Waste Reduction

How You Can Help

Say No to Plastic Bags: purchase or make your own reusable bag and use it while shopping.

Go Reusable: stop purchasing bottled water and opt for a reusable water bottle, carry it with you wherever you go.

Go Paperless: take steps to stop junk mail, choose paperless billing, think before printing, and purchase recycled paper products.

Ditch Plastics: avoid single use plastics and excessive plastic packaging, look for products that aren't over-packaged, buy from bulk bins, and shop at farmers markets.

Reduce Food Waste: plan ahead and only purchase what is needed, eat leftovers or reinvent them into new meals, compost what you can't eat.

Visualizing Municipal Solid Waste in the U.S.


Reducing Waste: If Not You, Then Who?

One of the most important steps we can take to protect our environment is to find ways to minimize the waste we produce. Reducing waste prevents pollution which makes your neighborhood and community a safer and healthier place to live. In the end, you benefit, the environment benefits, and your community benefits.

Take steps to reduce your waste, but remember, the best way to reduce waste is simply to consume less.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency