

8.0 Reuse

8.1 Objectives

To reuse items where possible to reduce the waste stream to the landfill.

Example: Manufacturers could be encouraged to use of less packaging for products or reduce the hazardous characteristic of the waste produced during manufacturing.

8.2 Background


The reuse of items in its original form or purpose should be encouraged so as to divert such items from disposal to the landfill. The community needs to be made aware of the benefits of reuse and the ultimate cost to them of having a throwaway society.

Reuse can be achieved by trading in items at second stores for resale, having garage sales, donating pre-loved items to social support groups or charitable organisations, and even repairing items where possible instead of discarding them at the first hint of problems or breakdown.

A waste exchange database facilitating the reuse of materials should be set up to assist industries, businesses and the community wanting to access this resource. It is likely that a region-wide rather than a district-wide database may produce better results for reuse as the catchment is much larger.

8.3 Issues

- Lack of information on reuse and the impact of current society values in managing waste.
- Clarification of what reuse actually means and entails.
- Communication of the waste management hierarchy.

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- Lack of knowledge or access to information on the availability and market for reused materials.

8.4 Methods

- Develop educational programmes to promote reuse and to discourage the throwaway mentality.
- Encourage and support community reuse initiatives such as garage sales, drop-off points for collection of clothes, appliances, etc.
- Ensure any funding reflects its importance in the waste management hierarchy - reuse is higher up in the hierarchy than recycling, and is next best to waste reduction.
- Develop an effective waste exchange database for easy access and use to enable the safe reuse of items or materials.

8.5 Performance Measures / Monitoring

It is difficult to measure reuse. However, a subjective assessment could be made based on factors such as:

- Healthy number of second-hand dealers
- Proliferation of garage sales
- Increase in the request for drop-off facilities for items such as clothes, furniture, appliances, etc.