



THE LEADER IN RESOURCE RECOVERY

PLASTIC

IN AUSTRALIA, **376,000 TONNES OF PLASTIC PACKAGING** IS USED EVERY YEAR. IN 2010 WE RECYCLED **288,194 TONNES**.

THE PRODUCTION OF PLASTIC REQUIRES **OIL, GAS AND COAL**, AND EMITS GREENHOUSE GASES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. IT ALSO **CONTAMINATES OUR OCEANS**, KILLING MILLIONS OF MARINE ANIMALS EVERY YEAR.



Making PET bottles from recycled materials uses **84% less energy** than producing them from raw materials.



A refrigerator can run for **one month** on the

energy saved

by recycling

just one tonne of

plastic.



By recycling just one plastic drink bottle you can save enough energy to **power a computer** for 25 minutes.



Making products from recycled plastics **instead of virgin materials** reduces water usage by 90%, carbon dioxide by 2.5 tonnes, and energy consumption by two thirds. Recycling 125 plastic milk bottles is enough to make one 140 litre wheelie-bin.



It is estimated that there are up to **46,000 pieces** of plastic floating in each square mile of our oceans. It can take up to **500 years** for plastic bottles to break down in landfill.

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WHAT HAPPENS TO PLASTIC?

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COLLECTION

Plastic is collected from homes, businesses and recycling sites and sent to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF).

NEW PRODUCTS

THE FACTS ABOUT

> The recycled plastic granules can then be spun into fibres to make new plastic bottles, fleeces, sleeping bags, pens, carpet, and plastic tables and chairs.

SEPARATION

MR

The plastic is sorted into polymer types.



BALING

It is then baled (compressed by a machine) and sent to a plastics processor where large contaminants are removed.

> Sources: The Plastics and Chemical Industries Association, Resource Smart, Plastic Technology, Halve Waste and Clean Up.

PROCESSING 2

The plastic is melted and pushed through an extruder (which is a bit like a spaghetti maker). It is then cooled and pressed into a die and chopped or pelletised into granules.

PROCESSING 1

The baled plastic is shredded, then washed to remove further contaminants and passed under a magnet to remove any metal.