

# How can we use plastics more sustainably?

## He pēwhea te whakamahi i ngā kirihou?

Changing to a circular economy will allow us to use plastics more sustainably

### Ka haere ki whea?

#### What happens to our plastic waste?

Most of our waste is crushed and buried in landfill. Aotearoa has very few facilities for recycling plastics and we export most plastics recovered for recycling, relying on other countries to process this waste.

### He pūngao mai i ngā para kirihou?

#### Can we recover energy from waste plastics?

Some countries incinerate their waste and recover energy to use for heating or the generation of power. Burning plastics creates toxic fumes and ash, which is a health concern. Fumes can be minimised with modern technologies to very low levels.

### He aha te ōhanga āmio?

#### What is the circular economy?

Traditionally many products are designed to be discarded after use, often to landfill, which represents a loss of material resource in the economy. A circular economy recognises the material value of plastics and keeps them in use for much longer.

### Kaua e maka noa atu ki te ruapara

#### How can I keep plastics in use and out of the landfill?

Keep plastics in use for as long as possible. Methods include reuse, repair, redistribution, re-manufacturing and recycling. Biodegradation is a way to return the value of the resource back to the environment in the form of fertilisers and compost.

Scion's bioplastic grapevine net clips attach quickly and easily, then biodegrade back into the soil after use.



## Take! Action Kia kaha te mahi

Look at the diagram of a circular economy. How can you use plastics more sustainably?



MANAAKI WHENUA  
MANAAKI TANGATA  
HAERE WHAKAMUA

Care for the land  
Care for the people  
Go forward

# Plastics in a circular economy

We need to stop sending most of our plastic waste to landfill by changing to a circular economy where items are changed as little as possible to keep them in use for as long as possible.

