

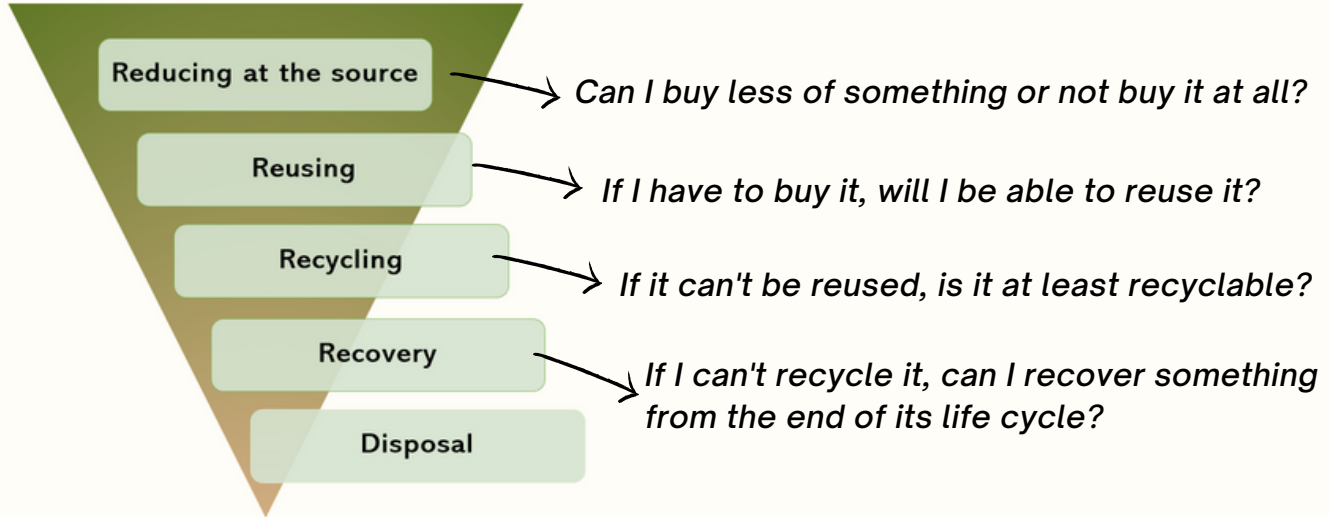


Waste Management

This educational resource emerged from a series workshop hosted by the Creative Green Tools Canada with friends from the CQEER as our special guests.

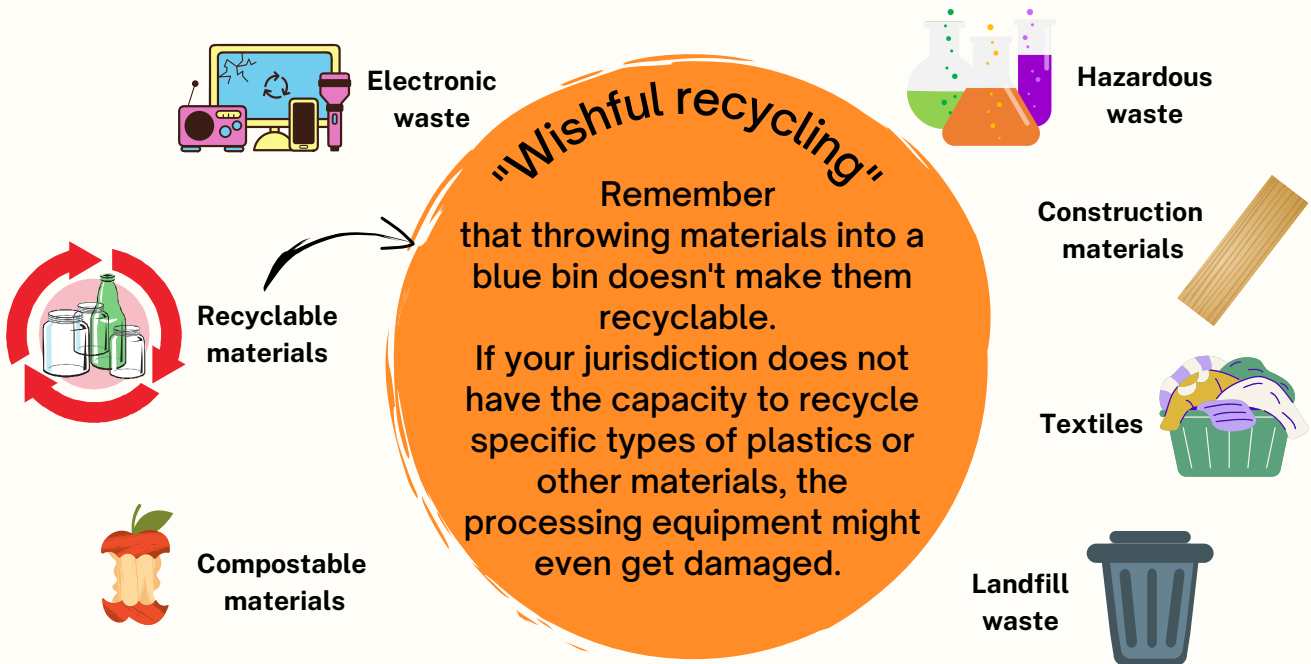
How can I minimize what goes to the landfill?

The 4 R-D Principle



The 4 R-D principle is a tool designed to help you reduce or minimize the amount of waste produced by your organization. A great point to start is asking yourself questions that help you prioritize reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering materials over disposing them. Note that is important to get familiarized with the different types of materials circulating out there.

Types of Material



Each type of material is treated differently at the end of its life cycle. If you are not sure how to recycle or dispose a type of material, contact your local municipality and ask them about it. By knowing how to handle the materials that go through your organization or cultural event, you will be able to design the most efficient waste management strategy possible.

Your own waste management strategy

Steps to follow:

1 Form a committee

Get together! Start by forming a group and getting clear on how responsibilities will be distributed. This group will define objectives, develop the plan of action and mobilize and guide the rest of the team.

Sharing the work makes it easier!

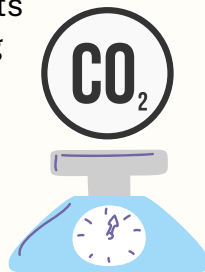
3 Provide the right equipment

Make sure you choose the right type of bins and that you place them in clusters in strategic locations. They need to be visible so people easily spot them. Also make sure to use the right bags (e.g. colour, size) and in reasonable quantities.



5 Measure your performance

Conduct quantitative and qualitative assessments to track your performance. Tools like the Creative Greens Tools Carbon Footprint Calculator help you measure waste and understand its impact. As well, simply observing the bins can give an idea about how people are getting the message.



2 Make the right choices when sourcing

Start by asking 'Where will this end up?' Though not always straightforward, once you know the answer you will be better prepared to plan how to handle that material at the end of its life cycle.

Keep handy the 4 R-D Principle Hierarchy!

4 Make sure you have the right signage

The right sign helps people to avoid hesitating! Choosing clear graphics and a color system for your signs helps to avoid cross-contamination. Some websites even help you design waste pictograms that are adequate to your local municipality (like [Recyc-Québec](#)).

6 Communicate your results and improve

Let your audience know what needs to be recycled and why it needs to be recycled in a certain shape. Having a clear communication about your waste management strategy will make a difference in people's engagement.

After some time, sit down and analyze the results from your quantitative and qualitative assessments. Look for ways to improve and reduce your waste, and if necessary, adjust your strategies.

About our Speaker: CQEER

The CQEER (for its French name - Conseil québécois des événements écoresponsables) or the Sustainable Events Council was officially launched in 2008 to facilitate and encourage the implementation of sustainable practices in the field of event planning. Their main area of expertise are workshops and conferences, consulting, development of tools, information portal, collaboration with suppliers and sponsors, and knowledge development.



If you are looking to get a more personalized assistance for developing your organization or event's waste management strategy, feel free to reach out directly to CQEER at evenementecoresponsable.com and have a chat about their services.