

Less waste, more life in our cities

Practical tips for a more sustainable and cleaner Belize.



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For more information, see the Circular Caribbean (2020-2023) project at

<https://www.giz.de/en/world-wide/92240.html>.

<https://www.sica.int/ccad/>

<https://qroo.gob.mx/sema/>

<https://www.bmz.de/de>

https://europa.eu/european-union/index_es



Organic waste (food and green waste)

50%

is the rate of food and green waste reported in low- and middle-income countries. Garden and park waste, which contains nutrients, could be returned to the soil as a natural fertilizer.

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Households are the main producer of food waste with a rate of over **50%**. Fruits and vegetables are the main type of waste that is irrationally wasted.



It is estimated that **1/3 of food waste** generated by each inhabitant annually could be avoided.

US\$310 billion represents food loss and waste in developing countries and **US\$680 billion** in developed countries. These figures translate into a carbon footprint of approximately 3.3 billion tons of **CO₂**, equivalent to 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

This represents an enormous environmental and social impact, as well as a financial loss for the households themselves, without forgetting that there are significant levels of malnutrition.

What can we do?



Plan our grocery shopping better, use a shopping list (we buy what we really need, in the right quantities, paying attention to the expiration dates).



Improve food storage and preservation, e.g. use the freezer (avoid spoilage, know what is stored and where).



Be mindful on how to store products and adjust the menu (consume products before they expire).



Dispose of leftover organic waste

(e.g. food scraps or green waste from our plants) in your home compost or in the appropriate garbage can according to your municipality's separation program.

Remember that through composting, these materials become fertilizers and other useful products.



Dispose of used cooking oil in the appropriate collection containers,

as they are used for the production of biodiesel and soaps. Inquire about the separation program in your municipality.

Items we don't use anymore

Most items still have value, as products or as secondary materials.
Please rethink and do not throw them in the residual bin.

What can we do?



Clothes



Shoes



Toys



Furniture



Utensils



etc.



Repair | Reconstruct | Reuse | Redesign | Upcycle

We can also donate them to friends who can use them, or to dedicated spots in our municipality, to be used by others who need them.

What we can't avoid at all, we recycle! How do we recycle?

- **Put only recyclable materials**, each one in the **dedicated bin**, depending on the waste system in our area.
- **Rinse liquid and food leftovers from the packaging.**
- **Compress packaging** as much as possible.
Bulk in each bin and not in bags.
- **Separate at source the biowaste**, by using biodegradable bags (EN standard 13432), simple paper bags or newspapers to collect them and dispose them properly in the brown bin or directly in our home composter. Plastic bags should be avoided, as they are mixed with the pure organics and deteriorate the quality of the compost produced.
- **Dispose electric and electronic devices, batteries, light bulbs, ink cartridges** only in proper collection points or networks, never in the residual waste bin.



Electric and electronic devices, light bulbs, batteries

These items contain highly toxic materials for the environment and our health, but also have great value. **We do not throw them in the residual bin.**

What can we do?



Choose electric and electronic devices with a **long-life cycle** and the possibility of **future repairs or upgrades**. Thus, we also save money.



Donate

devices you do not use anymore to others who need them.



Get devices from **second-hand or upgrade** shops.



Use **rechargeable batteries** and **long-life lamps**.

Printer paper and ink cartridges

Their production consumes valuable resources, while they have significant value after use. **We do not throw them in the residual bin.**

What can we do?



Reduce printing, prefer digital format.



Use the **back side of printed paper** for notes.



Keep files and records in **digital format**.



Buy **recycled paper**.

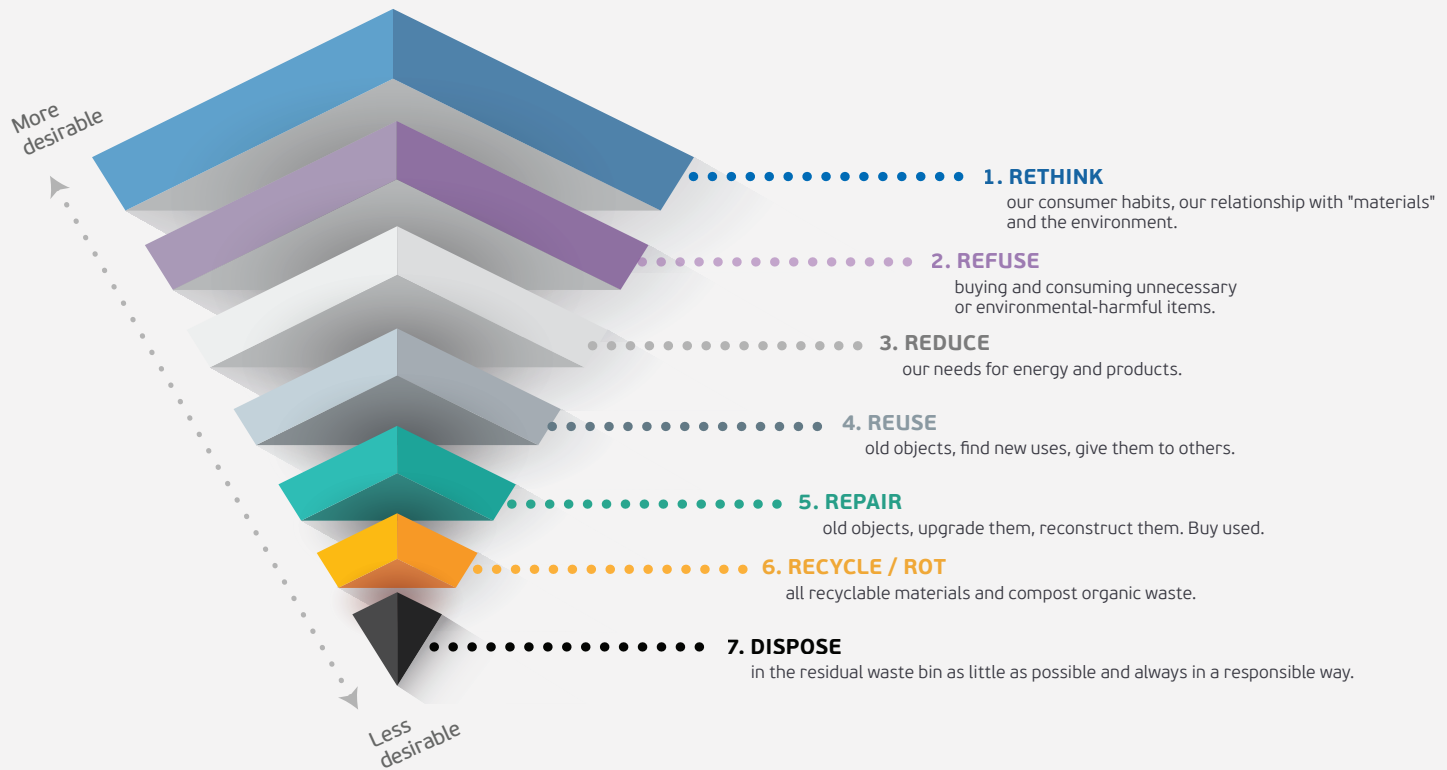


Print on **both paper sides**.



Use **refillable ink cartridges** and toners, whenever it is technically applicable.

Taking waste out of our lives, in 7 simple steps:



**By preventing waste, we save money
and contribute to our Belize economy!**



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