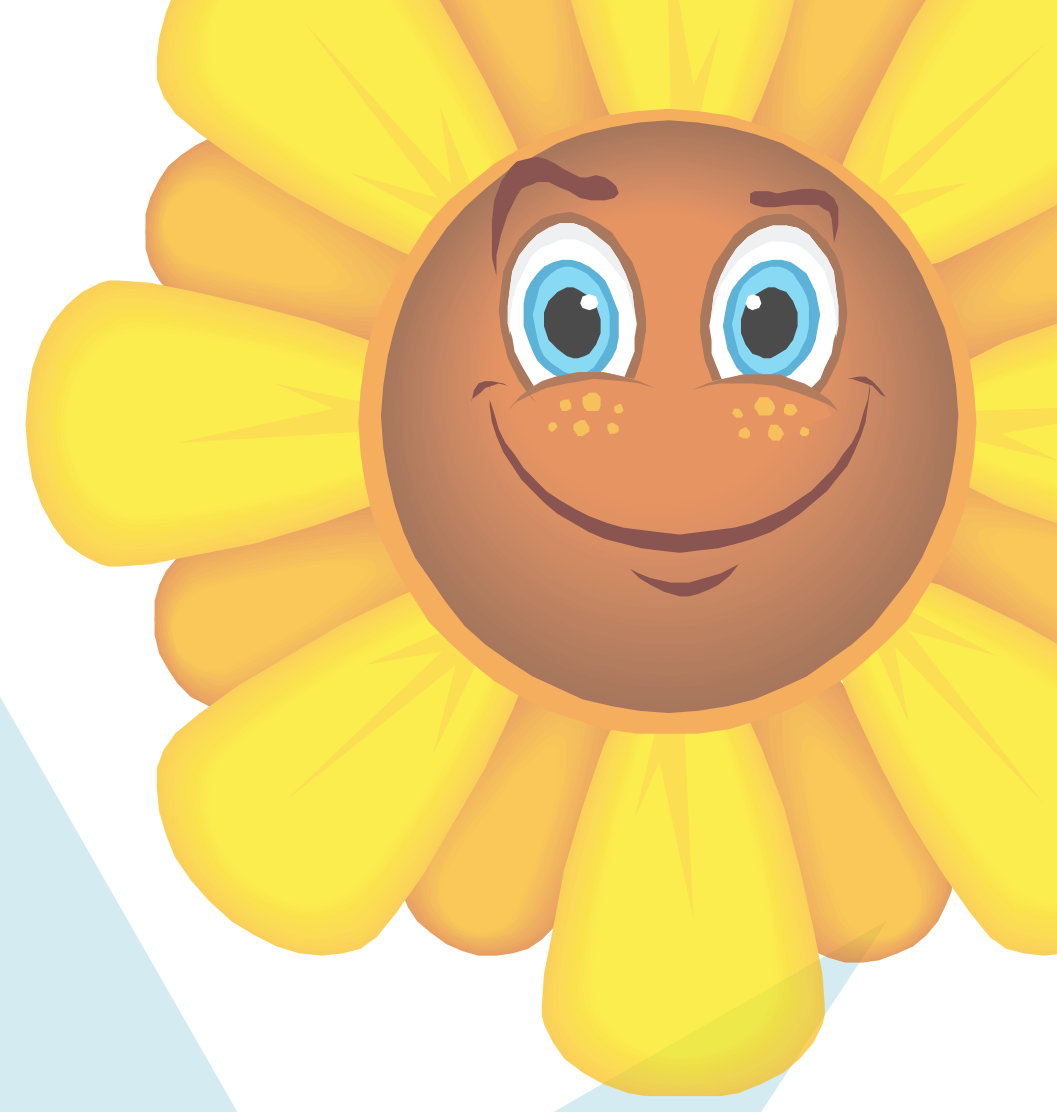


Waste Minimisation



Waste minimisation is important for a sustainable future

If we look for products with no excess packaging and say NO to plastic bags and disposable items, we help reduce the overall impact on our environment.

How we can minimise waste:

- Buy food in bulk rather than individual serves that are wrapped separately
- Use reusable bags when shopping
- Take your own cup when ordering your take away tea or coffee
- Have your own drink bottle rather than buying disposable bottles

STORY of STUFF

Do you really need all that stuff? 'Stuff' is generated by a system called the Materials Economy. This has five main stages:

1. Natural resource extraction



These are all the resources that are found naturally on, in and around our planet. They are extracted for the manufacture of 'stuff'. Our Planet has a limited supply of these resources and eventually we'll run out as we want more 'stuff'. The extraction of these resources often results in damage to our environment.

2. Production



This uses energy to combine the natural resources with (often toxic) chemicals to produce the 'stuff' we want. A lot of the 'stuff' we buy and use contains these toxic chemicals. The processes used in the production of our 'stuff' also pollutes our environment.

3. Distribution



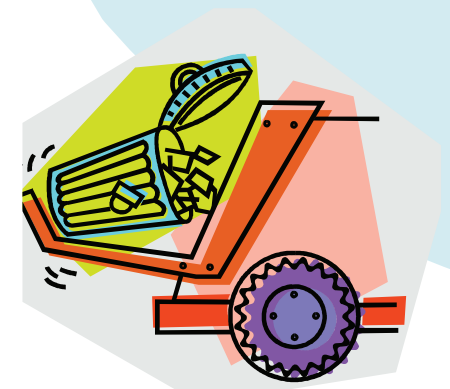
This is where the companies that produce the 'stuff' need to sell it to us. The aim is to keep prices low so that we can afford to buy their 'stuff'. This keeps the Materials Economy moving, generating more demand for resources. The price of 'stuff' doesn't always reflect the true cost of production.

4. Consumption



This is important to keep the system moving. We are encouraged to think we need more 'stuff' by advertisements. **Planned Obsolescence** "Designed for the Dump" Products have a limited life. They are designed not to last long and need to be replaced. They often go out of date quickly e.g. computers, TVs. **Perceived Obsolescence** We are convinced to throw away perfectly good 'stuff' for more 'stuff' by advertisements. Changes in packaging makes things look 'out of date'. Things go out of fashion e.g. cars, clothes, TVs.

5. Disposal



So what happens to the 'stuff' we don't want and throw away? Where does it go? **Landfill** A lot of it will end up in landfill. This space is limited and can result in environmental pollution. **Recycling** Recycling helps reduce our demand for new natural resources. Depending on what it is, some 'stuff' can be recycled. This means we have to put our old 'stuff' in the right bin depending on your local council's recycling rules.

So, do you really need all that 'stuff'?

For more information visit: www.aaeewa.org.au
Story of Stuff website: www.storyofstuff.org

