



Reduce, Reuse & Recycle at Home

Marta Keane – Will County Recycling Specialist

Agenda

1. Why do we *Throw it away*

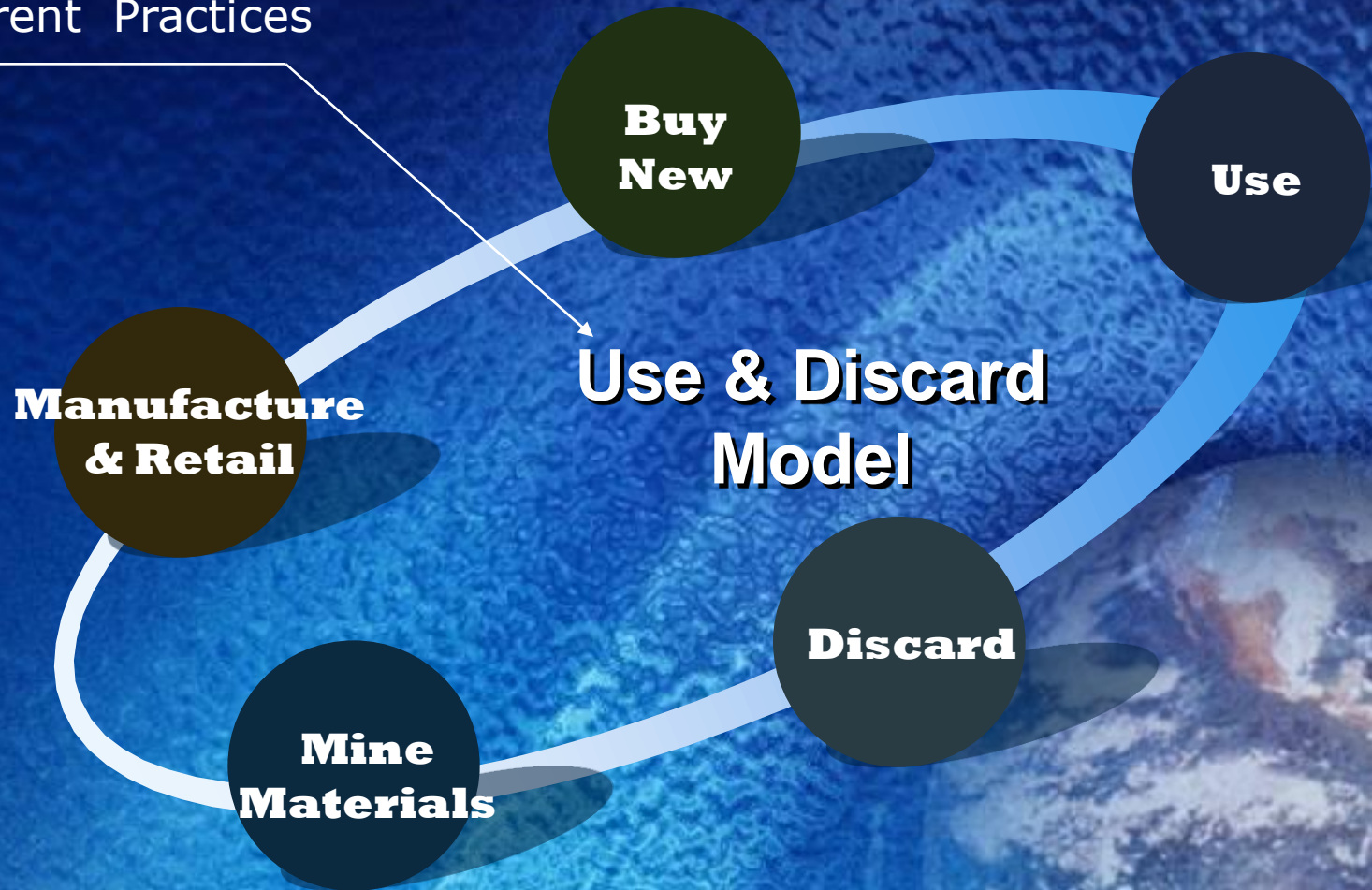
2. Reduce

3. Reuse & Recycle

4. Re-Think!

Cycle Diagram

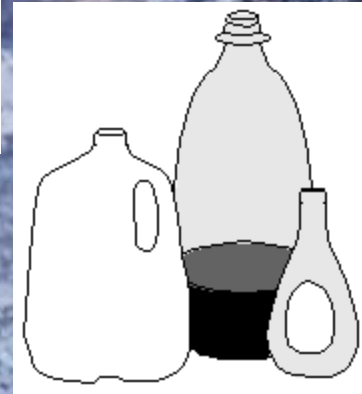
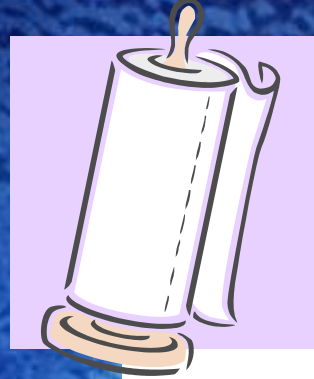
Current Practices



Items We Buy

What do we buy every week?

- ☐ Packaged Food
- ☐ Groceries
- ☐ Fast Food
- ☐ Paper Napkins & Towels
- ☐ Wet wipes, mops w/wipes
- ☐ Kitty Litter
- ☐ Videos/DVDs
- ☐ Sandwich bags
- ☐ Gasoline/Diesel Fuel
- ☐ Lottery Ticket
- ☐ ?



Soon, we need to
replace it, and we just
throw it away?

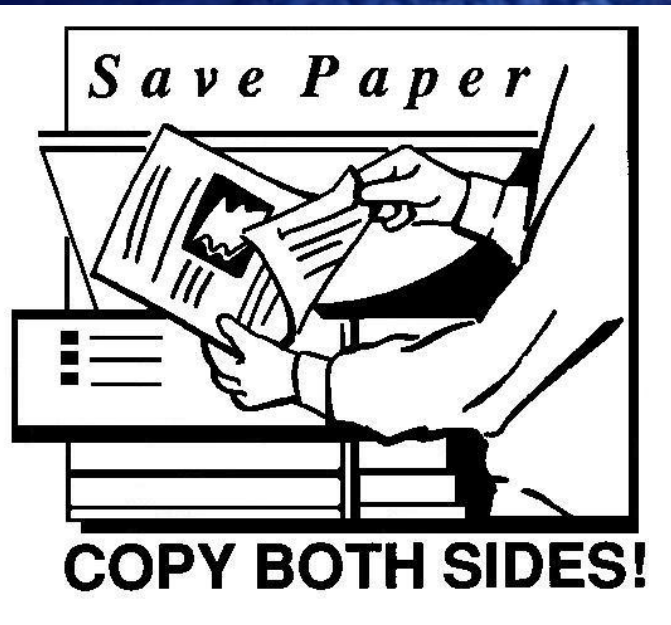


Average is Unsustainable

- The Average Person consumes twice as much today as in the 1950s.
- The Average Person makes 4.5 to 5 pounds of garbage a day (that's twice as much as in the 1970s).
- For each can or 32-gal bag of garbage put at the curb, approx. 70 pounds of garbage was created to make it!

Real Simple Magazine Reported on Designed Obsolescence:
Flat Screen TVs – life expectancy 10 yrs
DVD Players & Computers – 5 years
Cell Phones & I-Pods – 2 or 3 years

Reduce



Progress Diagram

Buy

Reuse/Recycle

ReThink

Paper Towels
One use only

Bottles of Water
One Use Only

Disposable
Utensils for
Parties (1 use)

Switch to cloth
towels & wash

Switch to steel
mug with lid &
wash

Get used utensils
at Goodwill &
wash

What about the
sponge?

What about
carry out
containers?

Pack a waste-
free lunch
w/cloth napkin &
regular utensils

Progress Diagram

Buy

Reuse/Recycle

ReThink

1972 - TV
Lasted 36 yrs
(digital
switchover)

1972 – Phone
Lasted 38+ yrs
(rotary dial, good
when no power)

Get Converter
Box for TV

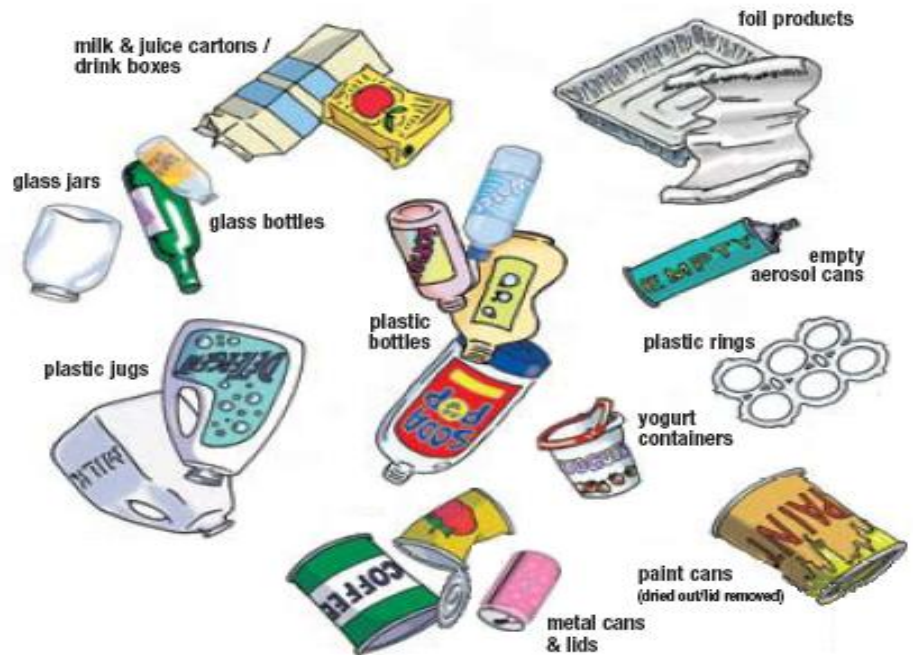
Recycle Old TV

Use Cordless
phone in other
room, recycle
every 3 yrs

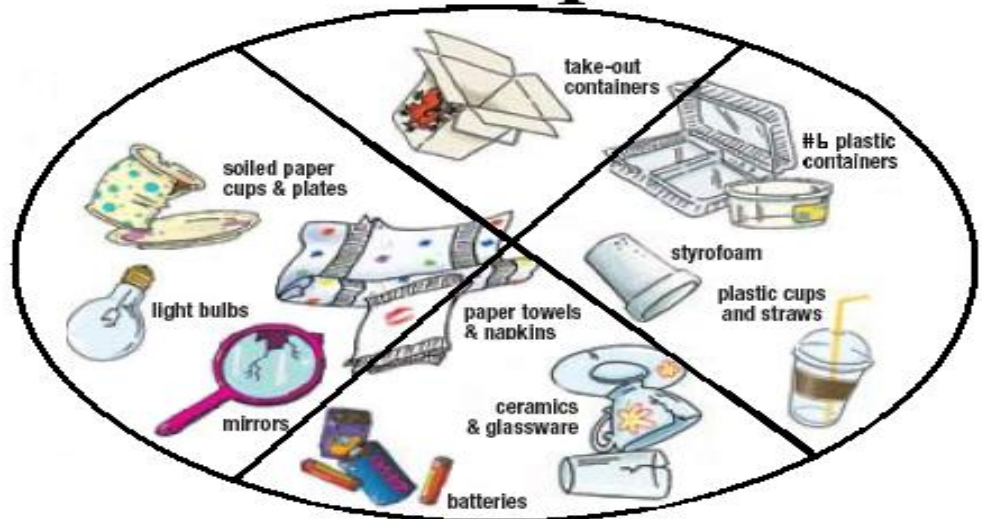
How many TVs
are truly
needed?

Buy durable,
with long
warranty
standard

Recycling Drop-Off - Accepted Items



Not Accepted





What happens to Recyclables





What happens to Recyclables



Metals & Glass Melted



- Aluminum, Steel and Glass are melted to be created
- Aluminum, Steel and Glass are re-melted to be recycled
- Embodied energy is saved – enough to power a TV for 3 hrs from 1 can or 1 bottle!

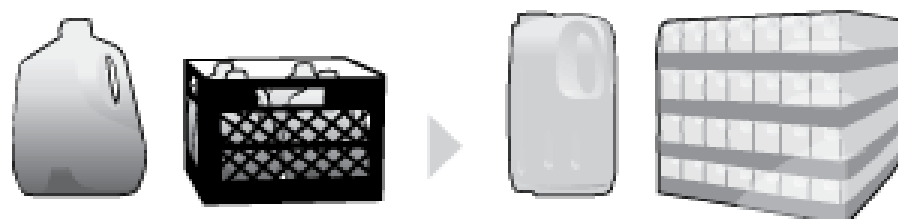
Everyday Recycled Content Items

- Newspaper - 30% or more recycled paper
- Cereal Boxes & Tissue Boxes (100% paperboard)
- Aluminum Cans – 50% recycled aluminum
- Steel Cans, Beams, Toys – percentage varies
- Glass Bottles – percentage varies
- Copy Paper & Letterhead – 10-20% if requested
- Paper Napkins, Tissues, Toilet Paper – some brands
- Notebooks, Calendars, Greeting Cards – some brands
- Carpeting – plastic bottles
- Plastic Decking – plastic bottles, plastic bags
- Soaker Hoses, Playgrounds, Running Tracks – tires and gym shoes

Think Bigger!

Efficiency, One Gallon at a Time

Sam's Club is adopting a new, stronger milk container design that will streamline packaging, maintenance and delivery at lower cost to its customers. Other retailers may follow suit.



TRADITIONAL JUG

NEW DESIGN

IMPACT

Packaging and Storage

Traditional milk jugs cannot be stacked and require crates for storage and transport.

The new milk containers have flat tops and ridged sides that allow multiple stacking, bound by cardboard bands and shrink wrap.

By eliminating the crates, the new containers store 4.5 gallons of milk in a cubic foot — 50 percent more than the 3 gallons stored in a cubic foot with the old jugs.

Maintenance

Plastic crates are reusable after being returned and washed.

After single use, the cardboard and shrink wrap are recycled.

No water is needed for washing, and no labor is required to load and return the crates.

Transport and Fuel

Four to five trips a week are required to deliver milk to a typical Sam's Club.

Two delivery trips are required each week.

Fewer trips by delivery trucks reduce fuel cost and consumption.

Beyond the Curb - Recycle More!

- Electronics – TVs, Computers, Phones, VCRs, Microwaves, Printers, Cameras, etc
- Medications – Pharmacies and Police
- Textiles – Clothes, Sheets, Towels, Shoes
- Eye Glasses, Canes, Walkers, etc
- Books – Reuse first!
- Tires
- Motor Oil – including filters

Making Positive Changes

- 1. Switch your incandescent bulb for compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) in your house, and you could save 30% on your bill. CFLs use 75% less energy than incandescents and last 10 times longer," "This, on average, results in \$30 savings for the life of the bulb."



Transportation Choices

- Walk, bicycle, carpool or use mass transit whenever possible
- Choose a fuel efficient vehicle.
- Regardless of the model, efficiency is improved with tires inflated properly, regular oil changes and air filter replacement.
- No QUICK starts, slow down approaching stop signs and red lights.
- Never 'top off' the gas tank

Fill 'em for Efficiency!

- Fill the dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer before using them. These appliances consume large amounts of energy, so reduce their use as much as possible by only running them with full loads.
- Buy ENERGY STAR labeled appliance to get the most energy efficient models available. "In addition to saving energy and water consumption, they also will save consumers money."
- Wash in Cold Water & Line Dry if possible

Unplug!

- Turn off & unplug idle electronics. Your computer might be asleep, but if there's a light on, it's still using energy. Turn off and unplug your computer, printer, television, radio — any electronic device that you're not using.
- Kill-a-Watt – available at some libraries, helps you measure the energy being used by items plugged in but turned off!

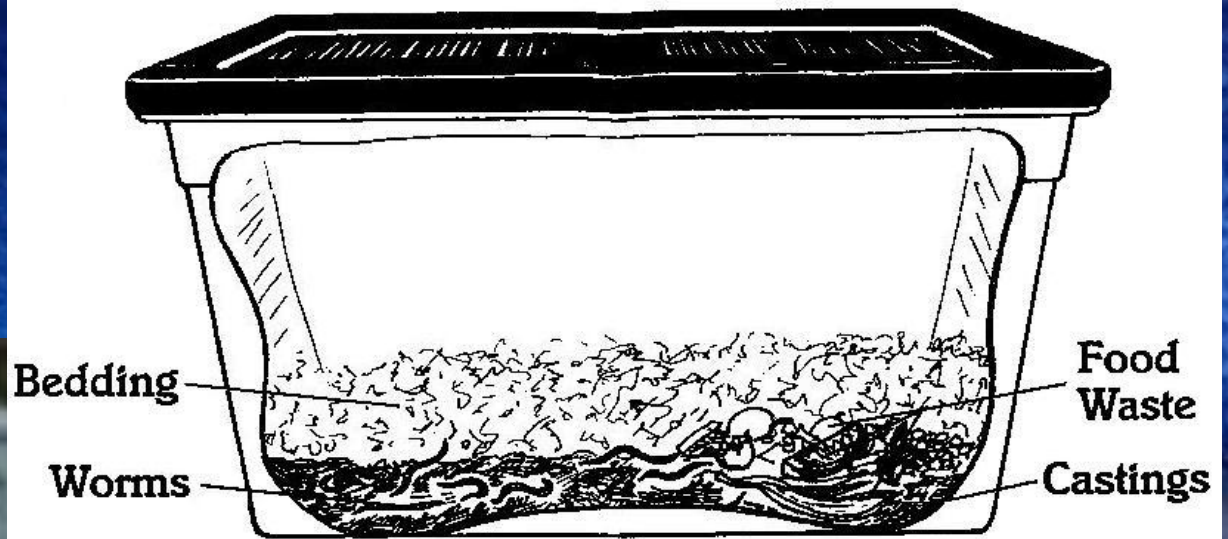


Go Natural!

- Plant a tree in your backyard. Just one tree can offset tons of carbon over its lifetime. If planted appropriately, it also will provide shade on a sunny day, perhaps reducing the use of energy for air-conditioning in buildings and homes.
- Restore more natural 'carbon sinks' that capture carbon such as planting trees, bushes, native plants, perennials, etc.
- Reduce mowing and recharge our aquifer

Composting Food – Outside or In

Vermicomposting Worm Bin



Re-Think

Resources

Library
Donate
Share
Compost

Water

Rain
Barrel
Rain Garden
Dishwasher

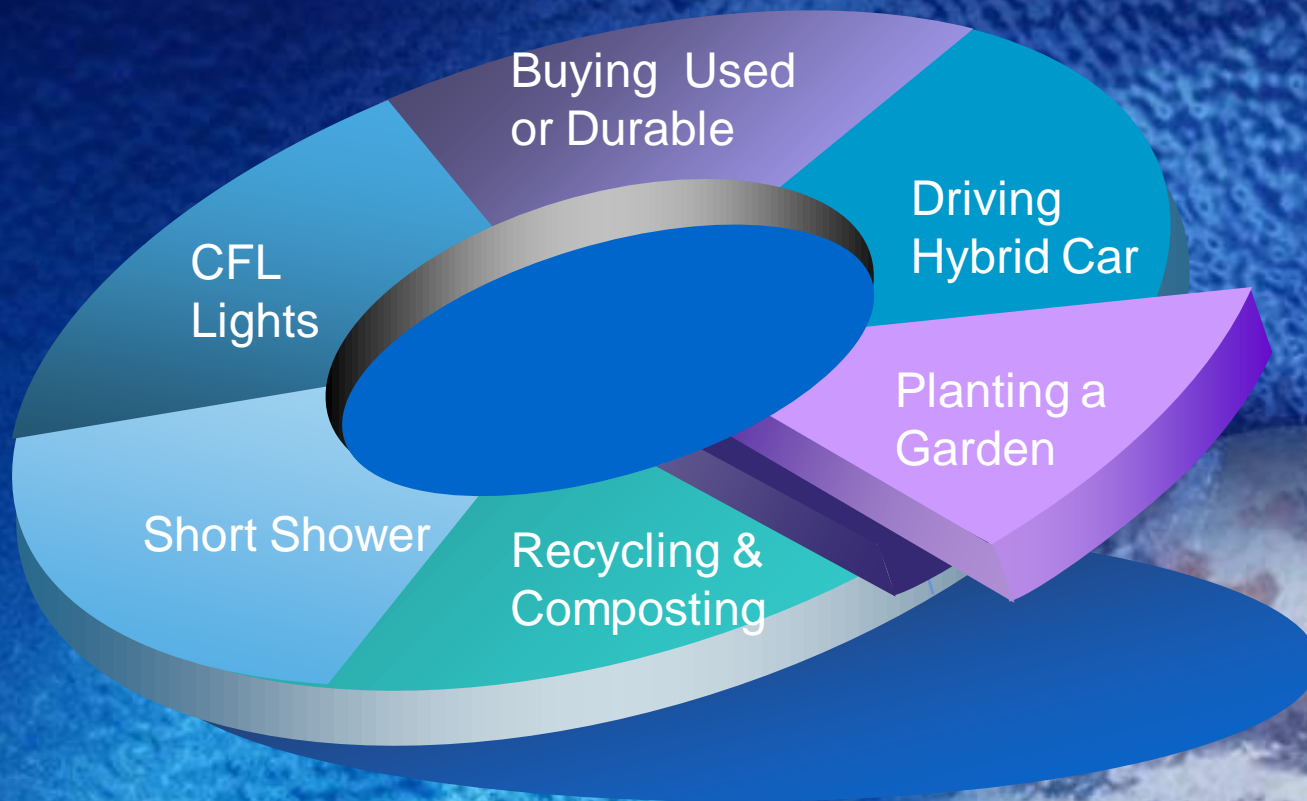
Energy

Carpool
68 F
Insulate
CFLs

Air

Alternative
Logs
Walk, Bike
Avoid
Hazardous
Chemicals

Making Choices





Questions? Suggestions?

www.willcountygreen.com

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