

Waste starts with you

Student booklet

When we dispose of waste, we do more than just adding to landfills – we also contribute to a chain reaction of environmental consequences that extends beyond our immediate surroundings.

These consequences include:

- Greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and waste from energy plants, particularly carbon dioxide, contributing to the warming of our planet
- Plastic waste placing a significant threat on various ecosystems and wildlife through suffocation, entanglement and ingestion
- Excess waste pushed into waterways, contaminating water supplies
- The use of large quantities of freshwater and chemicals required to produce food that ends up as waste, adding to the environmental burden.

In the City of Swan, each household produces on average **850kg of waste every year** –this is the **size of a rhino!**

The easiest way to reduce our waste is to avoid creating it. In this task you are going to work in groups to come up with ideas on what you can do to reduce the rhino pile of waste that is produced in your household each year.

Task one

List all items of waste produced at home by each member of your group.
E.g. food, cardboard, soft plastic etc.

What can you do to reduce or avoid the items on your list above?
Note your ideas in the space below.

Task two

Use the internet to conduct further research about ways that waste can be reduced in households. Note your findings in the space below.

Task three

From your brainstorm and research, as a group, choose the top three ideas to reduce/avoid waste in your household. Be prepared to share these.

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2	
3	

