



Plastic wise Wyndham

**Starter kit
for cafes
and restaurants**

wyndhamcity

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Acknowledgement

Wyndham City Council acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin nation as the First Custodians of these municipal lands and waterways. For thousands of years, Aboriginal people have cared for country and managed its resources so that it would sustain life for future generations.

We pay respect to all Elders past and present who can teach us all to be custodians of a future in which all thrive.

Wyndham City is on a mission to reduce single use plastics & we need your help!

By joining the Plastic Wise Wyndham program you will be helping to not only reduce litter and the amount of waste sent to landfill but also our communities reliance on single use plastics.

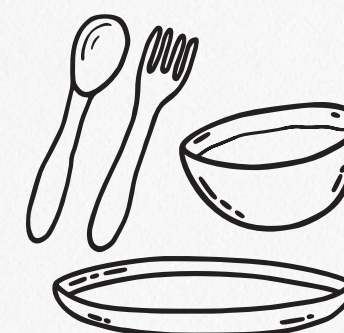
Council has committed to eliminating single use plastics at our facilities and events and we want you to join us.

Our target plastics

We've decided to target these plastic items as due to their disposable nature they are commonly found littering our streets and waterways.



plastic water bottles



plastic cutlery



Polystyrene packaging



plastic bags



plastic straws

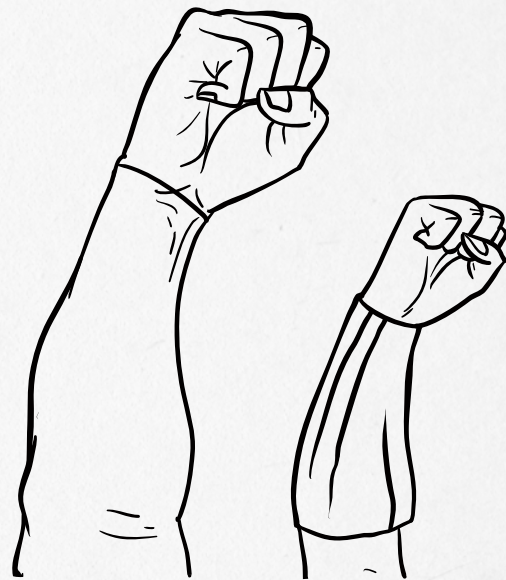


coffee cups and lids

If you commit to eliminating half of these, we will promote your efforts through our Plastic Wise Wyndham campaign #plasticwisewyndham.

Why your business should take part

- Joining the Plastic Wise community means we will share your efforts and successes on our website, and social media channels; including Werribee City Centre and Green Living in Wyndham pages. Share your efforts with the hashtag #plasticwisewyndham & we will share your content in return!
- Decreased packaging costs over time as more customers participate in the BYO movement.
- Attracting new customers who want to support a business making a difference.
- Reducing your carbon footprint and contribution to landfill.
- You'll be helping to keep our streets, parks and rivers clean.



Why plastics?

National Geographic estimates that 40% of plastic produced is packaging which is used once and then discarded. Disposable plastic packaging is overwhelming our planet.

- Plastic is made of petroleum, a fossil fuel driving climate change.
- Plastic cannot biodegrade. Over time it breaks down into smaller pieces. This threatens wildlife, damages the natural environment and is harmful to human health.
- One single water bottle will remain on the planet in some form for a minimum of 450 years.
- Ocean plastic pollution is so prolific that it's estimated that by 2050 the oceans will have more plastic (by weight) than fish. Plastic litter is extremely harmful to marine life killing millions of birds, turtles, dolphins and fish every year.

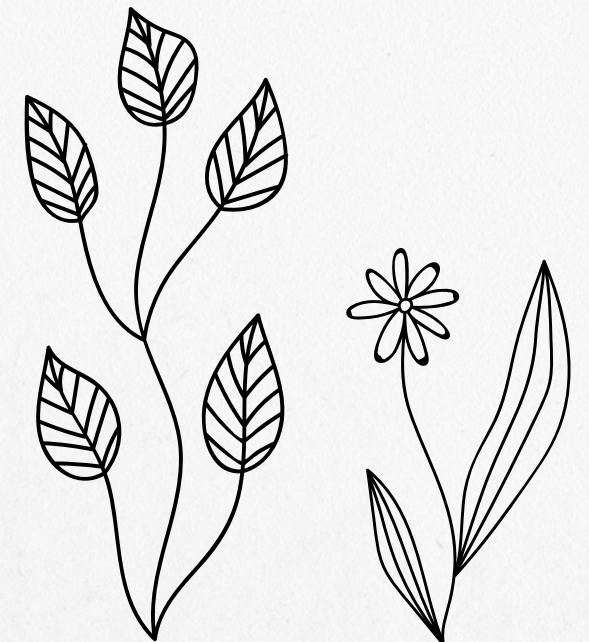
What about biodegradable or compostable packaging?



In recent years, compostable and biodegradable packaging products have become more commonly used as an alternative to plastic packaging. They are made using plant-based alternatives to oil.

So can they really be composted?

- Yes, they can technically be composted, but at the moment commercial compost facilities are not readily available and collection and compost services are expensive.
- Compostable products can be placed in home compost bins, but it can take a very long time to break down and will depend heavily on the quality of the composting system.
- These products cannot be placed in regular recycling bins and as a result they often end up in landfill.
- Compostable packaging and biodegradable plastic does not solve the growing global problem of single use packaging as they do not behave any differently in the marine environment, landfill or in the street. Therefore we encourage waste avoidance in the first place.



How to do it?

By pledging to eliminate at least 3 out of the 6 plastic items you will join the Plastic Wise community. Here are all the tips you need to expand your plastic wisdom:

1. Plastic Water bottles



How to avoid

- Don't sell plastic bottled drinks.
- Provide your customers with a water refill station so they can enjoy a water in-store or top up their water bottles.

Packaging alternatives

- Still and sparkling water packaged in aluminium cans or glass bottles.

Packaging suppliers

- Wallaby Water (wallabywater.com.au) for canned still and sparkling water.
- Aqua Botanical (aquabotanicalbeverages.com) an award winning water sourced entirely from fruit and veggies. Order online or call 1300 476 969.
- Daylesford and Hepburn Mineral Spring Co. Ltd (www.localmineralwater.com.au).
- Splitrock (splitrock.com.au) for glass packaging water, order online or call 99533 8001.

2. Plastic straws



How to avoid

- Do not supply straws to customers at all unless specifically asked.

Packaging alternative

- 100% recyclable paper straws.
- 100% compostable wheat straws.
- Reusable stainless-steel straws (for dine in).

Packaging suppliers

- Biopak (biopak.com.au) and
- Greenpack (greenpack.com.au) for paper and wheat straws.

3. Plastic bags

How to avoid

- Don't supply plastic bags at all (did you know there is a plastic bag ban implemented in Victoria from November 1 2019).
- Consider offering a discount for customers who bring their own reusable bag or sell them instore.

Packaging alternative

- 100% recyclable paper bags (for takeaway).
- Reusable bags.

Packaging suppliers

- Detpak (detpak.com).
- Boomerang bags (boomerangbags.org).



4. Plastic cutlery

How to avoid

- Don't offer disposable takeaway cutlery at all unless specifically asked.
- Encourage customer to dine in instead of doing takeaway.



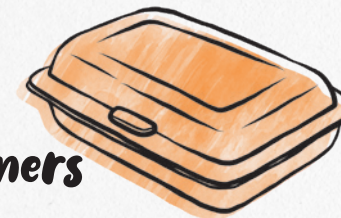
Packaging alternative

- 100% bamboo/wooden cutlery is preferred. Please note that it will still end up in landfill unless composted at home.
- 100% compostable packaging (e.g. corn starch).

Packaging suppliers

- Biopak (biopak.com.au) for bio cutlery, bowls and plates.
- Detpak (detpak.com) paper eco bowl and plate.

5. Polystyrene takeaway containers



How to avoid

- We recommend that polystyrene isn't used for food packaging.
- Choose products that are more environmentally friendly such as Biocane (bagasse) for hot food.
- For cold food, look for paper, either unlined (preferred) or lined with PLA.
- For food that is not wet, cardboard is also an option.

Packaging alternative

- Products made from Biocane (bagasse) are suitable for well managed home composts, but the best conditions are in a commercial compost. Biocane containers are leak-proof, freezer-proof and microwavable, that will keep food hot, and that look great. They are also sustainably produced.
- PLA products are also available, though note that PLA is not suitable for hot food. Be wary of products labelled only as biodegradable, ensure they are also labelled as compostable.
- For cold food, look for paper, either unlined (preferred) or lined with PLA.
- Consider accepting BYO containers.
- 100% recyclable paper satchel bags (for chips and smaller items).

Packaging suppliers

- Detpak (detpak.com) for cardboard boxes, chip packets, pizza trays, paper satchels.
- Closed Loop (closedloop.com.au) the enviro range or email info@closedloop.com.au.
- ReSwap (retub.com.au) or email info@retub.com.au.

6. Coffee Cup and Lids



Whilst we know it's almost impossible to eliminate disposable coffee cups, there are a few things you can do to reduce their supply.

How to avoid

- BYO coffee cup is the best solution to waste reduction.
- Offer a discount to customers who bring their own cups or for customers who have their coffee in-store.
- Consider stocking and selling reuseable cups.
- Offer coffee cup programs such as Coffee Cup Swap.

Packaging alternatives or reusable options

- Choose cups from a brand that is certified to Australian standards (like BioPak or greenpack.com.au).
- Coffee Cup Swap (onegoodcoffeecup.com.au) (huskee.co).
- Reusable coffee cup (au.keepcup.com) (frankgreen.com.au).
- The Cup Exchange (TCX) have combined an Exchangeable Cup with an IT system to allow the delivery of Exchangeable Cups as a Service. Visit www.tcx.org for more.
- Provide recycling service for coffee cups and lids with Closed Loop (simplycups.com.au).

Packaging suppliers

- Biopak.com.au and greenpack.com.au offer eco-friendly packaging alternatives.
- Detpak (detpak.com) and Simply Cups (simplycups.com.au) offer a closed loop commercial recyclable cup service, a 100% recyclable cup, collection and processing service. It relies on customers returning used cups to specific collection points.

Get in touch with wastewise@wyndham.vic.gov.au to discuss options to reduce your food waste.

Local Plastic Wise Cafés

Capra Cafe @ 1/4-6 Horn Street, Hoppers Crossing

Lee Chang, owner of Capra Café, started his sustainable journey when he took over the business in 2018. Lee is inspired to make his business eco-friendly because he has always been passionate about our environment, particularly animals.

Plastic wise initiatives at Capra Café:

- Eco-friendly packaging
- Discount offered to customers who BYO cup
- Refusing to use and supply plastic bags
- Transitioning to paper straws
- Collecting milk bottle lids for Envision
- Using refillable jars and bottles for sauces rather than individual packaging
- Giving coffee grinds away
- Book swap shelves for customers

Key learning:

"I began with a few sustainable initiatives and eventually was able to expand and do more to avoid waste. The more people know and see what we do, the more people appreciate and come to us."

Positive outcomes:

"We have avoided unnecessary waste by not easily giving out single use plastic items. It allows us to encourage a Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle culture to our customers which benefits the environment and promotes social connectivity."

Garden Feast Nursery Cafe @ 63-69 Railway Avenue, Werribee

Garden Feast's Manager, Maree Planner and Chef, Jason Brereton put in place sustainable steps towards achieving Zero Waste since the planning of Garden Feast Café over 3 years ago. Driven by their passion to minimise the carbon footprint their business has on the environment, both Jason and Maree joined forces to make Garden Feast café a business that is plastic free, grows its own produce, purchases products from local sources and local farmers and always views waste as a resource.

Plastic wise initiatives at Garden Feast Cafe Nursery:

- Nude displaying of scones, cakes or biscuits
- Providing only paper straws for drinks
- Not selling water or soft drink that comes in plastic bottles
- Taking milk bottles back to the supplier
- Avoiding single use plastic items

Other sustainable initiatives:

- Swapping seasonal fruits for coffee
- Growing their own produce
- Purchasing products from local sources
- Foraging seasonal fruits from the locals' yards to make jams and sauces
- Reusing their cardboard boxes for takeaway orders

Key learning:

"Some eco-friendly products we supply to our customers can be more costly, but we save in the end by being efficient, turning our waste into useful products and reusing and recycling everything that we have. Also, by not supplying customers with single use plastic items, we actually save money on packaging"

Positive outcomes:

"I feel a sense of satisfaction by what we have been able to achieve to make our business sustainable for the environment" Maree Planner"

"It saves us unnecessary cost to the business to go zero waste and also helps the environment." Jason Brereton.



Nailing plastics?

What about your food waste?



Get in touch with
wastewise@wyndham.vic.gov.au
to discuss options for reducing
your food waste and participating
in other sustainability initiatives.

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