



The concept of this newsletter is to provide tips and information on how each of us can change our lifestyle and make one small change each quarter, and when practiced for the entire quarter this will become a permanent and environmentally conscious habit. Huge changes can be very difficult to make and maintain for many of us.

Using your purchase power wisely...

We go to the shops to buy things we need – or, at least, we go to buy things we hope will make us more contented. Increasingly though, Australians go shopping for the thrill of the purchase rather than to own or use something. Wasteful consumption is consumer spending on goods and services that are not subsequently consumed. Skipping the actual consumption portion in the production>consumption>waste cycle brings into question the rationale of the whole process. When people purchase products as a form of mood enhancement, increased waste is unavoidable.

The packaging material of products makes up approximately 30% of rubbish in our Landfill, quite often the packaging is excessive. Do your research and compare the amount of packaging of what you are purchasing and choose products where the companies have opted for recycled, recyclable and/or biodegradable packaging. Buying in bulk can save you money, packaging and transport costs. If there is something you need to purchase, try to find it second hand or buy an item that contains recycled content. Start to be conscious of what you are purchasing, do you really need it and will you actually use it; or do you just have to have it as a friend or family member has one!



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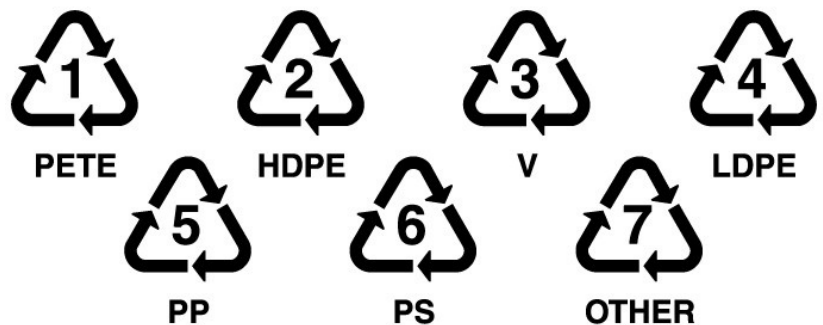
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Check it before you chuck it!

Research shows that Australians care about the environment and know that recycling is important, but with more than 200 recycling labels currently in use, getting recycling right can be difficult. The majority of Australians want to recycle and the best way to ensure proper recycling is to tell exactly how to do it on the product.

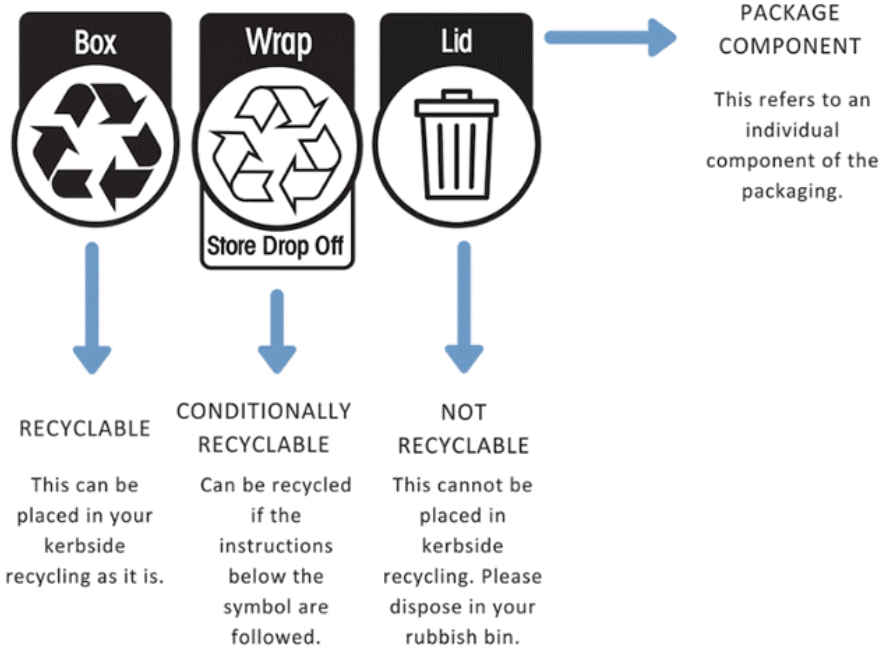
On most plastic bottles, jars and containers you'll find the recycling symbol with a number in the middle as per the image below. Did you know that the symbol on the bottom of plastic items is not a recycling symbol; it is in fact the Plastic Identification Code showing the type of plastic that the product is made from.

#	Recycling Bin	Notes
1	✓	Number 1 means the product is made from PETE (Polyethylene Terephthalate). This is the most recycled plastic type. These are products such as soda bottles, water bottles and food packaging trays.
2	✓	Number 2 means the product is made from HDPE (High Density Polyethylene). HDPE is more durable and reusable than PETE, its' recycling process is very easy compared to others! These are products such as yoghurt cups and shampoo bottles.
3		Number 3 is PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride). This type of plastic contains dangerous chemicals, the recycling difficulty of this type is higher. These are products such as plastic piping, toys, furnishings and credit cards.
4		Number 4 is LDPE (Low-density Polyethylene). This type is very clean and safe and is usually found in products such as plastic wrap, grocery bags, sandwich bags, etc. This type of plastic can be recycled at a RedCycle bin outside Coles or Woolworths shops.
5	✓	Number 5 is PP (Polypropylene). This type is known for being highly durable and safe. These are products such as bottles, tubs, rope, etc.
6		Number 6 is PS (Polystyrene or Styrofoam). These are products such as cups, foam food trays, packing peanuts, etc.
7		Number 7 is Other. This code is used for any plastic that does not fall into the other 6 plastic types, it is items of various applications.



Most of us believe that recycling is important but many find that working out how to do it properly is very confusing. People don't have time to search for information on recycling, company brands must do more to inform consumers about how to dispose of their products appropriately. The Australian Packaging Code Organisation has created the new Australasian Recycling Label to assist both Australian and New Zealand residents to help make recycling easier.

This label clearly identifies the various components of each product you have purchased and where each portion can be disposed. This labelling is designed to divert waste from the Landfill, increase the amount of recyclable materials which will be used to create new products; and reduce the amount of contamination in the domestic recycling bin.



For more information on the new Recycling Codes visit the Planet Ark website at <https://planetark.org/programs/australasian-recycling-label>.

Disposal of the new BioCup Takeway Containers



Cafes and Take Away food shops in Queensland have gone “single use plastic” free since September 2021. You would have noticed the new BioCups that are now being used for take away drinks rather than the previous plastic cups; it’s a clear cup that looks like plastic with a BioCup green line around them.

BioCups are made with a bioplastic sourced from rapidly-renewable plant resources, like corn, not finite fossil fuels. Ingeo, a polylactic acid which these cups are made of, requires 52% less energy to produce and has a carbon footprint of 71.8% lower compared to regular plastic. Ideally, no cups, foodservice packaging or food should go to Landfill.

The conditions in Landfill are such that the process of biodegradation of organics (paper cup) will emit harmful methane gas – not nutrient rich compost. However, if BioCups and regular coffee cups (PE cups) do end up there, BioCups have contributed less greenhouse gases and used less non-renewable energy when they were made, something regular cups cannot achieve.



Plastic Free CQ - Have you Heard?

Plastic Free CQ member businesses eliminated 147,480 pieces of single-use plastic from March 2021 to January 2022!

These pieces were removed altogether or replaced by a reusable or compostable solution. Not in Landfills or litter streams - out of our community. Exceptional work by all our members and the community in support.

The Queensland Government will continue to introduce single-use plastic bans. A recent survey asked what Queenslanders think about expanding the single-use plastic ban to include other plastic items - including takeaway coffee cups and lids, drinking (cold) cups, magazine wrapping, fruit and vegetable bags and expanded polystyrene (foam) trays. The consultation period is now closed and responses are being considered. Queenslanders will see more single-use plastic bans coming during 2022 - businesses and communities need to be aware of and support this legislation.

To help our members reach their goal of being single-use plastic-free, please support them, engage with the systems they put in place (e.g. reusable cup swap networks) and let them know how much you appreciate their efforts! And remember, reusable options should be part of your daily life.



Previous editions of our Clean and Green Waste eNewsletter can be read on Council's website here <https://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/downloads/download/149/waste-and-recycling-newsletter>



Recycling of Batteries

Bunnings now has a national recycling program for household batteries and power tool batteries.

It's free and easy to us, just take your old batteries to your local Bunnings store and deposit them in the collection unit at the front entrance of the store. This is a wonderful initiative as this means less hazardous waste going to our waste facilities and ending up at the Landfill. Drakes at Emu Park also have a recycling container for household batteries.



Make a Pledge

Make a new small pledge each quarter that is easily implemented into your way of life.

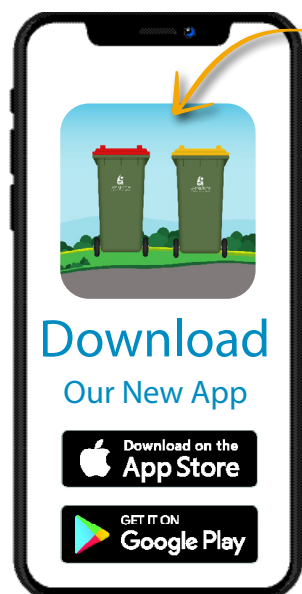
A little bit of effort by us all will make huge changes and become part of our lifestyle permanently. Make a pledge this quarter to research how you can recycle one of your household waste products instead of placing it in your domestic household waste or recycling bins. Suggestions you can research can be found in Council's A-Z list which can be found in the Livingstone Waste Wise App on your phone or tablet. A little bit of extra effort by us all will make a HUGE difference!



Livingstone Waste Wise App

Check out Council's new Waste Wise App.

It has lots of Handy Hints and Information in relation to your kerbside waste service. Go to the App Store/Google Play on your iPhone/Android device and download the App today.



- CHECK YOUR BIN COLLECTION DAY
- A-Z LIST OF DISPOSAL OPTIONS
- DISPOSAL SITES
- LOTS OF OTHER HANDY HINTS



To read all of Council's Clean & Green waste eNewsletters go to Council's website at www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/newsletters

