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.
- Only 5-6% of plastic in the U.S. is effectively recycled.
- Over 28% of all U.S. garbage is packaging.

1 plasticpollutioncoalition.org/learn/plastic-pollution-facts
2 plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2022/5/16/what-really-happens-to-your-plastic-recycling
3 environmentamerica.org/center/resources/trash-in-america-2/

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

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.