



# 10 Tips to Help Students Embrace the Circular Economy in Student Enterprise

## 1. Product Choice:

- Prioritise a product that can be used many times and that can be passed on to others to use in the future. This is a more sustainable option than having a product that is single-use.



## 2. Upcycle:

- Consider upcycled products as your business idea – take something old and create something new from it!



## 3. Materials:

- Try to source pre-loved materials rather than buying new and source locally where possible.
- Could family or friends donate materials that can be used to make your product?



## 4. Packaging:

- Avoid single-use packaging that will be thrown away as soon as your product is opened/unwrapped.
- Can you be inventive and re-use packaging? Or create packaging from clean, used materials?
- If selling your product at markets/fairs, gather a supply of clean, used bags from friends and family to give to your customers.
- Maybe pre-loved materials (like textiles) could be used to make creative packaging for your product?



## 5. Food Businesses:

- If your student enterprise is linked to food preparation or production, it is really important not to waste food which is a precious and valuable resource.
- There are lots of tips on [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie).



## 6. Beverage Businesses:

- If your student enterprise involves supplying hot or cold beverages, consider incentivising your customers to bring their own cup or bottle to fill, by offering a slightly reduced price if they do so. This will prevent waste very effectively.



## 7. Consumption:

- When you are out and about to promote your business or sell products, think about your own consumption habits.
- Bring a reusable water bottle and a reusable coffee cup rather than buying single use bottles or cups – your positive sustainability actions will inspire others.



## 8. Transport:

- If you can use public transport to get to where you are going that's great!
- Otherwise, are there opportunities to car pool?
- Or have online meetings to avoid some transport emissions?



## 9. Managing Waste:

- If you do generate waste through your mini-business activities, make sure to segregate it properly.
- Use the three bin system – put food waste into the organics bin; dry recyclables (like paper & cardboard, tins/cans, plastic packaging) into the recyclables bin, and then use the general waste bin for the non-recyclables.
- An important tip for segregating your recyclables – make sure they are always 'clean, dry and loose'. That means no food residues on the packaging; no liquids left in the packaging and put in loose rather than in bags.
- Remember too that batteries and waste electrical and electronic equipment should never go into your kerbside bins – they can be recycled for free. For more information see [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)



## 10. Other Student Enterprises:

- Consider the other student enterprises that your friends are involved in. Can you link up to pool resources and reduce waste?
- For example, can some materials that you generate but don't need be used by another mini company?



Further information - [Circular Living](#) - [mywaste My Waste](#)

**mywaste**