

TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK



WANT TO GO ZERO WASTE? FIND OUT MORE...

We all know and love the 3 R's: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." Now there are 6 R's to help reduce waste:

1. **Refuse** products that are destined for the trash after one use.
2. **Reduce** items that have excess packaging or products you simply don't need.
3. **Repair** items in your home when possible, don't just toss them.
4. **Reuse** products to reduce waste and save money.
5. **Recycle** if you can't refuse, reduce or reuse items.
6. **Rot** and return nutrients to the soil by composting.

The Township of East Brunswick is committed to delivering progressive, sustainable policies and effective programs to address our environmental, economic and social challenges.



Why is reducing waste so important?

- **A reduction in the amount of waste produced could help reduce the cost of disposing solid waste and therefore mitigate service rate increases.**
- **Less trash means cleaner communities.**
- **Lessening the burden on the planet for resources.**

Every resident, visitor and business has the responsibility to help reduce the amount of waste produced in East Brunswick. By making small everyday changes, we can all help decrease the waste that can end up in the trash where it can produce greenhouse gases and other pollution.

Refuse

The most effective way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place. Refuse products that are destined for the trash after one use. Many products, like plastics, can last for centuries without breaking down.

Take Action:

- **Avoid products like plastic straws, plastic lids, plastic bags (including produce and snack bags), beverage containers and coffee cups, sleeves and pods.**
- **Replace plastic items like toothbrushes with bamboo or recycled plastic**
- **Skip single-use items and bring your own when possible. For example: water bottles, coffee cups, reusable plates, cups, utensils, napkins, snack bags, food containers, etc.**
- **Shop at package-free bulk stores – don't forget to bring your own reusable containers at restaurants too instead of their containers bring your own tupperware!!**

Reduce

When you cannot refuse, reduce your consumption of items that have excess packaging or products you simply don't need where possible.

Take Action:

- **Minimize your food waste at home and beyond and only buy only what you will eat.**
- **Compost food waste.**

- **Opt out of paper mail whenever possible and stop unsolicited mail.**
- **Choose items with minimal or no packaging, such as bar soap, shampoo bars, or bulk food, and buy local when possible.**
- **Bring your own bags including for veggies and fruit.**

Repair

When possible, try to repair items that are broken. It saves money and reduces waste.

Take Action:

- **Mend clothing, shoes, furniture and household items instead of throwing them away.**

Reuse

Reusing products will help you save money, reduce waste and preserve valuable resources.

Take Action:

- **Purchase rechargeable batteries, such as camera batteries that can be recharged through a USB.**
- **Donate to and shop at thrift stores for items like clothing, shoes, books, cookware, furniture and appliance.**
- **Use share programs for cars, bicycles, equipment, clothing and more to avoid buying things that you rarely use.**

To learn more research zero waste and for places to buy zero waste go to:

<https://www.litterless.com/bulk-food-guide/new-jersey?fbclid=IwAR2cMKYPDwVGPByu0A2uy4R2-kVQ8l4j6QYzeiO9jDAWceiciGUuOalkyAM>

Recycle

When you cannot refuse, reduce or reuse, make sure to recycle to divert waste from the trash.

Take Action:

- **Make sure you're recycling correctly with Recycling Coach app the link can be found at <https://recyclecoach.com/companies/> or on google play or apple store**
- **Buy products made from recycled materials. Look for items with “post-consumer” material to save the natural resources like trees, water and energy used to produce new products**
- **Attend a free Household Hazardous Waste drop-off event:**

