LESS TRASH, MORE RECYCLING – IT’S ALL EASIER!

1. REDUCE WHAT YOU USE

DON’T BUY TRASH! Every year, the average American buys 440 pounds of packaging … then just throws it away! Above-average Americans buy products with less packaging (like bulk items, larger sizes, and concentrated liquids), fill smaller reusable containers, and save money!

STOP JUNK MAIL! Almost half of all junk mail is never even opened. If you want to stop your name from being sold to large mailing list companies, write to:
Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Assoc.
P.O. Box 999
Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735-9008

MAIL DON’LLY MARKETING
P.O. Box 1417
Tampa, FL 33609

USE BOTH SIDES! Why trash (or even recycle) a piece of paper if only one side’s been used? The flip side is perfect for scrap paper.

BORROW OR RENT! Do you really need to own something you hardly ever use? Maybe a friend’ll lend it, or look in the Yellow Pages under Rentals. And don’t forget our libraries for books and magazines, and books and movies on tape, CD, and DVD!

CHOOSE RECYCLED! Products and packaging, too. More post-consumer content means fewer raw materials were used and more energy was saved. But look closely – products labeled “recyclable” may not have been recycled!

2. REUSE WHAT YOU CAN

USE YOUR IMAGINATION! Before you recycle or trash something, think – “Can I use it again for the same thing, or maybe for something else?”

MAKE IT LAST! Maintain and repair products instead of replacing them. Newer isn’t necessarily better.

CHARGE IT! Americans buy and trash 2 billion batteries a year. The solution? No, not pink bunnies. Rechargeables!

REFILL IT! Choose reusables over disposables. And reuse disposables if you can – companies can reload single-use cameras and printer cartridges, and they’re cheaper.

RE-BUILD IT! Use quality used building materials in your next do-it-yourself project. Plan to shop Heartwood Resources (679-1777) or Robinson’s Builders Discount (459-9009).

GIVE IT AWAY! All kinds of folks in Douglas County are looking for your used items – computers, clothing, books, videotapes, stereofoam, cell phones, electronics, CDs, bubble wrap, furniture and household items, packing peanuts, eyeglasses, and much more. Check out the “Materials Exchange” page at www.co.douglas.co.us/recycle for details. And visit www.douglasfreecycle.com to join a community exchange!

RIP IT UP! If your used clothes are too worn to give away, tear them up for rags. And use other scrap materials for crafts and kids’ projects.

GET OLD! When a used product will do, why buy new?

And when you’ve REDUCED and REUSED as much as you can, it’s finally time to . . .