

# WASTE: Recycling, or even better, avoid

Our lifestyle has a direct impact on our environment and climate change. We have to consider that valuable raw materials are processed for the production of consumer goods, which in turn requires a lot of energy and releases a lot of CO<sub>2</sub>. Sooner or later, every product will be disposed of. And large amounts of energy are also required for this. A climate-friendly, resource- and thus waste-saving consumption and purchasing behaviour helps to reduce or even avoid waste.

## What happens to waste that is not disposed of?

Unfortunately, garbage, be it cigarette butts, chewing gum and its packaging, beverage cans and plastic bottles, and much more, is thoughtlessly "exposed" by us humans in nature every day and not disposed of properly. Sooner or later, this rubbish is carried by wind and rain (drains) into the surrounding waters and finally into the sea. Many plastic particles in the sea also come from cosmetic products such as peelings, toothpaste or shower gel and from synthetic fibre textiles from the washing machine. Every square kilometre of sea today already contains 46,000 pieces of plastic waste. And 7,000,000 tons are added every year. No sea can swallow that anymore.



## TIPS FOR AVOIDING WASTE:

You should always ask yourself before buying:

- Do I really need this product?
- Is a used product an alternative to buying a new one?
  - Is the product recyclable?
- Is the product of good quality, durable and repairable?
  - Is the material recyclable?
- Is the product unnecessarily overpackaged?