WASTE REDUCTION CHEAT SHEET
AVOID Sending items TO the LANDFILL BY PRACTICING the 4RS

REDUCE

The best choice is to stop waste before it starts! Buy only what you need, and whenever possible, purchase items in bulk and use refillable containers. Avoid single use items by purchasing durable, reusable items instead. Reduce food waste by strategizing how you shop, prepare, and store food. Visit StopFoodWaste.org for more information.

REUSE

Reuse items for their original purpose, or get creative and repurpose them. Reuse is generally preferred to recycling because extending a product’s life saves energy, water, and other natural resources.

RECYCLE

Recycling is a great way to keep unwanted items out of the landfill if they can no longer be reused. Ensure that your recyclables are empty, clean, and dry before placing them in your recycling cart, and place them directly in your recycling cart (not inside of a plastic bag).

ROT

Organic material in the landfill emits greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane. Composting diverts organic matter from the landfill and creates valuable soil amendment for farms and gardens.

No plastic bags of any kind, including clear bags and bags labeled “compostable” or “recyclable”, are accepted in the recycling & organics carts.

Plastic-lined paper products such as coffee cups, ice cream tubs, and to-go containers are not accepted. “Compostable” and “biodegradable” plastics are not accepted at our composting facility, as they contaminate compost loads. These items should be placed in the trash. Do not put pet waste in your organics cart.

All yard waste, food-soiled, stained, or wet paper, including paper towels, napkins, and shredded paper (wet, dry, or soiled) can be composted. You can compost unlined paper coffee cups, plates, and to-go containers.

Clean, dry paper products such as unlined cardboard and paperboard, newspaper and magazines, mail, paper milk cartons, and clean paper egg cartons can all be recycled. Paper must be free from food or grease stains.

Shredded paper is not recyclable. Place shredded paper in your organics cart.