

# waste not

a beautiful and emotional film about garbage  
by Total Environment Centre (TEC)



Synopsis: What keeps a 21st Century metropolis like Sydney clean and sparkling? Even as we hover on the brink of eco-crisis, an army of truck drivers, scientists, environmentalists, gardeners and even a famous chef are working to transform the mountains of stuff we throw away into something valuable again.

Find out how the recycling revolution can save our world. **What happens to the stuff we throw away? Who looks after our garbage for us? There is HOPE for a greener future.** Easy stuff you can do!  
**How you can help our Campaigns :)**  
[www.tec.org.au](http://www.tec.org.au) & facebook

Running Time: 26min Year: 2010 Format: Video Country: Australia

\*Waste Not was Highly Commended by the Greenflicks' jury at the International Flickerfest Short Film Festival 2011.

# waste not



**waste not talks to garbage truck drivers** and workers at recycling plants about household waste, what's wrong with landfill, and how contamination of recyclable materials is stuffing up the works. For example organic material (such as kitchen waste and garden clippings) can be turned into super-compost, but it's ruined when it gets mixed up with chemicals, broken glass, plastic, or electronic waste.

**waste not visits Reverse Garbage** to explore practical ways to reduce, reuse, recycle. This million dollar community business sells furniture, clothing, office equipment and everything else under the sun – saving them from landfill.

**waste not reveals 6 billion containers wasted each year!** Excessive packaging, in particular beverage containers, is a total waste of valuable materials which end up buried in landfill. waste not interviews recyclers and environmentalists who are battling the big alcohol and soft drink companies. These multinational corporations oppose a national container deposit system (CDS) which would

collect 80% of the 12 billion containers Australians use each year. Urge the Commonwealth and state governments to adopt a CDS now!

**waste not shows the toxic legacy of electronic waste** (computers, phones, batteries, TVs, etc) – one of our biggest problems. Right now 260 million e-waste items have been sent or are on their way into Australian landfills. The toxic chemicals they contain can leach into soil and water when mixed with organics and other decomposing materials. Recently environmental and business groups agreed to support a national recycling scheme.

**What's the alternative?** waste not explores a sustainable house in a densely populated suburb of inner city Sydney, which captures all its own waste, sewerage, sunlight and rain water. Residents in the street have been inspired to transform barren nature strips into fruit and vegetable gardens for everyone to use.



# waste not! Easy things you can do

## Turn organics into compost

Organics should go back into the soil. Instead over 13million tonnes of organic waste goes to Australian landfills each year. They take up more of the municipal waste stream than any other form of waste.

- Vegetable scraps and garden clippings can be turned into rich compost with a simple compost bin or worm farm that puts nutrients back into the ground. If they are managed properly (and it's easy), they don't smell – and the compost works wonders on your plants. You can find composting bins and worm farms in most major hardware stores.
- Compost and mulch bind carbon into the soil and can be used on parks and farms instead of polluting fertilisers. To avoid contamination with plastic bags, broken glass and chemicals, some councils have arranged for separate kerbside collections. Urge your council to adopt such a scheme.
- Policies for councils and further information:

<http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/food-waste>

<http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/index.asp?id=5156>

## Reduce and Reuse

- How to stop the cycle of excessive consumption and waste? Simply reject useless packaging like supermarket plastic bags, and bring reusable bags instead. Ask yourself this revolutionary question before you buy anything: do I really need this?
- When you have finished with something, don't throw it away! Find it a second home through your own network of family and friends or give it to a charity or a business like Reverse Garbage.
- Reverse Garbage: [www.reversegarbage.org.au](http://www.reversegarbage.org.au)

## Cash for Containers

South Australia's container deposit scheme has been effectively reducing the amount of litter in streets and parks for 30 years. It has massively increased recycling of plastic,

glass and metal beverage containers. With CDS you simply return your containers to a convenient collection depot or 'reverse vending machine' to get your 10 cent deposit back.

A CDS will lift Australia's container recycling rate to above 80%. At no cost to government, it creates a new recycling infrastructure that receives beverage containers, e-waste and batteries which currently contaminate kerbside collections.

Join TEC's campaign! [www.tec.org.au](http://www.tec.org.au) or [www.boomerangalliance.org.au](http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au) and facebook – Cash for Containers Campaign

## E-Waste

Old televisions and computers contain kilos of toxic heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium, and should never go to landfill. Once we have a national e-waste recovery and recycling scheme (likely to start in 2011), free drop-off depots and days will be set up by federal, state and local governments in your area, ready to keep your old analogue television, computer screens, desktops and mobile phones off the streets and out of landfill. Until then, the best thing to do, even though inconvenient, is to store electronic items until they can be safely recycled.

## Sustainable Housing and Streets

Could your house become energy and water efficient, and produce zero waste and only material for the recycling bins? Yes. Everything you need can be bought off the shelf. Government energy and water regulations now apply to all new housing, but most existing housing stock requires the owner to make changes. If you work in an office block engage with other tenants about ways to green your building. At home you can generate rooftop solar power; improve natural ventilation; install a rainwater tank for toilet and laundry; and treat grey water on-site. Even small backyards, median strips and footpaths can be used to grow food. Sydney, Marrickville, Blacktown and Waverley Councils are beginning sustainable street programs now.

Further information: <http://sustainablehouse.com.au/>



# Support TEC's work on recycling

- Help us convert organic waste into useful products by lobbying government and encouraging industry to build collection and treatment facilities
- Take advantage of our advice on recycling and waste avoidance, by logging onto our website
- Host community screenings of our award winning documentary waste not
- Support our 7 year campaign for action on e-waste – we are now working with industry and government to ensure the new national scheme is the best Australia can have
- Join our stand against the big beverage companies which are spending up big to oppose a Container Deposit System.

## Your donation will help achieve Australia's recycling revolution

Go to our website [www.tec.org.au](http://www.tec.org.au) and click 'donate now' or fill in the form below

### TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

I would like to contribute a tax deductible donation to Total Environment Centre Inc.

Name.....

Address.....

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.....Postcode.....

Phone (day) .....(mobile) .....

Date.....

I wish to pay by:

☐ Cheque payable to Total Environment Centre Inc

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$.....

or Please deduct monthly donations of \$.....from my credit card until further notice

Card Number: .....

Card expires.....

Name on card.....

Signature:.....

Return this form and payment to:

The Office Manager Total Environment Centre Inc  
PO Box A176 Sydney South NSW 1235



For more info: Ruth Hessey communications director Total Environment Centre P: 02 9261 3437 or visit [www.tec.org.au](http://www.tec.org.au)



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