



## Did You Know?

Americans throw away 4.48  
pounds of waste  
per person every day!

*Source: U S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2015*



Do you recycle? Great! But....

Bad News #1: The current market for plastic, steel cans, paper, magazines and other products we normally recycle is low.

Bad News #2: That makes it more expensive now to recycle. Some cities and rural areas have discontinued their recycling programs because it costs too much for them to recycle.

Bad News #3: Where does all that stuff go that we used to recycle? To the landfill! This is bad because our landfills will fill up faster. What will we do when the landfill is full?

**It's more important now than ever to think about  
reducing and reusing.**

## Reduce

Reducing means to buy and use less stuff!

## Reuse

Reusing means to use things over and over again till they are completely used up or worn out.

**The trash can should be the last resort!**

**Think about ways you can reduce and reuse before you  
throw something in the trash!**

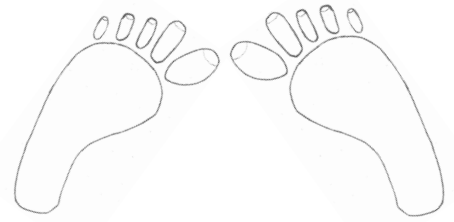
## What's A Waste Footprint?

We all have a waste footprint. How large the footprint is will depend on how much stuff we throw away and that depends on how much we buy and use.

When we reuse or use up the things we buy or don't buy so much stuff in the first place, we reduce what we have to throw away. That's how we reduce our waste footprint!

**In other words, the best way to reduce waste is to not create waste!**

**Make your**



**FOOTPRINTS**

**on the earth small!**



## **Here are some examples of reducing and reusing:**

**At school and at home, use both sides of the paper.**

**Use re-usable cups and straws whenever possible. Stay away from throw-away plastic bottles!**

**Avoid using paper or Styrofoam plates, cups or plasticware.**

**Don't buy products with a lot of packaging.**

**Purchase items that are more recyclable such as aluminum cans over plastic bottles.**

**Donate items (such as toys and clothes) that are still useful to a charity or other organization.**

**Buy used.**

**Compost yard waste, grass clippings and vegetable scraps from the kitchen.**

**Use cloth napkins and wash rags rather than paper napkins and paper towels.**

**Take your own bags to the store or don't take a plastic bag for just one or two items.**

**Try to fix items that break rather than just throwing them away.**

**For more information:**

**Butler County Conservation District – 316-320-3549**

[www.butlercountyconservationdistrictks.com](http://www.butlercountyconservationdistrictks.com)

**Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

<http://www.kdheks.gov/waste>

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-and-reusing-basics>

