

## Buy products with less packaging

### Use your purchasing power: reduce waste by buying products with less packaging

Everything we buy seems to come in disposable packaging—but that doesn't mean we have to accept it. By simply choosing products that use less packaging and recyclable packaging, you can make a big impact.

Packaging has increased dramatically over the last half century and now makes up the largest share of municipal solid waste (MSW). Even if Americans were recycling everything they could today, there would remain packaging materials—namely certain plastics—for which there are few or no established recycling programs, leaving you no choice but to toss it in the garbage.

### Take Action / Next Steps

- **Evaluate a product's packaging**

- Is it without packaging or minimally packaged?
- Is the packaging marked as containing recycled material?
- Is the packaging material readily recyclable (i.e. aluminum, steel, glass, unwaxed paper, PET or HDPE plastic.)?

- **Reuse packaging**

- Containers, such as tubs with lids, can be great for storage.

- **Use bulk food stations**

- Fill reusable containers with grocery items from nuts and grains to cooking oils.

- **Encourage producer responsibility**

- Request that suppliers reduce packaging and use packaging that is compostable, recycled or recyclable.
- Support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives which are financial incentives that hold producers responsible for end of life product costs, thereby encouraging manufacturers to produce products that create less waste.

Source: Ecomii – a better way