

Precycling Encyclopedia Article

Precycling

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Precycling

Precycling is source reduction and **reuse**. In most **waste management** planning the hierarchy is Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Reduction and reuse are the first lines of defense against increasing waste volume. Precycling are those actions that can be taken before **recycling** becomes an option. It is the decision on the part of a consumer to not purchase an unnecessary product or the decision to purchase a reusable as opposed to a disposable item. Precycling is using the china plates in the cupboard for a party instead of purchasing paper or plastic plates. It is also the decision to buy in bulk or to buy refillable containers and then purchasing the product in a bulk container that can refill a dispenser. Precycling is thinking ahead to the ultimate destination of the containers and packaging of products are bought and making the decision to reduce those that might end up in a **landfill**. In addition to individual decisions to reduce waste before it happens there is the decision on the part of industry to reuse **chemicals** and to buy from parts suppliers that take back packaging and reuse it. Precycling is stopping waste before it happens.

See Also

Green Packaging; Green Products; Solid Waste