or book swap at your school could benefit everyone.

Third, **RECYCLE**—
Items for recycling are broken down into raw materials (metals, glass, paper pulp, etc.) that can be used to make new items. Fewer raw materials are used when items we purchase contain recycled materials.

UP-CYCLING happens when an item that would have otherwise gone into the trash or recycling system is turned into something new instead.

What will you make?



Turn a soup can into a pencil holder.



Use a jar as a drinking glass.



Convert an old sweater into mittens.