



ABOUT SAGE

The *Save. Act. Grow. Earn.* (SAGE) Sustainable Business Program is your “one-stop-shop” for business sustainability. SAGE provides FREE and confidential advice, assistance, and resources that integrate sustainability into your business practices to help you identify and act on relevant economic, environmental, and social opportunities

Benefits



Save Money

Cut costs through increasing operational efficiency



Gain Recognition

Responsible practices benefit customer and employee relations



Reduce Footprint

Minimize use of critical resources to benefit human health and the environment

WASTE REDUCTION SIMPLE ACTION GUIDE

Why Reduce Waste?

By reducing your use of materials, you can save money, minimize carbon emissions from the production and consumption of materials, and promote a circular economy by using products longer.

Top Opportunities

To begin, look at your operations and ask: *What waste materials are recoverable or reusable? What waste could be easiest reduced/omitted?*

Increase digital correspondence: adopt “paperless” receipts, paperless system for payroll/vendors systems and print double-sided

Use reusables: provide durable food service ware (e.g., plates, cutlery)

Source recyclables: use easily recycled (e.g., aluminum) materials and purchase products that contain recycled content (particularly post-consumer not just pre-consumer recycled content) to support markets for materials collected by recycling services and save natural resources

Donate used or outdated items: items like furniture and electronics can be a great fit for a new home or business

Purchase products in bulk: reduce packaging and shipping costs

Source items that can be “remanufactured” or refurbished: such products (e.g., toner cartridges, tires, furniture, and automotive parts) cost less and perform well. Also work with vendors to minimize or take back non-recyclable packaging and used/damaged products for reuse.

Minimize single-use plastics: where applicable prohibit items like plastic bags, straws, and plastic take-out containers

Waste Reduction Resources: Make it Happen!

- Set up a recycling service or drop off materials at the City’s [drop-off site](#)
- Drop off previously used items unfit for the landfill (furniture, metal, etc.) at the [Center for Hard to Recycle Materials \(CHaRM\)](#) in Boulder
- Use SAGE’s “Bin Audit”, “Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy Template”, and “Stressless Paperless” Guides



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