

Going Circular – What’s Next?

To learn more about the film, visit: [Going Circular: The New Documentary](#)

We are in a Waste Crisis

We are producing more waste at a volume and rate than the earth can manage. We must alter our societal and personal practices in order to reduce waste. Waste contributes to carbon emissions through methane gas released from landfills and during decomposition of organic materials, the emissions required to transport and treat waste, and the energy to create more consumer products. Waste also enters our environment through pollution, seriously altering natural processes. We need to rethink our consumption habits and our waste practices in order to protect our planet.

Live a More Circular Life:

A circular economy means that products that are no longer needed are re-used, recycled, or repurposed and waste is eliminated or greatly reduced. This will require broad economic shifts throughout all of our society, but personal choices can have a significant impact on our waste production. Consumer choices influence demand for products and circular policies direct business operations, production, and reuse of products. Here are some practices you can take to lead a more sustainable and circular life:

- **Purchase local products:** A significant portion of the environmental impact of a product is the transportation it takes to get to you. By supporting the local economy, you are reducing this impact and keeping products in their natural areas. This is particularly true with produce, eating local produce reduces their carbon impact significantly.
- **Divert as much waste as possible:** It is always best to first reduce waste, but sometimes waste is inevitable. Diverting waste from the landfill, through composting and recycling is the next best thing you can do. Make sure you are recycling correctly by downloading the [Waste Wizard App](#) for all your recycling questions. Composting is a great way to divert any organic materials, more information about composting in Eagle County can be found here: <https://www.walkingmountains.org/sustainability-hub/recycling-and-waste-diversion/>.
- **Support Sustainable Businesses:** Purchasing new products is unavoidable, but buying from sustainable sources can make a huge difference. One excellent way to determine if a business is sustainable in Eagle County is to see if they are Actively Green certified, for a list of businesses and more information visit the [Actively Green Website](#).
- **Buy for the Long Term:** Fast fashion, disposable products, and cheaply made items all increase waste. Purchasing items that will last a long time or can be used for many things can help to reduce waste. Even if it may be more expensive up front it will likely save you money in the long run. Buying used products is also a great option to save money and reduce waste.

For more information about sustainable choices visit our sustainability hub:

<https://www.walkingmountains.org/sustainability-hub/>

