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EIGHT STEPS BEFORE RECYCLING TO SLASH WASTE!

[Circular Australia](#) and [Great Plastic Rescue](#) are announcing eight steps before recycling to help Australian businesses and organisations make a bigger impact in reducing waste.

“To reduce waste in the environment and economy we need to design out waste from the beginning,” Circular Australia CEO Lisa McLean said.

“Recycling has an important place but there’s a lot more we can do before recycling - starting with refusing and reducing raw material use, redesigning, reusing, repairing and refurbishing, remanufacturing and repurposing materials - last are recycling and recovery.

By taking up these eight steps before recycling, businesses will gain greater benefit and profitability. Circular economy practices are bringing greater awareness to businesses on how to enhance practices beyond the basic ‘recycling’ view of sustainability.

Great Plastic Rescue Founder and Chair of Circular Australia’s Industry Taskforce, Bronwyn Voyce said: “Great Plastic Rescue has proven plastic waste is a valuable resource for new products, and industry is working to incorporate more recycled content in their supply chain, but much more action is needed than just recycling.

“The sheer volume of plastic coming through products, homes and businesses is unsustainable - that is why we need to reduce and use what we have more efficiently.”

8 steps before recycling:

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| 1. Refuse | Prevent raw materials use - remove toxic materials/chemicals |
| 2. Reduce | Decrease raw materials use |
| 3. Redesign | Reshape product with circular principles |
| 4. Reuse | Use product again |
| 5. Repair | Maintain & repair product |
| 6. Refurbish | Revive product |
| 7. Remanufacture | Make new from second hand product |
| 8. Re-purpose | Reuse product but with other functions |
| 9. Recycle | Salvage material streams with highest possible value; and |
| 10. Recover | Incinerate waste with energy recovery |

A circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. Decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, and designing waste out of the system, it is based on three principles: 1. Design out waste and pollution 2. Keep products and materials in use. 3. Regenerate natural systems.

The value of the Australia circular economy [is estimated to be \\$1.9 trillion](#).

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