

4Rs of the ReBusiness Partners Program

Reduce

What does it mean?

Simply put, to reduce is to make or use less of something. More specifically, the term waste reduction is often defined as any action that prevents waste, at the point of generation, to decrease the amount of trash that will then be sent to the landfill or otherwise be released into the environment.

Examples of waste reduction:

- Sending files electronically instead of printing out hard copies.
- Circulating copies of a publication throughout an office instead of receiving individual copies.
- Ordering only the supplies that you need.
- Stop unwanted junk mail by registering at www.CatalogChoice.org



Reuse

What is reuse?

Reuse is when you or someone else use something again. It can take the form of repairing, refurbishing, washing, or recovering used materials to make them useable either for their originally intended purpose or for a completely new function.

Residents and businesses in Tompkins County have many local reuse options available, such as [Finger Lake ReUse](#), [Significant Elements](#), and [Computer All Stars](#). Online directories are also available such as [Craigslist](#), [Swidjit](#), and the North East Recycling Coalition (NERC)'s [Reuse Marketplace](#).

Examples of reuse:

- Scrap paper reuse
- Using durable dishware and mugs instead of disposables
- Purchasing used equipment that is still functioning, instead of buying new
- Reupholstering furniture for resale
- Building deconstruction services



Recycling

What can I recycle?

Tompkins County accepts a wide variety of materials for recycling. For a full list of recyclable materials, [click here](#).

General Information

Businesses have the option to

- use residential curbside collection (*limited to 300 gallons of recyclables per collection*),
- contract with a private hauler for a recycling collection service, or
- bring their recycling to the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC).

ReBusiness Partners Program

This program is designed to help businesses increase recycling, reduce waste, and improve green purchasing practices. As recycling rates rise, businesses may be able to reduce trash collection frequency, allowing for a potential cost savings.



Rebuy

What is Green Purchasing?

Also known as Rebuying, this purchasing technique places preference on products that have a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle. Examples of ways in which to buy green include buying products with recycled content, avoiding toxic ingredients, and seeking goods with minimal packaging.



Why is it important?

Because of their ability to buy large quantities of a product, businesses have a significant amount of purchasing power. By following green purchasing practices, a business can reduce its environmental impact, save money, and help protect the community in which we work and live.

What to look for. . .

- Recycled content
- Minimal or recycled packaging
- The ability to reuse or recycle an item
- Durability and quality

- Chlorine free
- AP certified nontoxic
- Low odor/odorless
- Remanufactured products
- Produced locally
- Renewable resources
- BPI Certified compostable