



WASTE



Throwing away things wastes resources. It wastes the raw materials and energy used in making the items and it wastes money.

Disposing of waste has huge environmental impacts and can cause serious problems. In the UK much is buried in landfill sites – Some waste will eventually rot, but not all, and in the process it may smell, or generate methane gas, which is explosive and contributes to the greenhouse effect.

Incinerating waste also causes problems, because plastics tend to produce toxic substances, such as dioxins, when they are burnt. Gases from incineration may cause air pollution and contribute to acid rain, while the ash from incinerators may contain heavy metals and other toxins. Green Choices <https://www.greenchoices.org/green-living/waste-recycling/environmental-impacts>

Wastewatch <https://www.wastedataflow.org/> estimates that at least half of the contents of our dustbins could potentially be recycled. In addition, we could compost the 20% of vegetable peelings and other organic waste that we throw away. Despite this potential to recycle or compost around 60% – 70% of our waste, we are only recycling or composting 12%. A total of 80% of municipal waste is landfilled and 8% is incinerated to produce energy.

Biofuel

Scientists are exploring other materials that have the potential to serve as fuel without the accompanying concerns about food supply and environmental impact. Cellulosic ethanol, for example, uses corn stover, wood waste, or other plant material that would not be used otherwise. Other potential biofuel feedstocks include grasses, algae, animal waste, cooking grease, and wastewater sludge, but research continues to find the most efficient and cost-effective ways to transform them into usable fuel.

The Swedish city of Kristianstad uses biogas to generate electricity and heat and to fuel cars, garbage trucks and buses. Its two refineries produce enough biofuel to replace 1.1 million gallons of gasoline each year. National Geographic

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/biofuel/>

Church Teaching

• **“Throwing away food is like stealing from the table of the poor and the hungry,”** Pope Francis address at St Peter’s Square for UN World Environment Day 5th June 2013.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130605_udienza-generale.html

• **In our homes, how much we waste, how much we waste without wanting to! This is the throw-away culture, the culture of waste.** I speak of austerity in that sense, in the Christian sense. Let us stop for a moment and live a little more austere. in-flight



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press conference of his holiness pope francis from lesvos to rome Saturday, 16 April 2016

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2016/april/documents/papa-francesco_20160416_lesvos-volo-ritorno.html

- **The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.** A serious consideration of this issue would be one way of counteracting the throwaway culture which affects the entire planet, Laudato Si Chapter 1
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Ideas for Action

- [Waste recycling product by product guide](#)
- [15 easy ways to reduce landfill waste](#)
- [Waste Minimization Techniques](#)

Liturgical Resources

- [St Andrew's & Edinburgh Diocese](#) - Season of Creation liturgy resource
- [Australian Catholic](#) - Liturgical Resource
- [Sisters Of Mercy](#) - Laudato Si and Sisters of Mercy's Critical Concerns
- [Peacemeal](#) - Liturgy ideas for sharing a meal.
- [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) - Liturgical, prayer and spiritual resources.