



Calvert County Environmental Commission

Reuse

1. What is meant by reuse?

Reuse means using something again rather than throwing it out. That usually means finding a new use, such as making a jelly jar into a drinking glass. Reuse conserves the energy and raw materials needed to make new products. It also saves energy and reduces the amount of pollution that factories release into the air and water. By reusing plastic, metal, or glass items, you can reduce the need to mine, transport, and manufacture natural resources to make new products.

2. What is meant by Life Cycle Assessment and how does it relate to product reuse?

Materials have environmental impacts throughout their lifecycles. By looking at a product's entire life cycle—from materials extraction to end-of-life management—we can find new opportunities to reduce environmental impacts, conserve resources, and reduce costs. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a technique to make more informed decisions through a better understanding of the human health and environmental impacts of products, processes, and activities. This can include an evaluation of the air, water, land, and energy consequences of a product or process, and possible alternatives.

For further information about LCA, check out the website below.

[US EPA Life Cycle Assessment: Principles and Practice \(uchicago.edu\)](http://www.epa.gov/lca-principles)