

# Commit to reducing plastic

beginner's toolkit for small & mid-sized  
businesses



01

**be aware -  
plastic  
surrounds our  
daily lives**



Since the 1950s,  
around

8.3

BILLION TONS

of plastic have been  
produced  
worldwide.



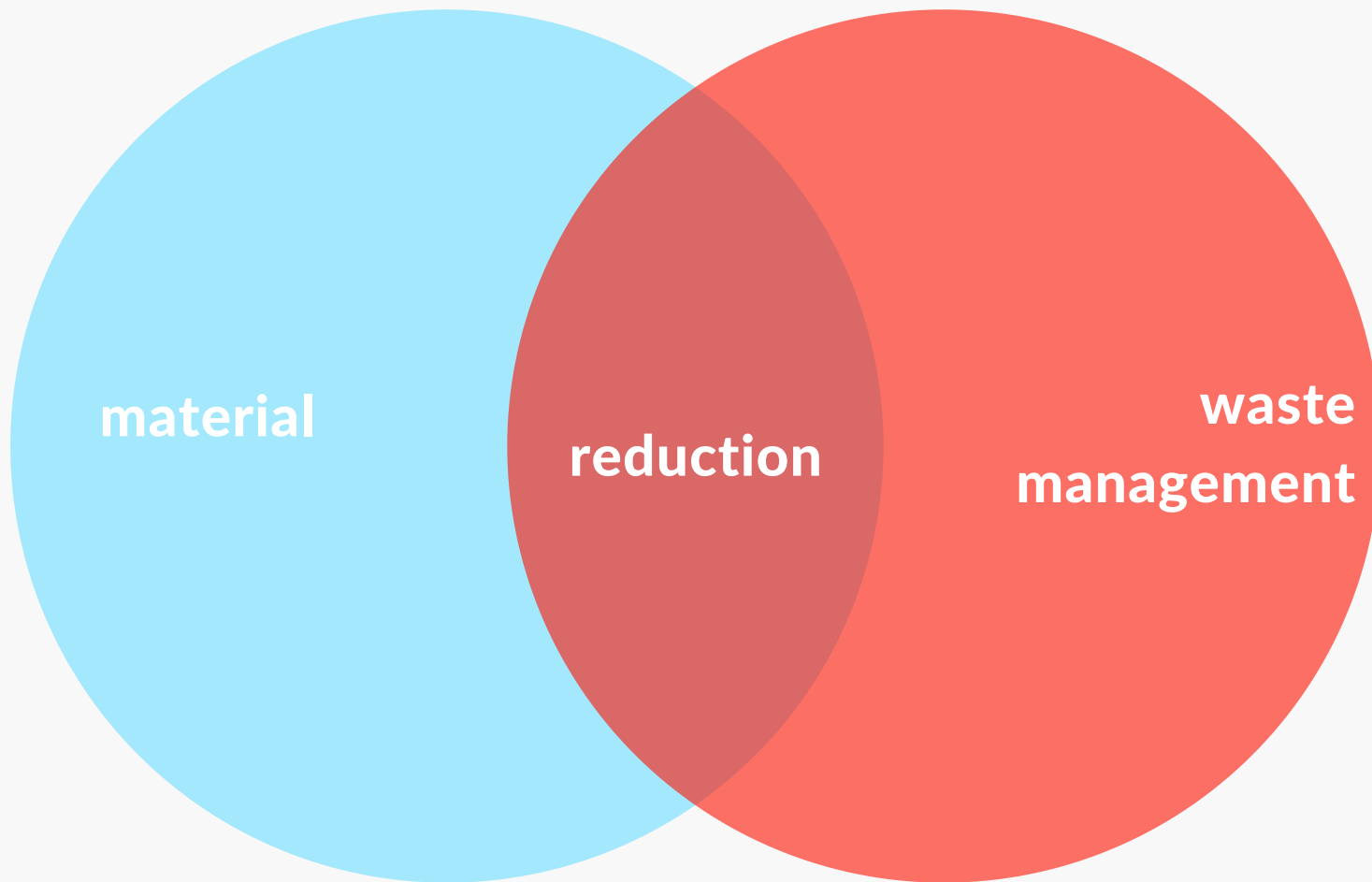
# evaluation

Learn how you are consuming



- **The act of evaluating and measuring your consumption will lead to reduction**
- **What are you buying, distributing, producing, or using that is plastic?**
- **Utilize simple audits to get started**

# **\$ waste savings \$**



02 refuse

# unnecessary plastics

## 1. STRAWS

An easy, yet impactful change to make. Refuse straws when offered and drink from the rim or invest in a reusable, portable straw.

## 2. PLASTIC STIRRERS

Opt for wooden stirrers if possible otherwise carry a reusable spoon or other stirring utensil.

## 3. GUM

Gum is made from plastic and takes long to biodegrade.

Consider alternatives that don't contain plastic or have a plastic container.

## 4. PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS

Refuse plastic carrying bags when possible. Bring you own, use paper bags, or take multiple trips to move your items.



# promotional items



**non-plastic or used from  
recycled plastic**



**make sure your  
product is useful**



**is minimally  
packaged**



**try promoting with  
green items like  
reusable straws and  
silverware**

03

reusables

# avoid single-use items

- Silverware: for breakrooms and catered meetings and events
- Water bottles! - make a new policy
  - Use large, refillable jugs as refillers or drink tap
- Mugs
- Bags
- Containers for storing

**never refuse to reuse**



**04**

**purchasing  
alternatives**



# simple ideas

whatever you are purchasing that is plastic, ask if there is a non-plastic brand or option

- boxes or cardboard casing instead of bottles
- buy or sell in bulk!
- matches instead of lighters

**be a part of the**  
**solution**  
**not the**  
**pollution**



05

**material  
innovation**



About **one-third** of an average dump is made up of packaging material





# innovation

## **1. BANANA LEAF PRODUCE WRAP**

a new, compostable produce packaging alternative taking over asian market

## **2. LAZER PRODUCE TAGS**

even reducing sticker barcodes off produce helps, instead inventors designed a new lazer label

## **3. BIODEGRADABLE CONTAINERS**

compostable take away containers allow material to cycle into the earth quickly and contribute to the environment

## **4. REUSED OR NON- PLASTIC STUFFING**

ltry to reuse bubble wrap and peanuts if you cannot find compostable alternative options



# be efficient

- request minimal packaging
- make sure packaging size matches item packaged
- order in bulk to reduce waste and fuel consumption

*Thank You*

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CHANGE AND CREATING A  
WORLD THAT IS KIND TO ITS  
PEOPLE AND ITS HOME

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