

Recycling Right at WCCC

Alternatives to plastic

Plastic is one of our biggest waste issues. It is a problem in our water ways and a major hazard threatening marine life across the world. While the best way to overcome this is to avoid plastic and appropriately recycle what we can't avoid, **how can we do this?**

Here are a few simple ways to avoid plastic:

Say No to cling film:

- Use only reusable jars and containers with lids
- Purchase or make your own bees wax wraps in different sizes for covering bowls or other containers

Say no to plastic bags:

- Reusable containers, preferably stainless steel for all lunches and washable reusable snack bags instead of small plastic bags.
- Take reusable shopping bags whenever you go shopping, preferably a washable cotton but a nylon bag that folds up very small and can be carried in a hand bag or pocket will also save hundreds of plastic bags.
- Purchase or make reusable fresh produce bags to take when you go to your local fruit and veg store or farmers market or just use a basket. Say No to plastic wrapped and pre-packaged fruit and veg.

Other alternatives to plastic:

- Recycle glass jars from pickles, jams and other products and use as storage jars instead of plastic containers.
- Replace toothbrushes with ones made of bamboo with natural bristles. These come in cardboard packaging and are fully recyclable via composting.
- Look for natural bristle brushes with wooden/bamboo handles/bases for household cleaning.
- Use a stainless steel drink bottle.

Some of these items will be more expensive initially, however, they also last longer when we take care. With a wealth of information on the web you can find a local or online store by simply putting the product in your computer's search engine.

There is also lots of information and videos on how to make your own plastic free products.



Remember every little step counts so just making one change to reduce our use of plastic is helping our world now and for our children in the future.

Help close the loop— buy recycled

Consumer awareness and advocacy can make a difference. This is what will help us move away from a linear economy to a circle economy. When we refuse non-recyclable or difficult to recycle products and buy products that we know go the full circle we really are making a difference. Close the loop – by purchasing a recycled product, you are keeping the product, or its components and materials, in the loop and out of landfill and groundwater.

Buying recycled items and products made from recycled materials is a great way to save waste to landfill.

How do we do this?

Research the products you purchase, especially those you buy regularly and big \$ items. Learn more about where they are made, what they are made from and the business commitment to sustainable practices.

Planet Ark has recently released its *Guide for Buying Recycled*. The more we learn the better we will be at knowing what to buy, what to refuse and how to really reduce our waste. Learn more at:

<http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/documents/doc-1586-why-buying-recycled-matters-guide.pdf>