



## IOWA CHAPTER

### We all win with less garbage!

Reducing garbage and increasing the rate of recycling has benefits.

Less pollution is created. With less waste, there is less need for landfills.

Recycling means less need for new materials, and thus less environmentally destructive mining and extracting new raw materials.



### Set a goal to reduce garbage.

**Recycle.** Materials that can be recycled include metals, plastics and paper and electronics. Check with your local landfill to determine if there are other items that can be recycled. Return soda and alcohol cans and bottles, and collect the deposit fee.

**Rethink how you purchase products.** Select products that use less packaging. Purchase Energy Star appliances that conserve energy. Purchase long-lasting products. Purchase products made of recycled materials. Use water from the tap, not bottled water.

**Compost yard waste and vegetable scraps.** Use leaves as mulch around shrubs and plants.

**Repair what can be repaired.**

**Avoid single-use plastics,** such as cutlery, cups, lids, straws, condiment packages, water and beverage bottles, and plastic bags. Carry your own reusable water bottle. Some folks even carry their own reusable silverware. Bring your own reusable shopping bag.



Photo by Warren Gretz, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

- Reduce. Reuse. Recycle and buy recycled products. Repurpose.**
- Repair what can be repaired. Rebuild, Refurbish. Restore and Replenish.**
- Re-fill. Rot (compost) yard waste and vegetable scraps.**
- Refuse single-use plastics (plastic bags, straws, cutlery).**
- Rethink, redesign, and recover materials. Refrain from buying.**
- Reduce impact. Realize our resources won't last forever.**