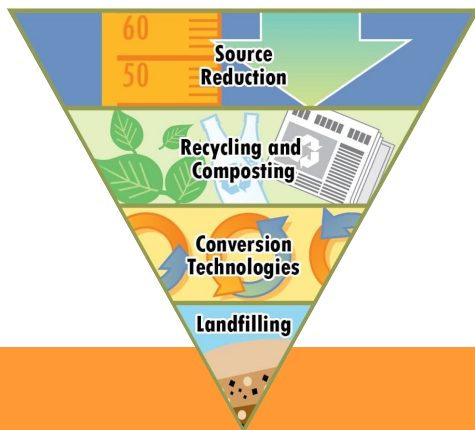


HELPING WHERE WE CAN

Choosing sustainable, reusable, or renewable items can also have a positive impact on our personal finances. Reusing an item multiple times, rather than using a disposable or single-use item, can often be more cost effective. When we make that choice across multiple items in our home, the savings can add up.

Additionally, many of the disposable items are made with, or contain toxic chemicals, which can cause adverse health reactions. Making your own cleaners, helps to really know what is in it, and more importantly, what you can leave out of it.

It's easy to practice source reduction, and it can take some of the demand away from our overburdened landfills, while helping our own households. While you may not be able to commit to all of these suggestions, if we all pitch in where we can, we can reduce the amount of wastes and pollution generated, helping sustain a cleaner place for us all to live.



Sources of reference & photos:

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**MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**



12700 Pumarra Rd.
Banning, CA 92220
951-755-5127
epd@morongo-nsn.gov
www.morongonation.org/
environmental

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Source Reduction



Pollution Prevention Program

Morongo Environmental
Protection Department

WHAT IS SOURCE REDUCTION?

Have you ever heard the term Source Reduction? What does it mean? Source Reduction is reducing the amount of waste, or the toxicity of the waste we generate. We can accomplish this by buying less, using reusable items, repurposing wastes, buying or using safer materials, donating items, or recycling wastes.

This can apply to the products we buy, the food we eat, the energy we use, and more.

Why does it matter?

Our landfills have a limit on how much waste they can hold. When establishing new landfills, zoning considerations must be made to ensure they aren't built next to housing, schools, parks, etc. Because we as a society build out our communities, it reduces the amount of available space where a new landfill could go.

Additionally, much of our recycling is sent to other countries for processing. However, many countries we've relied on to accept our materials, are no longer accepting some types. We lack the facilities to process those materials locally, so they end up in our landfills.

Reducing the amount of waste we generate, helps reduce the need for new landfills and disposal options.

WAYS TO PRACTICE

We can practice source reduction in a variety of ways like buying and wasting less, being mindful of what types of items we buy, choosing more reusable items, and disposing of our wastes properly. There are many opportunities for each of us to make a difference in our homes, work, school, and even travel. Here are some of the ways we can help:

In the Home

- Learn to compost by using food scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic wastes to create a compost pile, and adding the compost to soil
- Turn off or unplug lights during the day
- Use rechargeable batteries
- Use solar powered items
- Make or choose eco-friendly cleaning products
- Be sure to properly dispose of any non-recyclable items like cleaners, paints, automotive supplies, batteries, light bulbs, electronic waste, and other hazardous items (Visit the next Morongo Household Hazardous Waste drop-off day)



- Donate items that are in good shape and usable such as clothing & household goods. Did you know you can even donate your hazardous items that are still in good condition to the Morongo Reuse Center?

While shopping

- Think Green when you shop—look for items made from recycled content, in eco-friendly packaging, and buy only what you need

At work and school

- Instead of printing hard copies of your documents, save them to your hard drive or email them to yourself to save paper. If you do need to print, change your printer settings to make double-sided pages, or print on the back side of scrap paper

While traveling

- Choose reusable packaging when packing a meal-to-go
- While out enjoying nature, make sure to pack out everything you brought in to prevent your items from becoming litter, and bring a reusable water bottle with you

