

# Waste Wisdoms

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**Welcome! In this edition, we focus on REUSING, the third tier on the Waste Hierarchy. We explain its importance, promote using second-hand and share tips on repurposing household items. Plus, we have a free giveaways for you!**

## REUSE, REPURPOSE

***Save energy, save money and reduce pollution, by reusing and repurposing***

Did you know that reusing and repurposing is better for our planet than recycling? Reusing things reduces the number of new items suppliers need to make, which prevents pollution, reduces manufacturing, transportation and carbon emissions.

If we simply recycle, we still use new resources in making the item we buy again. Recyclable stuff has become an excuse to continually feed the waste stream. Remember recycling was introduced by the plastic industry in the 1980's as a solution to concerns about world plastic waste in our global waterways and oceans.

The consensus is that our environment is better off when we reuse and repurpose things, rather than we simply recycle them.

But what about when items can't be reused? This is where our creativity comes in: we need to find ways to repurpose them. This gets us thinking about items before we purchase them, what we will do with them after our use and where the product will end up afterwards. Does it end up in a cage on the Kensington Estate, get trucked out and become someone else's problem? Or will it get a new lease on life as a repurposed item?



## GIVEAWAY: FREE REUSABLE BAMBOO STRAWS

Replace plastic straws with bamboo straws that you can reuse again and again and again!

Come and see us at the Unison office to get a free set with 5 bamboo straws and a cleaner.

Stocks are limited and availability is on a first in, first served basis.



## MAKE YOUR OWN CLEANING WIPES



Did you know most kitchen sponges and scourers are made from plastic?

Make your own general-purpose cleaning wipes or face washers by cutting old towels into squares to use in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry. You can reuse them many times by washing in your machine. When they are worn out, and if 100% cotton, cut into smaller pieces and put in your compost.

## REPAIR TO REUSE

Free repair pop ups are coming to Kensington Town Hall for jewelry, clothing and bike repairs.

**Where?** Kensington Town Hall - 30-34 Bellair St

**When?** 11am to 3pm on Sunday 9 and 30 May, and Sunday 27 June

Put the dates in your diary to bring items for repair to reuse!

An exciting 12-month project is starting soon: Kensington Community Bike Works, providing free expertise, tools and bike parts – led by Transition Town Kensington – to keep your bike working like new. Dates and location next issue.



## TIPS FOR REUSING ITEMS AT HOME

- Reuse glass jars for kitchen storage.
- Use take away containers to store leftovers.
- Make handkerchiefs from old shirts – cut out squares from the front and back of the shirt, fold the edges and hem with a needle and thread.
- Melt remains of a lipstick together with some lip balm. Put in a small pot to make great lip gloss.
- Use empty roll-on deodorant bottles as paint pens for kids. Wash the plastic ball and bottle, fill with paint, replace the ball and lid. Store upside down with lid on tightly.



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## LOVE THE PRE-LOVED: USE SECOND-HAND

From books, clothes, cars, furniture, phones and cameras to building materials, you can find pretty much anything second hand nowadays. Whether it is on an online buy/swap/sell group, in charity stores or at specialised shops. Second hand items are usually less expensive and often good as new.

Giving and buying pre-loved items a second (or third, or...) life is a fantastic way to reduce waste and our environmental footprint.

So next time you find yourself with something that you don't need anymore, don't throw it out! Sell it online or at a car boot sale – remember, one person's trash is another's treasure. Alternatively, donate to community centres, thrift stores, schools and non-profit organisations. This helps our community and those in need.



*The greatest change we need to make is from consumption to production, even on a small scale, in our own gardens. If only 10% of us do this, there is enough for everyone.*

– Bill Mollison, founder of Permaculture

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work and deliver our services.



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