



WHY RECYCLE?

Circular Economy vs Linear Economy

In a **linear economy**, resources are used to make products, these products are used, and then thrown away.

A **circular economy** keeps materials in use longer by designing packaging and products that can be reused again and again when recycled.

WHY IT MATTERS

A circular economy:

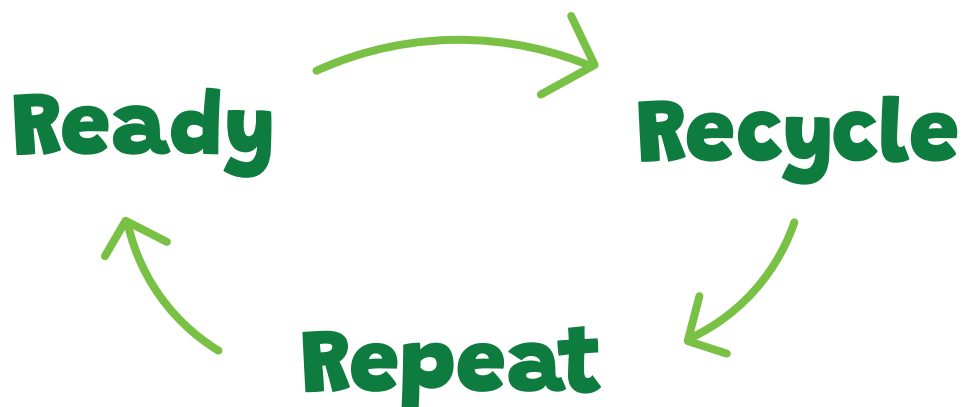
- Uses fewer natural resources, which protects our environment.
- Keeps recyclable materials out of landfills.
- Saves energy that would be needed to make new products.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by cutting down on extracting, moving, and processing resources.

Recycling and circular economy explained to kids

Recycling is when materials like paper, plastic, and metal are broken down and used to make new products or packaging. To make sure things get recycled, they need to be clean and only the right materials should go in the recycling bin.

A circular economy is when materials can be used again and again. Once recyclables have been collected, sorted and processed, they can be used to make something new.

THE RECYCLING LOOP



A QUICK BREAKDOWN OF THE RECYCLING PROCESS:

- Materials are collected and taken to a facility where they are sorted for recycling.
- Once the materials are sorted, they are baled and ready for repurposing.
- Materials are then sold to end markets, such as manufacturers, and are transformed into new packaging or products.

**This recycling cycle conserves
our natural resources, protects
our environment, and
benefits us all.**

Contamination explained to kids

Contamination happens when the wrong materials or dirty items are put in your recycling. This can ruin clean materials and make it harder to turn them into new things.

WHAT TO RECYCLE

In Alberta, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and The Yukon

Find your local recycling guidelines: circularmaterials.ca/recycle

For other provinces and territories

[Newfoundland and Labrador](#) (Rethink Waste NL)

[Prince Edward Island](#) (IMWC)

[Québec](#) (Éco Entreprises Québec)

Nunavut - Check with local community

[Manitoba](#) (MMSM)

[Saskatchewan](#) (SK Recycles)

[British Columbia](#) (Recycle BC)

[Northwest Territories](#) (Government of Northwest Territories)

