

# Household Waste Reduction

A guide to minimizing waste generation at home. This playbook provides steps that involve mindful shopping, creating compost, and repurposing items to foster a more sustainable living environment.

## Step 1: **Mindful Shopping**

Adopt conscious purchasing habits to reduce waste by making a list of necessary items before shopping to avoid impulse buys. Choose products with minimal packaging, buy in bulk when possible, and select items made from recycled materials.

## Step 2: **Reusable Containers**

Utilize reusable bags, containers, and bottles for shopping and storage to cut down on disposable packaging waste. Bringing these reusable items when shopping will significantly decrease the amount of single-use plastics and paper used.

## Step 3: **Composting Setup**

Begin composting by setting up a compost bin in your yard or using a local community compost program. Add appropriate organic waste from your kitchen to this compost bin instead of throwing it in the trash.

## Step 4: **Repurpose Items**

Find creative ways to give a second life to items that would otherwise be discarded. This could include using jars as storage containers, turning old clothing into cleaning rags, or upcycling furniture rather than buying new.

## Step 5: **Proper Recycling**

Educate yourself on local recycling protocols to ensure proper sorting of recyclable materials. Avoid contamination of recyclables by cleaning them prior to disposal and following the specific guidelines of your local recycling program.

# **General Notes**

## **Donation Options**

Consider donating items that are in good condition but no longer needed instead of throwing them away. Organizations and thrift stores often accept gently used clothes, electronics, and furniture.

## **Eco-friendly Products**

Research and invest in eco-friendly products that are designed to last longer and have a lesser environmental impact. This can range from biodegradable soaps to energy-efficient appliances.