



# ZERO WASTE



Our lifestyle choices are depleting Earth's natural resources. Reducing and reusing can reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Together, our individual steps in waste reduction can make a big difference.

## Did You Know?

- The average American generates almost 5 pounds of trash per day. (Source EPA 2018)
- 99% of plastic is made from fossil fuels <sup>1</sup>
- Only 5-6% of plastic in the U.S. is effectively recycled <sup>2</sup>
- Over 28% of all U.S. garbage is packaging <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [plasticpollutioncoalition.org/learn/plastic-pollution-facts](https://plasticpollutioncoalition.org/learn/plastic-pollution-facts)

<sup>2</sup> [plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2022/5/16/what-really-happens-to-your-plastic-recycling](https://plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2022/5/16/what-really-happens-to-your-plastic-recycling)

<sup>3</sup> [environmentamerica.org/center/resources/trash-in-america-2/](https://environmentamerica.org/center/resources/trash-in-america-2/)



# TAKE ACTION WITH THE 7 R's!

**REDUCE** - instead of buying new, consider making it yourself, borrowing from a friend/local library or purchasing gently used.

**REUSE** - switch from single use throwaway items to a reusable option. Easy examples are water bottles, shopping bags, flatware kits for purse/car, napkins and travel mugs.

**RECYCLE** - take a moment to separate items that can be recycled.

**REFUSE** - say no to things you don't need that will go to landfill. Say no to excess packaging by shopping local farmers' markets and refill stores. Avoid buying plastic items.

**REPAIR** - check online for DIY tips, visit a local Repair Café event.

**RETHINK** - repurpose leftover bags into garbage can liners, towels/blankets to pet bedding, sew cotton sheets into washable produce bags.

**ROT** - in landfill, organic waste produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Compost organic materials so they break down properly.

Thank you for making our community more sustainable. For more information please visit:

[GreentownLosAltos.org/zero-waste](https://GreentownLosAltos.org/zero-waste)



GreenTown Los Altos cultivates sustainable communities through community engagement, education, and advocacy. We are a fiscally sponsored program of Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation which the IRS recognizes as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

