

Environmental Moments:

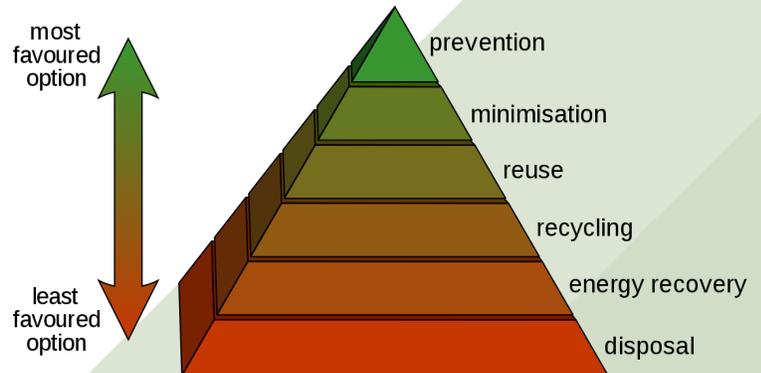
minimize

Waste

July Edition

Waste management and litter is a growing concern as exponentially more packaging and other forms of trash are dumped into landfills each year. However, while that is a problem in itself, people are opting to toss trash directly into the environment, which causes a variety of issues. "Around 1.9 billion [tons] of litter end up in the ocean every year, which clearly shows that people tend to throw things randomly anywhere, more often than they throw waste in garbage bins" (Ahmed). Not only can this litter ruin the aesthetics of natural areas, but it can adversely affect the wildlife within.

Of course, the first step everyone can take to help is to properly put your own garbage into specified containers for collection rather than throwing trash out of cars or onto the street. However, even items that were put in trash cans and intended for appropriate disposal can find themselves in lakes, rivers, parks, and other natural areas as they fall from knocked over bins, are blown off garbage trucks, or are transported during rain. Therefore, finding ways to minimize the purchase of disposable plastic items can help relieve the strain of trash on our resources and environment.



Produced by the Utility Arborist Association
Task Force and Davey Resource Group:



UAA
UTILITY ARBORIST ASSOCIATION

DAVEY
Resource Group

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

It's likely you've heard to "reduce, reuse, recycle", but there are probably areas in your life where you could swap reusable items for one-use plastic alternatives and help save the environment and your wallet. This is important because even responsibly recycling still contributes to the growing problem as it requires "energy and water to transform the raw materials into products like coffee lids and utensils" (Molinaro) and trash properly thrown away can take months or even years to biodegrade.

Here are some ways to implement reusable items:

- Don't use plastic straws, opt for a metal straw if necessary
- Bring reusable bags when you go shopping
- Take a travel mug or water bottle when you go out
- Pack lunch in a reusable container
- Avoid buying single servings of food in plastic packaging

#trashtag

Join the Challenge!!!

UCO, a company that makes outdoor gear, started what was originally called the "Trashtag Project" (which later became known as more widely as the #TrashTag Challenge). They also pledged to do some clean up to help the cause (Smith). To participate in the challenge, all someone needs to do it take a photo, clean an area of trash, and then snap another picture of the restored area (Smith). The #TrashTag Challenge went on to be a global phenomenon, with participants eager to post their before and after photos on social media. You can help the cause by cleaning up somewhere in your area and adding your picture to the collection to encourage more and more people to participate in this initiative.

References

Smith, Shelly. "UCO Launches #TrashTag Project to Keep Nature Beautiful." SNEWS, 6 Oct. 2015, www.snewsnet.com/press-release/uco-launches-trashtag-project-to-keep-nature-beautiful.

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