



# Donations and Waste Diversion

## Overview

Part of being a sustainable production means reducing landfill waste by discovering opportunities to recycle or, better yet, reuse material goods. Reuse not only avoids the emissions associated with sending items to the landfill but also can provide social good by helping local communities, individuals or non-profit organizations. Diverting materials from the landfill can also save your production money.

Reuse isn't just about those things you typically think of – clothes, furniture, household goods – it's also for things like construction materials, sets, expendables and even food. By committing to and then implementing a plan for the end use of a good or material, your show is taking a productive step towards achieving costs savings, waste diversion and protecting the environment.

### What is Waste Diversion?

Waste diversion is finding a different path for any item away from the landfill or incineration. In the case of material or food goods, donations are ideal, as it diverts the item away from *any* waste stream. Once something can no longer be used, however, it can still be a resource. By recycling, you are diverting cans, glass, paper, etc. from the landfill; by composting you're diverting food scraps. You can use the Rock and Wrap It Up Paper & Plastics Calculator on the [GreenProductionGuide.com](http://GreenProductionGuide.com) site to realize your pounds of CO2 saved by recycling.

Bottom line, try to find a home for any given item, including food, before you put it in any waste stream. If any item can no longer be used, recycle or compost instead of landfill or incineration.