



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.