

# Start a Recycling Program

taking steps to becoming zero waste



“THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS

**'away'**

**WHEN WE THROW ANYTHING  
AWAY IT MUST GO SOMEWHERE”**

**-ANNIE LEONARD**



# Overview

recycling

starting a  
program



# RECYCLING





# recycle

***verb.*** breaking waste into pure materials to be used again



# CONTAMINATION

Can I just send my trash to the recycling plant and allow them to sort through it?

**NO**

## Common Contaminants

- Plastic bags - huge amount of extra removal work
- Food waste - especially food holding containers including plastic ones!
- Shredded paper - ruins recyclable long fibers of unshredded paper
- Brightly colored paper - like a red sock in white laundry

# WHY?

**Throwing trash in with your recyclable greatly increases the risk of contamination.**

**It is important when recycling materials that they are pure.**



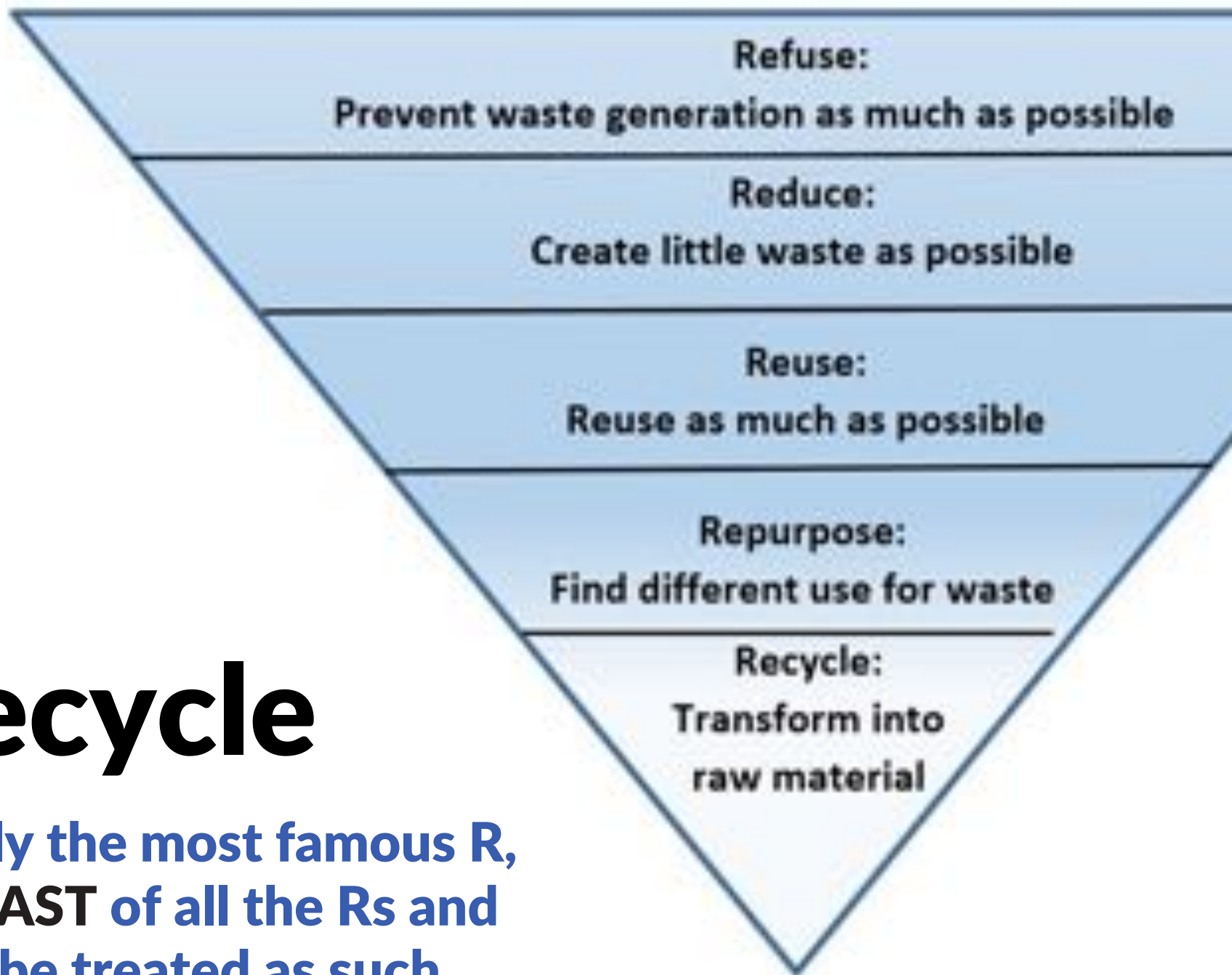
recycling has a

**37%**

success rate because  
it is not done enough  
and often done  
incorrectly!







# recycle

arguably the most famous R,  
is the **LAST** of all the Rs and  
should be treated as such.

# **recycling** **benefits**

## **INCREASE**

- **money saved**
- **energy saved**
- **sources of employment**
- **environmental health**

## **DECREASE**

- **rate at which natural resources are extracted**
- **amount of waste sent to landfill**
- **greenhouse gas emissions and pollution**

**For example pizza boxes, often covered in oils, can not be recycled because the oils are too difficult to separate from the cardboard to be recycled.**



# STARTING A PROGRAM

- 01 waste auditing**
- 02 recyclables**
- 03 set up**
- 04 educate**
- 05 disposal**
- 06 share**

01

**waste auditing**



# How are you wasting



## Team

- **nominate or volunteer employees that represent all independent departments**
- **educate employees**

## Research

- **conduct relevant background information on waste generating activities and appliances**
- **research waste options in your community**

# Measuring

- **collect and sort the trash around your facility**
- **record what type of waste your producing and the weight of each type**
- **take note of how each was disposed and if they could have been disposed of differently**



# analyzing information

## CREATE GOALS AND SOLUTIONS

- decide the improvements you want to make
- make specific programs or actions that will help you achieve your goals

## EVALUATE

- find a reoccurring time to evaluate the goals that you have made
- identify if you need to revise goals, solutions, or execution



roughly  
**80%**

of the items  
buried in  
landfills could  
be recycled.

02

**recyclables**



# what waste is recyclable

## YES

- paper
- plastic
- glass
- metal
- e-waste

## NO

- styrofoam
- bubble wrap
- some plastics



## Paper

- office paper
- newspaper
- magazines
- cardboard
- cartons

## Plastic

- food containers
- beverage containers
- cleaning products

## E-waste

- lightbulbs
- batteries
- printer cartridges
- electronics

## Glass

- bottles
- jars

## Metal

- steel
- aluminum
- scrap metal

03

set up

**separate different recyclables  
to avoid contamination**





**put bins next to trash cans and  
in convenient places**



04

**educate**

# BENEFITS



**maximize  
recycling rates**



**prevent  
contamination**

use labels and signs to direct  
waste to the correct bin



**monitor bins to keep clean and  
dry**



**avoid using plastic trash bags**

05

**disposal**



# ENROLL



**see if your trash collectors also  
have a recycling program**



**look for drop off recycling  
centers**

06

share

# SHARE

**share your results with your  
employees and celebrate  
successes**





once is not enough



**recycle**

*Thank You*

FOR BEING A PIONEER OF  
CHANGE AND CREATING A  
WORLD THAT IS KIND TO ITS  
PEOPLE AND ITS HOME



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