


Recycling

Discussion Questions:

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- 1) Where does our rubbish go?
 - 2) How can we reduce the amount of rubbish we make?
 - 3) How does recycling help the environment?
 - 4) What items of household waste can be recycled?
 - 5) What products can be made from recycled materials?

Where does all our rubbish go?





Managing Waste

Humans have disposed of excess rubbish in thoughtless ways in the past. Dumping it in landfill was an easy option- it was out of sight and out of mind.

But what impact has our carelessness had on the environment?





Much of our waste comes from packaging. Some of this packaging does not break down in landfill. Fast food is convenient but the extra packaging is a waste of valuable resources that could be avoided.

If we can *reduce* the amount of resources we consume less waste will go to landfill. We need to make informed decision about what we buy and consider alternatives that are better for the environment.





Some items can be *reused*. For example, second hand clothing can be resold or given away to be worn again. Old, worn out clothing can be used as rags for cleaning or shredded and made into new products like padding for seats and mattresses.



Materials made from glass, metal, paper and some plastics can be *recycled* and made into new materials.





Recyclable materials can be separated from general household waste and collected by community waste management services.





Glass, cardboard, paper and metal is washed and sorted at recycling centres, ready to be processed into new materials.

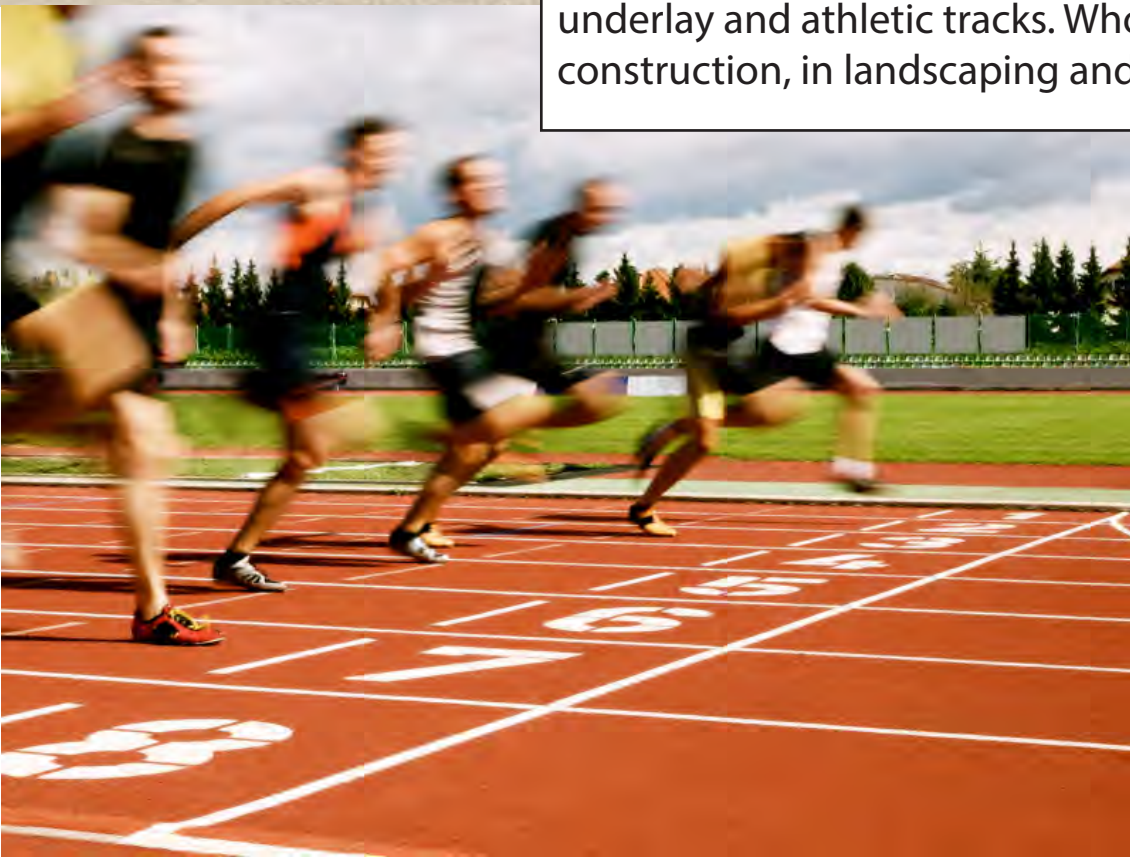


Electronics can be taken apart and their parts are recycled.





Old tyres can be shredded and used for landfill, made into carpet underlay and athletic tracks. Whole tyres can also be used for construction, in landscaping and in garden beds.





Food scraps, newspaper, lawn clippings, autumn leaves and and plant cuttings can be composted.





How will you
make a difference
to your
environment?

