



Reduced Waste



Did you know that America's number one export is... garbage?

Americans make up only five percent of the world's population, but produce almost a quarter of its trash. Much of this waste ends up in landfills and the ocean, creating a variety of environmental and health issues.

Landfills. Even the best-run landfills generate harmful air emissions that **reduce air quality and lead to the formation of harmful smog.** They also have the potential to leach liquids and toxins into the ground and water supplies.

Incineration. The burning of waste releases pollutants into the environment. Some of these pollutants are highly toxic and can cause **health problems including cancer, immune system damage, reproductive and developmental problems,** and motor, sensory and cognitive function impairment. Many incinerators use pollution control equipment to remove pollutants from the air, but this only moves these toxins from one medium (air) to another (solids or water) rather than eliminating them completely.

Pollution. Often waste enters the environment as litter. A disproportionate amount of this litter makes its way to the world's poorest regions, who are least-equipped to manage it responsibly. As a result, the chemicals contained in this waste **contaminate the environment and the humans living in it.** Litter also harms the health of the delicate marine ecosystems that form the base of our food chain.

Recommended JustOne Actions

Recycle ◇ Print Double-Sided ◇ Refill a Bottle

Bring a Reusable Tote ◇ Compost Food & Yard Waste

Buy Recyclable Products ◇ Invest in Reusable Dishes