### **Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency**

Proudly serving Ulster County since 1986

# **7R's to Rethink Waste**

Simple acts and creative thinking can make a huge difference in cutting down on household waste. It all starts with becoming mindful of our consumption and our relationship to 'stuff.' The average American generates 4.4 pounds of trash every day, but as much as 80% of what we throw away can be reduced. Follow our 7R's to rethink waste!



## Refuse



**Say no to single use plastics.** These items are used for only a few minutes, but they can stick around in our environment for hundreds of years. Politely decline things you don't really need — they just end up as waste! Visit our website to learn more about the Skip the Straw Act, and other policies that reduce waste in Ulster County.

www.UCRRA.org/about-us/laws



## Reduce



**Small acts make a big difference.** Be in the habit of choosing to purchase items with minimal packaging, or buying only what you need. Search our website for local refilleries that allow you to buy in bulk, reduce packaging waste, and refill your own containers!

www.UCRRA.org/waste-recycling/find-a-bulk-refill-store



#### Reuse



**Look for creative ways to reuse and upcycle items as much as possible.** The "Bring Your Own" movement is helping to normalize small acts of reuse — because our planet is not disposable... Not only can you bring your own bottles, mugs, and shopping bags, but try utensil kits, and tiffins too! Visit our website to learn more about the Ulster County Tiffin Project and browse the resources there.

www.UCRRA.org/events-classes/tiffin-project

Sign up for our Newsletter and never miss an update! www.mailchi.mp/ucrra/signup







**Fix broken items before you toss them!** Repair extends the useful life of goods and materials, conserving the resources used to make them, and diverting waste from landfills. Repair can also stretch your dollar and teach you new skills along the way! Look up DIY repair tutorials online, or visit a local Repair Café for free. **www.UCRRA.org/waste-recycling/find-a-repair-location** 





Thrift, buy used, or organize a regift swap with friends!

Donating gently-used items (that are still in good condition)
reduces waste and helps our neighbors in need, all while supporting local charitable organizations. Search our website for local places to buy or donate gently used items like books, furniture,

www.UCRRA.org/waste-recycling/find-a-reuse-organization



#### Recover

home goods, building materials, and more.



**Turn waste into resources!** Try home composting and recover the nutrients from wasted food to make gardener's black gold! Search our website for home composting resources like our home composting guidebook!

www.UCRRA.org/waste-recycling/food-waste





Recycling guidelines can vary, so it's important to know your program. When in doubt, ask! Contact your service provider or call the Recycling Hotline 845-336-3336. Remember to recycle by shape (bottles, jugs, jars, tubs) and NOT by number! www.UCRRA.org/waste-recycling/recycling

## **Free Electronics Recycling**

**Saturdays Only • 8am-2pm** (Seasonal April-November) UCRRA Main Office • 999 Flatbush Road Kingston, NY (845) 336-0600

This program is open to residents, businesses with less than 50 employees, and nonprofit organizations with less than 75 employees.



#### **Bags & Film Plastics**

Plastic bags do not belong in the recycling bin. Recycle thin plastic films at a local grocery or retail store:

- Bread bags
- Newspaper bags
- Fresh produce bags
- Cereal bags
- Food storage bags
- Shrink wrap from paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.)
- Bags must be clean, dry, & empty

New York banned single use bags in 2022! Visit **www.ucrra.org/about-us/laws** to learn about local laws that reduce single use plastic waste.

#### **Fabrics & Textiles**

New Yorkers throw away 1.4 billion pounds of textiles every year! Donate and recycle fabrics and textiles at a clothing drop-off bin near you:

- All types of clothing
- All types of shoes & boots
- Linens & bedding
- Towels & throw rugs
- Curtains & canvas cloths
- Bookbags, purses, & more
- Fabric must be odorless, dry, and free of blood stains or grease

Recycle fabrics regardless of condition. Items can be stained, ripped, missing buttons, broken zippers etc.

Visit our website to learn more about textile reuse and recycling: www.UCRRA.org/waste-recycling/find-a-reuse-organization-clothing



