

Chapter 19 Section 2 Notes

Consumer Power

- Reusing Materials and Reducing Waste
 - source reduction – using canvas bags for shopping, composting, recycling, using rechargeable batteries

Recovering Resources

- Recycling: A Series of Steps
 - Step 1 – collecting and sorting materials by type
 - Step 2 – take materials to recycling facility
 - Step 3 – clean discarded materials so they can be shredded or crushed
 - Step 4 – reusing the shredded or crushed materials to manufacture new products
 - soft drink cans are one of the easiest things to recycle
 - making products from recycled materials can save energy and other resources during the manufacturing process
 - ex) using milk jugs to make park benches
- Composting – nutrient rich material made from decomposed plant and animal materials
 - Benefits – keeps organic wastes out of landfills, enriches the soil, provides nutrients to the soil, increases the number of beneficial soil organisms, reduces the need for fertilizers, protects the soil from erosion

Changing the Materials We Use

- Degradable Plastics
 - photodegradable plastic – broken down by sunlight
 - green plastic is made with sugar and is broken down by soil bacteria; degrades chemically