

Fortnightly Column

Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group

What are the 5 Rs?

Are you a keen kerbside recycler and ready to take further steps to reduce your waste? Then it's time to take a look at the 5 Rs (starting with the most preferred options)!

Refuse those un-wanted items. By simply saying "no thanks" to unnecessary items you are taking a huge step to reducing waste generation. Do you really need that single use plastic bag to carry just one item, does your fresh produce need to be wrapped in plastic, is that 'bargain' something that will just end up in the bin and how many free giveaway pens are you really going to use?

Reduce your consumption. Resist that impulse buy and reduce disposable materials where possible. This doesn't mean you have to stop purchasing but instead take a minute to consider your options. For example, can you buy a product without excessive packaging, is there an option to buy in bulk as opposed to individually wrapped items. Also keep an eye out for opportunities to reduce single use items in your life such a coffee cups, water bottles or take away containers instead choose to dine in or bring your own reusable alternative.

Reuse items yourself or let others enjoy them. Do have take a reusable drink bottle when travelling around the Loddon Mallee region or take your own cup when getting your coffee, do you remember your reusable shopping bags or have you invested in beeswax wraps. You can also give items a second life by donating your preloved toys, books and clothing to local charities and organisations.

Repurpose an item that you no longer use and give it a new life and purpose. You don't need to be crafty just practical. Do you have single sided printed scrap paper floating around the office or at home, this can be turned into waste paper notebooks.

Recycle might be the last option for the 5 Rs but it is no less important. By recycling you are keeping valuable materials out of landfill. Whether you're at home using your kerbside recycling bin or a public bin around the Loddon Mallee region it's important to recycle the correct material and to keep the material loose – keep plastic bags out of the recycling bins.

There are all sorts of items that can't go in your recycling bin but shouldn't be going to landfill either. These items can either be taken to transfer stations or dropped off in designated locations. Mobile phones, batteries, E-waste and soft plastics can all be recycled but, if they're put in your kerbside recycling bin, they are seen as contamination and sent straight to landfill.

For more information relating to waste and resource recovery services within your area download the FREE Loddon Mallee Waste Info App through the App Store or Google Play with the search: Loddon Mallee or visit the Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group website www.lmwrrg.vic.gov.au or contact your local council.

Caring for our environment by reducing waste to landfill.

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