



Committed to better waste practices

Livingstone Shire Council is committed to diverting waste from our landfill and encouraging behaviour change with avoidance, reuse and recycling of materials by residents in our community.

Our vision is that our Livingstone Shire residents transition to a circular economy for better health, environmental and sustainability outcomes.

Make a Pledge

Make a small pledge this quarter to avoid or refuse certain items. A little bit of effort by us all will make huge changes and create less waste this season. Some examples are:

- When buying an item, ask yourself first if you really need it.
- Print on recycled paper at any opportunity you have.
- Use your own reusable mugs for coffee and tea.
- Avoid using plastic coated waste.



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My Waste Has Gone

You put your wheelie bin out onto the footpath by 6:00am and then go back out in the afternoon, and all your waste has magically disappeared! So what happens to the rubbish that was in your bin?

A lot of residents are not aware of what happens after their waste is removed from their bins. They buy more stuff and create more waste, and every week the same thing happens. So, what happens to your waste? Council pays for the services of a Waste contractor who has big compactor trucks to come and empty your wheelie bin, and your waste is then transported to the Yeppoon Landfill. The trucks, wages and fuel to run the trucks cost money and need to be conducted by a business that has the appropriate qualifications for waste removal. As the number of residents in our community grows, more compactor trucks are needed to service the total number of bins, which means increased costs to the contractor that the Council has to pay for.

Finally, the waste is taken to the Yeppoon Landfill Face, where Council pays another contractor to push, bury and cover the waste; this contractor also has the costs of trucks, wages and fuel to conduct his services. The money to pay for waste removal from your property is charged through your property rates as the domestic waste and recycling service. Eligible residents also get waste vouchers, which everyone believes are free, and as the Henrik Ibsen quote goes, "You don't get nothing for nothing in life". The cost of

services exchanged for waste vouchers is included in property rates as part of the general rates charges. Everything has a cost.

Now time for a little story. A long, long time ago, there was a town where everybody lived happily; they called the little place Happytown. Like in many towns in a regional area, the people's wealth grew, and everyone started to live in bigger houses and buy more stuff, and then there was more waste in Happytown which grew and started to stink and cause illness.

What to do? Happytown's Council moved all waste further away from their town by creating waste landfills. Everybody recognised that it's a pity that all this waste removal and pieces of land cost money and taxes. But also, everybody thinks it is necessary to handle the problem. When the population and consumption grew, the amount of waste also increased significantly. As a result, recycling started in Happytown. Each household in Happytown got a separate yellow-lidded bin to encourage them to recycle some of their waste items.

Conscioustown is a neighbouring area to Happytown. As if the time stood still there, all peace and quiet. The people lived in little houses, and only a few residents had a car. Many people could perhaps not afford such a car. Here they did things another way.

The Happytowners were amazed to see how they dealt with their waste. Here's what Conscioustown did:

1. Rethink

The first thing a Conscioustown person does when he wants to have something is he asks himself questions like: "Do I really need this?" or "Is this only a temporary want because all my friends/family have it?" That's why a Conscioustown household is simple and free of all unnecessary stuff.

2. Refuse

If a car salesman comes to the door, they simply refuse. "Sorry, I don't need a car. In case I need one, I am a member of Conscioustown's Car Share." The same goes for a lot of other stuff. You just share it, or exchange things. This rethinking and this refusal prevent most of the waste.

3. Reduce

These Conscioustown residents take not more than they actually need to live. This sounds like common sense, but they really do it. They only buy what they need.

4. Reuse

And, if they have stuff they don't need, they check if somebody can reuse it. Cloths and toys for kids, car parts, etc. It may take some time, but for all sorts of stuff, there is a buyer, especially with the internet. Sometimes a small repair is needed, but that gives space for negotiation. Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure.

5. Recycle

But in the end, of course, they also have waste. Most of it is green stuff, timber, cardboard, cans, bottles, and so on. They keep it and take it in their trailer to their local waste facility. The rest of their waste is very little, approximately 10% of what the Happytowners produce.

Then what is left as waste is nearly nothing. Therefore, they have a small landfill, which will not be full for the coming decades, saving their town money.

They keep track of what comes into their landfill. They keep control because Conscioustown people want to prevent polluted soil or groundwater.

They don't want to compromise the future of their children. The Happytowners saw all of this. All people and all companies in Happytown started acting in the following order: Rethink – Refuse – Reduce – Reuse – Recycle.

Happytown people, all families and companies lived and worked happily ever after.

It's Almost Easter - What Do I Do With the Foil?

They're only small but did you know the alfoil Easter Egg wrappers can be recycled?

The best way to recycle the wrapper foil is to scrunch the foil up into a small fist-sized ball before placing the ball in your yellow lidded recycling bin. This makes sure the small bits of foil don't get lost in the recycling process at the material resource facility. Ensure there is no food waste or grease on the foil as this creates an inferior recycled end product.



What does your workplace recycle?

Well done to all Council teams for recycling their printer toners with our IT section.

Between October 1st to December 31st last year, we recycled a total of 13.72kg of toner cartridges with the assistance of Close the Loop.

Do you know that it takes up to 1,000 years for a printer cartridge to decompose in a landfill site? The Close the Loop program is free to all participating businesses and is paid for and supported by manufacturers of printers and photocopiers.

They have developed a product called TonerPlas which is an additive used in road construction. If your business would like to participate and achieve sustainability goals and participate in the

Plastic Free CQ - Have You Heard?

Plastic Free CQ focused throughout 2022 on reusables within the hospitality sector within our community. Throughout 2023, Plastic Free CQ will continue working to reduce unnecessary waste by eliminating all single-use plastic items.

There is always a solution and keeping it simple is best or swapping for a dine-in or reusable solution. We will have more to share on reusables soon. Watch this space!

However, to get serious about eliminating single-use plastic options, they need to be removed as an option altogether. The community needs to move towards a reusable or dine-in culture. Guiding the community back to a dine-in culture saves everyone money on unnecessary waste. Many of our community will remember as children or pre-1970s, the only packaging available was generally baking paper, paper bags, pizza boxes, fish and chip paper and milkshake cups (with no lid). Now we have more options for our food packaging, so much so that we have over-packaged ourselves and are drowning in unnecessary waste. We need to say no and opt for better options.

Dining in with a food business means less waste, less haste and more time to focus on what's important such as serving delicious food. Food businesses love to have people! People create an atmosphere and help keep small businesses alive. Additionally, you are saving them on unnecessary waste. If you can't dine in, you can choose to reuse! Buy a picnic set for your car, and have the cups, plates, straws, and cloth napkins ready to go. Being prepared helps you to adjust to a reusable culture.

Council's Waste Services team hope you have found this newsletter of value. You can find all our eNewsletters on Council website on this link - <https://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/downloads/>



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