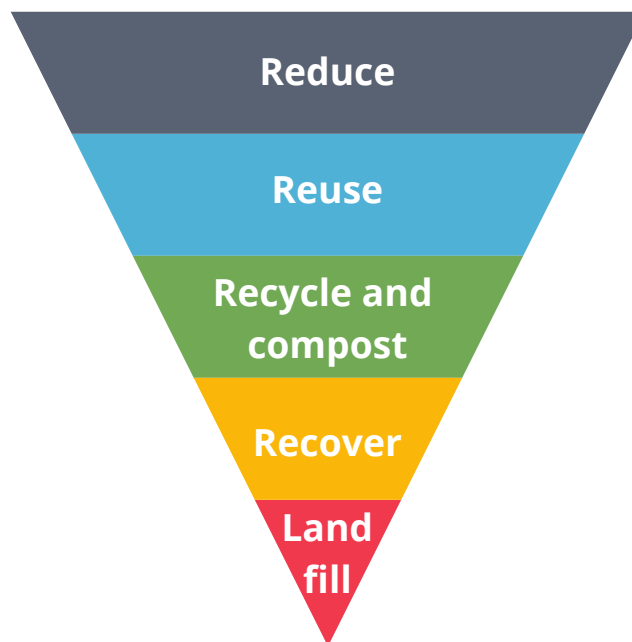


Waste and materials:



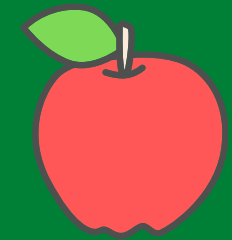
Recycling Activity

Recycling is one of the options we have to dispose of waste, using old materials and transforming them into something new to be used again. You may have heard of the **3 R's- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**. That is part of the waste hierarchy or the order of what we should do with waste in order from most sustainable to least sustainable.



While recycling is an important part of the waste hierarchy, as you can see it's not the best thing we can do with our waste.

Recycling involves breaking items of the same material, and making new items out of this material involves energy, so trying **reusing** them first. For example, you can always use paper that has been used on one side only. Use it for printing on the other side or cut it up in 3 pieces and use for making shopping lists etc





Recycling Activity

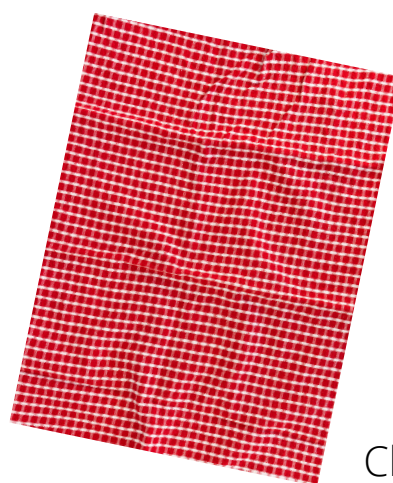
In this activity, you will recycle used paper products in to new sheets. This mimics the industrial recycling process with tools available at home.

Equipment:

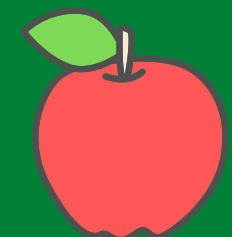
- Paper and cardboard scraps, about a cereal bowl's worth. **Note:** you cannot use cartons, as they have thin layers of plastic.
- A fabric napkin like a tea towel, not a terry towel
- A terry towel, tea towel or large washcloth/ small bath towel
- Baking paper
- Water
- Rolling pin
- A large bowl
- Food colouring if you'd like to colour your paper



Terry towel



Cloth teatowel



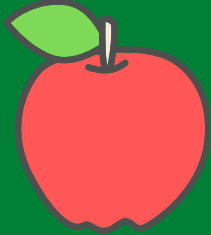


Method:



1. Rip up paper and cardboard into pieces as small as possible and put them in the bowl

2. Add water until the paper is covered. Let sit for 5 minutes or longer.



3. Using your fingers, agitate and mix the paper until it looks mixed. Your mixture should be pulpy, not too wet. If there is too much water, you can drain off the excess water using a sieve.



4. If you would like to add colour, add a few drops now and stir until mixed.



5. On a flat surface, lay the terry towel down, and the baking paper on top.

6. Spoon a blob of paper pulp in the middle of the baking paper, and lay another sheet of baking paper on top.



7. Use the rolling pin and roll out the paper as thin as possible.

8. Carefully peel the top sheet of baking paper off, and fill in any holes with more paper pulp, replace the baking paper and roll again.



9. Peel off the baking sheet, and replace it with the cloth and use the rolling pin to squeeze out excess moisture, then carefully peel back the cloth.



10. Place the sheet in a warm spot where it won't be disturbed for a day, and flip over when dry to dry the other side.

11. When your paper is dry, you can trim the edge if you would like a straight piece.

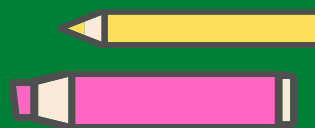
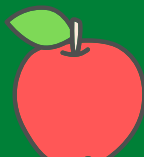
There are things we can all do to help!



Disposing of waste to landfills should be your last resort. Reduce, reuse, recycle, repurpose and compost.

There are small steps we can make every day to help. If everyone takes small steps, it makes a big difference!

- **Reduce the number of things you buy that you don't need.**
- **Take your own bags to the shops and buy foods with less packaging.**
- **Take a reusable lunch box and drink bottle to school with reusable containers for your food.**
- **Don't just throw things in the bin when you don't want them, stop and think- would they make a good present for someone else? Is there something you could make out of it, or find a different use?**
- **Recycle, buy things in packaging that can be recycled, and even clothes and toys can be made out of recycled items!**
- **Start a compost or worm farm. If you live in a council that has organic recycling bins, use those- make sure you visit the council website so you know what things should go in.**





Doing my part!



What are some things you can do to help at home and school? You can write or draw them below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick yellow border and rounded corners, intended for a child to write or draw their answers.