

General Waste



General waste is the term given to waste which can't be recovered through kerbside recycling bin services or specialised recycling. These items must be disposed via the red lid general waste bin, and end up in landfill.

Where does Blayney's general waste go?

Waste collected in the red lid general waste bin is taken to the Blayney Waste Management Centre to be disposed of in landfill.



What are the impacts of landfill?

The process of burying unwanted waste in the ground, known as landfilling, is currently the only method of disposing of our general waste. Sending waste to landfill means that it is destined to sit in the ground forever and any potential resources and subsequent value is unable to be recovered, thereby wasting the precious resources involved in the production of the original items. Organic material breaks down anaerobically (without oxygen) in landfill and in doing so, produces large quantities of methane, a greenhouse gas 24 times more noxious than carbon dioxide. 'Leachate' is the term given to liquid that collects at the bottom of landfills, and while there are technologies in place to capture this potentially harmful liquid, it has the ability to contaminate the local environment if it were to escape.

Excessive waste generation reduces the life of landfills, necessitating the creation of new sites, and so minimising the land space available for economic, environmental or social purposes that benefit our local community.

What are we sending to landfill?

In 2022, NetWaste completed an audit of Council's general waste bins. Around a tonne of rubbish was sorted into 70 different categories, then each category was weighed. It was found that 18% of the general waste bin contained recyclables that should have been placed in the yellow lid recycling bin, and 34% of the contents was food and garden waste, a lot of which could have been composted.

Is Blayney making efforts to prolong the life of the current landfill?

Yes! The Blayney Waste Management Centre accepts recyclables and green waste for free and only charges residents to drop off items such as general waste, building materials, tyres, mattresses, animal carcasses and asbestos. Although Blayney doesn't have an official Community Recycling Centre, hazardous waste items such as batteries, light bulbs, fluoro tubes, smoke detectors and gas bottles are accepted for recycling, to assist residents in correctly and safely disposing of household problem waste. This way, these hazardous items are kept out of landfill and the presence of potentially explosive wastes are not a threat to waste facility workers or collection truck drivers.

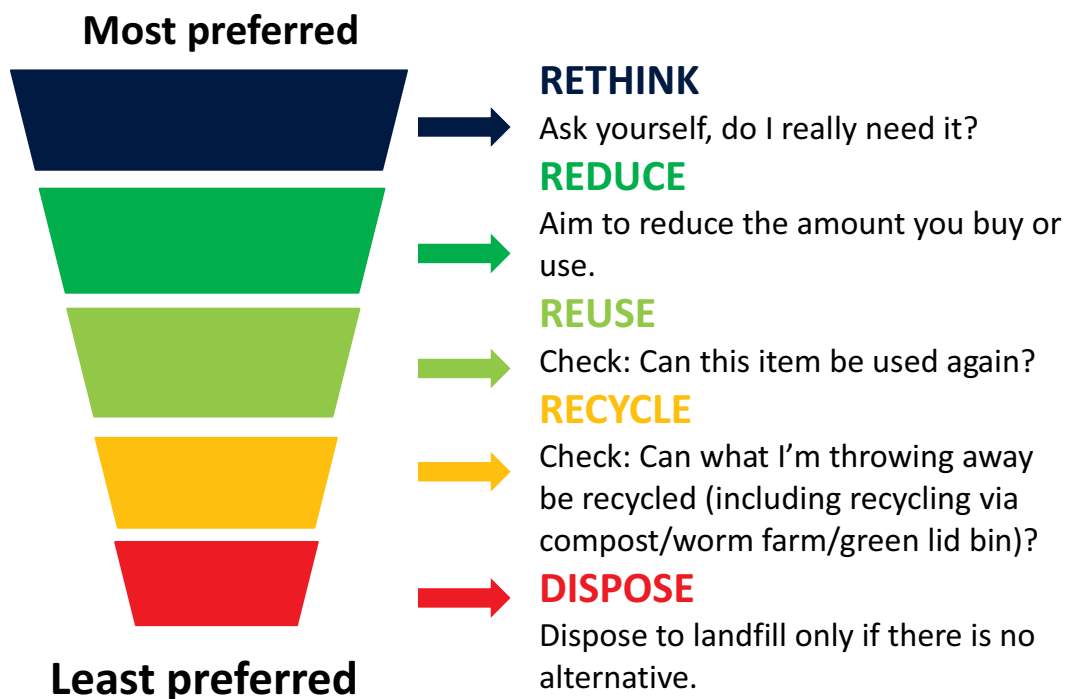


The following items can NOT be placed in any of your kerbside bins and should be disposed of via the relevant drop-off points at Council's waste facility:

- Tyres
- Chemicals and chemical drums
- Fire extinguishers and gas bottles
- Paint
- Fluoro globes and tubes
- Motor oils and other oils
- Other liquids or hazardous waste
- Recyclables
- Medical waste and syringes
- Building materials
- Soil and rocks
- Batteries
- Electronic waste (E-waste)
- Asbestos

How can I help?

To minimise the amount of waste we send to landfill, refer to the 'waste hierarchy'. This is a framework that describes how best to deal with our waste, from the most, to least preferred option.



How can I reduce my impact?

There are a variety of ways to help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill:

- Make a sustainable swap from using cling wrap to reusable beeswax wraps or Tupperware
- Opt for reusable bags and coffee cups where you would normally buy disposable products
- Participate in Plastic Free July by avoiding single-use plastics for the month of July
- Bring Masterchef home and reduce food waste by jazzing up old foods into new meals, and freeze leftovers or save them for meals the next day

A helpful thing to remember is the amount of effort that goes into producing an apple. From the seeds grown by the farmer, to watering and fertilising, to harvesting, to the packaging factories, to the supermarkets, and eventually to you, the shopper - what a waste of all these resources for your apple to end up in the bin!

This is a costly journey which we often take for granted. The next time you go to throw food into the red lid bin, first consider the effort and resources used in its production, and how to save it from being wasted.