



(October 30, 2021) Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: in that Order

There is a reason these three words are generally seen together and in the same order. Similar to the order of operations that are used in practicing math, this phrase represents the order of operations to avoid landfill waste.

First, reduce: The best way to reduce landfill waste is by reducing the overall amount of waste that we create. Some simple ways to reduce how much waste you generate are to avoid single-use plastics, single-serve containers and other disposable items. Choose bulk items that are packaged together instead of individually packaged items. Choose concentrates for things like cleaners and then dilute them in reusable glass spray bottles. Opt out of print catalogs and mailers that can be viewed online.

Next, reuse: Instead of throwing things away or recycling them, reuse or repurpose them. Use reusable shopping bags and water bottles to reduce plastic waste and pollution. Donate used items and clothing to thrift stores or other donation centers. You can also reuse in a more creative way by creating art or using old containers for storage.

Last, recycle: Recycle items so they can find new life in another product. Some materials can be recycled indefinitely, such as glass bottles and aluminum cans, but most others can only be recycled once if at all. Consider the end place of items and their packaging when you purchase. Choose products and packaging that can be recycled or reused instead of thrown in the trash.

Use the Barry County 2Go-Zero Guide to find out what products can be recycled and where you can drop them off. Learn more and find the 2Go-Zero Guide at barrycountryrecycles.org