

WHAT IS 2WISE2WASTE?

2W2W is an environmental resource efficiency programme, aimed at reducing environmental impacts of the operations of the Western Cape Government through the implementation of practices such as recycling of waste and using water and energy.

WHAT IS WASTE MINIMISATION?

Waste minimisation means reducing the waste you create in the first place, reusing waste where possible and finally recycling what can no longer be used. Cleaner production is a process of continual improvement in efficiency through redesign of products and processes, leading to use of less raw material, energy and water.

WHY BE 2WISE2WASTE?

Humans are making an increasingly big negative impact on the environment and affecting our chances of survival and that of all other living things. Our quality of life is also decreasing due to mounting waste, pollution and fewer natural areas. By reducing our environmental impact, we will be contributing to a better future for all with whom we share the earth.

CONSERVE RESOURCES

When we recycle, used materials are converted into new products, reducing the need to consume natural resources.

SAVE ENERGY

Using recycled materials in the manufacturing process uses considerably less energy. As recycling saves energy, it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which helps to tackle climate change.

PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT

Recycling reduces the need for extracting (mining, quarrying and logging), refining and processing raw materials all of which create substantial air and water pollution.

DIVERSION OF WASTE TO LANDFILL

When we recycle, recyclable materials are reprocessed into new products, and as a result, the amount of rubbish sent to landfill sites reduces.

THE WAY YOU LIVE AFFECTS CLIMATE CHANGE.

Some solar radiation is reflected by Earth's atmosphere and its surface.

Sunlight carries solar radiation (or energy) from the Sun.

Solar energy is absorbed by the Earth's surface and warms it. This causes heat to be emitted outwards as infrared radiation.

GREENHOUSE GASES

ATMOSPHERE

The more greenhouse gases there are, the more heat is trapped within our atmosphere.

Greenhouse gases reflect some of the heat back which causes further warming of the atmosphere and earth's surface.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

The heat of the sun is essential for life on earth. Certain gases in our atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), trap energy in a similar way to a greenhouse, and are called "greenhouse gases" (GHG).

As this layer of gases increases, so the amount of energy on earth increases. The Earth's climate naturally fluctuates between warmer and colder periods over long periods of time. But human activities are now causing the climate to change more rapidly than these natural cycles.

The term 'climate change' refers to a shift in weather over time, due to an increase in atmospheric temperatures.

WHAT CAUSES CLIMATE CHANGE?

Every time you need energy, for example to switch on a light, turn on your TV, use your oven, charge your cell phone or travel by motorised transport, you rely on energy production which releases carbon dioxide (CO₂).

When you eat. Trees and plants absorb CO₂ and release oxygen. Forests and natural systems are being cleared and turned into agricultural fields so that we have food to eat. This results in less fresh oxygen being pumped into the atmosphere, resulting in an increase in CO₂. In addition some of the fertilisers and animal waste release methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), the other two most significant GHG's.

When you buy or use any processed product. Energy has been used to create whatever you are using. When you throw anything away, it ends up in a landfill which releases greenhouse gases. Waste water treatment works release significant greenhouse gases.

