Almost everyone recycles their rubbish now, but it is not enough, because every minute an average of 15000 bottles and cans are dumped into our oceans and enters the already fragile cycle of nature. It also doesn’t help that 600kg of garments are tossed out each minute, and that is merely in Australia. (pause) This reveals the significant damage that it is doing to our environment. We are endangering wildlife and poisoning our oceans. We are doing damage to our world in every single minute. But we can change that(pause) but we need every minute, every choice and every one of us.

Recycling has been our solution to global warming for 4 decades, despite that we recycle an average of 9% of our rubbish according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Data shows that we struggle to dispose of one-time, convenient objects responsibly, so we need to use the two much simpler rules, reduce and reuse. So, it is time to move our focus to more simpler actions, reducing and reusing. That is when you cut down on your waste and reuse what you already own. These new rules though much easier are way more powerful because it rules out all possibility of waste if you follow them. Recycling requires energy but reducing and reusing only requires a choice.

As I mentioned earlier, we are killing and endangering our native plants so we need to do something to help them. Simply reducing the trash thrown out is what we need to do but helping the plants is what we should do. The amount of plastic we throw out is what is poisoning our plants so why not use our waste to create compost? The plastic we use can build a box to hold the compost and the food scraps will become the compost. In fact, if you have any biodegradable plastic, you are welcome to throw that in as well! Because what fed the landfill will benefit the plants they once killed. As one study warns, “Plastic pollutants are introduced into ecosystems... They have become a major source of adverse effects, toxicity development in natural entities, and problems.”

And then there is transport, each time you fly, drive or ship something we burn fossil fuels and that creates a quarter of the total greenhouse gas that is floating around the atmosphere and heating up our planet. But it doesn’t stay in the sky, it slowly comes down to earth were it goes into the soil and spends the rest of its life intoxicating our plants. We need to reduce the transport going around, so we either bike or go through public transport.

So now we know, every single piece of trash, every drive and every scrap leaves a mark on our environment. But we can reverse it, if recycling doesn’t work, we change the tactic. We move on to reducing and reusing. (pause) because every choice makes a difference.