

Reducing Waste: Small Steps, Big Impact

Living in Simcoe County/Barrie/Orillia, offers a unique opportunity to make a meaningful difference in our community's environmental footprint. With a growing commitment to sustainability, residents are embracing innovative ways to reduce waste, conserve resources, and contribute to a cleaner, greener future.

Embrace the Circular Economy at Home

Ontario is transitioning towards a circular economy, aiming to keep products and materials in use for as long as possible. This approach reduces waste and encourages the continual use of resources.

Tips to Incorporate Circular Practices:

- **Repair Instead of Replace:** Before discarding items, consider repairing them. Local repair cafes and workshops in Barrie often offer free or low-cost services to help you fix household items.
- **Upcycle Creatively:** Transform old furniture or clothing into new, functional pieces. Upcycling not only reduces waste but also adds a personal touch to your home decor.
 - One of our faves- [Embody Clothing & Accessories](#)

Master the Art of Recycling

Proper recycling is crucial in reducing landfill waste. In Barrie, following the city's guidelines ensures that recyclables are processed efficiently.

Recycling Best Practices:

- **Clean and Dry:** Always rinse containers before recycling to prevent contamination.
- **Flatten Cardboard:** Flatten and bundle cardboard to save space and facilitate processing.
- **Know What to Recycle:** Familiarize yourself with the list of accepted materials to avoid common recycling mistakes.

Tackle Food Waste with Smart Strategies

Food waste is a significant contributor to landfill mass. By planning meals and storing food properly, we can minimize waste.

Food Waste Reduction Tips:

- **Plan Meals Ahead:** Creating a meal plan and shopping list helps in purchasing only what you need.
- **Store Food Correctly:** Proper storage extends the shelf life of fruits and vegetables, reducing spoilage.
- **Utilize Leftovers:** Get creative with leftovers to create new meals and reduce waste.

Rethink Single-Use Plastics

Single-use plastics contribute significantly to environmental pollution. Opting for reusable alternatives can make a substantial difference.

Alternatives to Single-Use Plastics:

- **Reusable Bags:** Carry reusable shopping bags to reduce plastic bag usage.
- **Avoid Bottled Water:** Invest in a reusable water bottle to eliminate the need for single-use plastic bottles.
- **Choose Sustainable Packaging:** Support products with minimal or recyclable packaging.

Engage with Local Initiatives

Barrie offers various programs to support waste reduction efforts. Participating in these initiatives can amplify your impact.

Local Programs to Explore:

- **Green Bin Program:** Ensure you're utilizing the green bin program for organic waste.
- **Community Clean-Ups:** Join local clean-up events to help maintain Barrie's natural beauty.
- **Educational Workshops:** Attend workshops on composting and recycling to enhance your knowledge and practices.

Take Action Today

Every small change contributes to a larger impact. By adopting sustainable practices in our daily lives, we can collectively reduce waste and promote a healthier environment in Barrie and surrounding communities.

Simple Actions to Start With:

- **Start Composting:** Begin composting organic waste to reduce landfill contributions.

- **Educate Others:** Share your knowledge about waste reduction with friends and family.
- **Support Local Businesses:** Choose businesses that prioritize sustainability in their operations.

Together, we can make Barrie a model for waste reduction and environmental stewardship in our communities. Your efforts, no matter how small, are a step towards a more sustainable future.

PS- Don't forget to implement waster reduction strategies at the cottage!