

Complete the text using the following words. You might have to change the form of the word.

value	remake	scrap	rescue	conserve	consume
sustainability	resource	reuse	discard	recycle	landfill

The rise and rise of upcycling

We handle 1. _____ materials and waste in different ways depending on how they can be used. When we transform a product into something which has less 2. _____ than the original, we are downcycling. This happens with paper which is 3. _____ into a lower-grade recycled paper. Downcycling is still recycling – and a good thing to do. But upcycling is even better. This happens when we transform a product into something which has a greater value than the original. For example, when clothes are made in a factory, there are 4. _____ of material left over that are thrown away because they have no immediate value. These scraps are usually destined to be burnt or sent to a 5. _____ site. If, instead, these scraps are 6. _____ and sewn together to make a bag or a wallet, the finished product has increased in value and become useful to someone.

Upcycling extends the life of materials. It also 7. _____ valuable 8. _____. If we make a bag out of throwaway scraps, we don't need to use brand-new material, which often requires huge quantities of water and energy.

According to the Macmillan dictionary, 'there is some evidence for use of the word upcycle as far back as 1994, but the term was first brought into the spotlight by US architect William McDonough and German chemist Michael Braungart in a 2002 book entitled Cradle to Cradle: 9. _____ the Way We Make Things'. As people have become more interested in 10. _____ and finding ways to 11. _____ less and 12. _____ more, upcycling has become increasingly more popular with businesses and individuals.

In 2019, Cambridge Dictionary named 'upcycling' as its Word of the Year. It had been in the online dictionary since December 2011 but by 2018, the number of searches rose by 181%. According to Wendalyn Nichols, Publishing Manager of the Cambridge Dictionary, 'We think it's the positive idea behind upcycling that appeals more than the word itself. Stopping the progression of climate change, let alone reversing it, can seem impossible at times. Upcycling is a concrete action a single human being can take to make a difference.'

2. Discuss the following questions

1. The writer says, 'Upcycling is a concrete action a single human being can take to make a difference.' What do they mean by this? What kinds of things can you upcycle?
2. Describe something you upcycled or an upcycling idea.

