

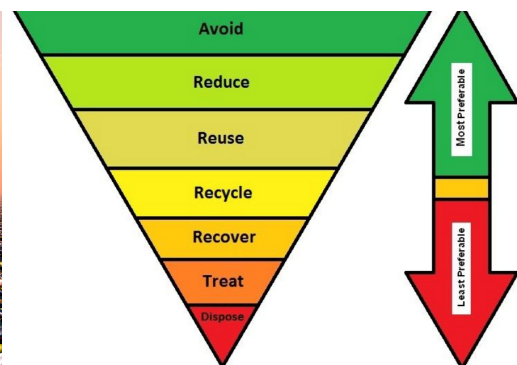
# Waste Wisdoms

NOVEMBER 2020 ISSUE 1

Welcome to Waste Wisdoms, the first ever newsletter for the Kensington Estate (all homes within the border of Kensington Rd, Derby, Ormond and Altona Streets). Each issue will have news, information and tips on ways we can all help to manage waste better and clean up our planet.

## What is waste?

Waste includes rubbish or solid waste, dangerous goods, liquid waste and sewage. Rubbish is everything people do not want anymore, and usually it comes from inside our homes. Examples include; food scraps, paper, plastic, glass, clothing, disposable nappies, furniture and car bodies.



## OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

Often rubbish is called **solid waste**, which allows people to tell it apart from liquid waste or sewage. **Liquid waste** includes sewage, waste from our toilets (human faeces, urine, toilet paper) and greywater, waste from our drains, baths, showers, basins, washing machines, sinks, dishwashers. **Hazardous waste** includes dangerous goods like: insecticides, medicines, cleaning products and old car batteries.

We usually only see waste in our bins, and it does not worry us much, because we do not see the large accumulation of all our waste; as it is trucked off to a piece of land and dumped far from our eyes, or as it runs down a pipe into a bigger one and then out into our sewer systems, waterways and seas.

**Each person on the Kensington Estate creates 3 tonnes of waste each year and all 2000 residents are creating 6000 tonnes of waste every year.**

This amount of waste is hard to visualise but imagine approximately 6000 elephants. I wonder how we would feel with 6000 elephants roaming the Estate – there would be a terrible smell and no room to move AND then the next year another 6000 elephants would arrive and so on – I think we would be very quick to act.

## THE WASTE HIERARCHY

The waste hierarchy is a tool that indicates a preferred order for action for us to take to reduce and manage waste. It is usually presented in the form of an upside down pyramid. The idea is that if we start at the top we generate the minimum amount of waste. If we refuse to consume materials that cannot be processed organically back into nature, we prevent waste. For example, if we grow our own food, then compost our own food scraps in our own compost bin, and then use our compost back in our own gardens, we are preventing waste.

# Tips to avoid waste



## Herbs at your doorstep, say no to herbs in plastic packaging

Instead of buying herbs packaged in plastic from the supermarket, you can harvest them for free from the Kensington Community Food Forest located between 56 & 70 Derby Street. Sage, rosemary, thyme, oregano, lavender, parsley, fennel, river mint and more!



## Free reusable bag, say no to plastic bags

What we call Boomerang Bags (because they come back) are made locally from recycled materials and made to last. They are available for free from the Unison office and the McCracken Street Food Store Pantry at Kensington Neighbourhood House (89 McCracken St).

Unison has several projects on the go that are intended to help us learn how to be wiser with our resources.

In the next few issues of Waste Wisdoms we will provide more detail on the following topics.

## Learning how to reduce our waste

Education materials about what it means to be a sustainable community.

## Red and yellow bin upgrade

All landfill and recycling bins will be upgraded and new signage in English and other languages will explain what rubbish goes into what bin.

## Large compost hub for veggie scraps

We are building three large compost bays and will be training residents in how to make and use compost.

## Kids Activity: Recycle broken old crayons

1. Find all your old broken crayons
2. Remove all paper wrapping from your crayons then break into small pieces
3. Put the broken bits into a muffin tin or silicon mould
4. If you are using a metal muffin tin, line the muffin tin with paper cupcake liners. Bake in a moderate oven (180 degrees) for 10 minutes or until the crayons have melted
5. Cool in the fridge until solid
6. Depending on your age you may need help with this activity



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