

A dense, repeating pattern of white silhouettes of various single-use items is scattered across a dark teal background. The items include plastic bottles, water jugs, disposable cups, coffee pods, plastic bags, cutlery (forks, knives, spoons), and other common throwaway products.

SINGLE-USE ITEMS & PACKAGING GUIDE

A guide for users of council sites to avoid
single-use items and reduce unnecessary
packaging and plastics

Edition 3 – November 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

Surf Coast Shire Council Acknowledges the Wadawurrung People, and the Gulidjan and Gadubanud Peoples of the Eastern Maar, their Elders and leaders past, present and emerging as the Traditional Owners of the skies, land, waters and sea country across our municipality.

We acknowledge their care and custodianship for more than 60,000 years, which continues today.

We walk with them as we respectfully care for and tread lightly on these lands. We also extend that respect to all First Nations people who are part of the community.

Surf Coast Shire Council is committed to working with Traditional Owners and other First Nations people in our community. We are inspired by the fundamental principles of keeping Country healthy by actively caring for Country and sustainably managing natural resources. This is set out in the Country Plans of the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation's *Meerreengeeye Ngakeepoorryeeyt (Our Country, Far Seeing)* and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation's *Paleert Tjaara Dja (Let's Make Country Good Together)*.

Background

Surf Coast Shire Council is committed to reducing single-use items, packaging, and unnecessary plastics to help reduce waste and protect our natural environment from pollution.

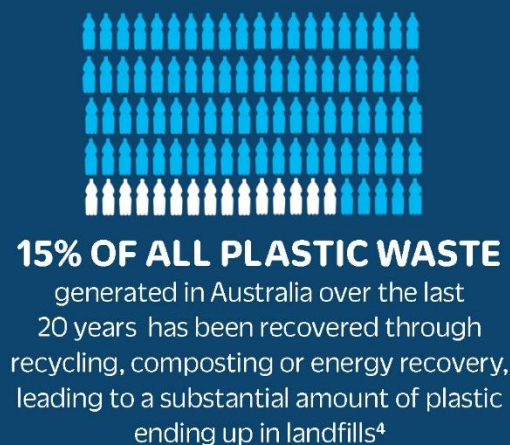
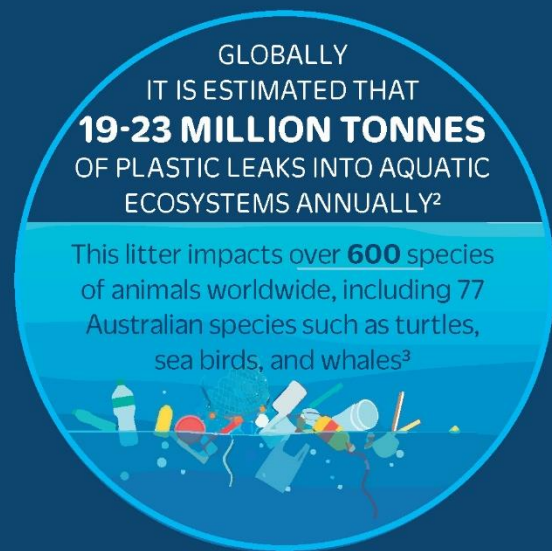
Our Plastic Wise Policy was first introduced in 2016 focusing on events and markets. The latest Policy update has broadened the scope to now include all activities undertaken on council owned and managed sites.

Council is committed to reducing waste and driving action towards a circular economy as seen in the *Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) 2024-2027*. This plan outlines Council's priorities of avoiding waste and increasing resource recovery, maximising reuse and creating systems change.

We are dedicated to driving meaningful change in a community that takes pride in its strong commitment to sustainability. Together, we can lead the way in creating a more sustainable future for Surf Coast Shire.

This guide has been developed to provide tips and advice for reducing single-use items and unnecessary plastics in Surf Coast Shire and to support the community to comply with our Policy.

DID YOU KNOW?



A recent CSIRO report⁶ showed that **85% OF BIOPLASTICS** currently end up in landfill with only 15% actually being composted



1. Why avoid single-use items and packaging?

Surf Coast Shire is home to stunning beaches, diverse wildlife, and a thriving community that values sustainability. Single-use items – plastic or otherwise – threaten our natural environment as they create excessive waste, pollute the environment, and deplete natural resources. Most single-use items end up in landfill or as litter in oceans and waterways, harming wildlife, and contaminating our food supply. These items also require significant energy and raw materials to produce, only to be discarded after one use.

All Australian states and territories have now committed to ban certain single-use plastics. A growing number of councils have developed local plastic avoidance and reduction policies, but there is still room for improvement.

Reassuringly, **80% of Surf Coast Shire businesses surveyed** indicated a desire to invest in sustainability actions for their business. Most of us know plastics and single-use items are a problem but avoiding things that make life more convenient can be hard.

Read on for tips to reduce single-use items!

2. Using the waste hierarchy to guide action

The Waste Hierarchy is a valuable tool for guiding actions as it prioritises strategies that have the greatest environmental impact. By following the waste hierarchy, we focus on actions that prevent waste, reduce single-use items and packaging usage, and support a circular economy.



- **Provide items “On Request”:** Only provide items when patrons ask instead of automatically providing them, and keep items out of sight (e.g. straws, cutlery, cups, lids, condiments etc.).
- **Encourage BYO reusables:** Consider offering a small discount to incentivise customers to BYO items such as reusable coffee cups or take away food containers. The Victorian Food Act 1984^x and the National Food Safety Standards^{xi} do not prohibit a food business from serving food or drink in a container provided by a customer.
- **Could I rent or borrow this instead of buying?** This can often work out cheaper, as means items can continue to be reused instead of being used once and discarded or stuck in storage e.g. decorations for events or activities.

3. Can't we just use compostable products?

No – unfortunately not. These items are not accepted in Council FOGO bins (lime-green lid) or recycling bins (yellow lid). FOGO bins can only accept food or garden scraps. Compostable packaging also contaminates recycling, so make sure to dispose of all compostable packaging, as well as paper towels, tissues, and serviettes in the landfill bin (bright red lid).

Why are compostable products not accepted in Council FOGO bins?

Compostable products are usually made from plant materials, such as sugar cane, bamboo, potato starch, corn starch and wood pulp. Often a hidden plastic or waxed lining is used to provide non-stick capabilities and waterproofing. Compostable packaging has been commonly used for coffee cups or take-away food containers and may or may not contain a certification symbol (and certification is voluntary).

Initially compostable products were seen as a great alternative to traditional plastics, however this has changed. Compostable food containers and packaging, particularly those made of moulded plant fibres, may contain plastics and PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or "forever chemicals") that can contaminate compost - potentially contaminating soil and crops and raising concerns for environmental and human health. Plastic contamination and PFAS are two of the main reasons that organic processing facilities can no longer accept compostable packaging. This is a common issue across the state. As Victoria moves towards all councils having the same 4-bin system, the government has indicated in the draft Service Standards that compostable items would not be accepted in FOGO binsⁱⁱ. It is also important to note that the existing Victorian Government single-use plastics ban prohibits not only conventional plastics, but also degradable and compostable plastics.



Surf Coast Shire Council does not accept compostable or biodegradable packaging in the FOGO bin (lime-green lid). These items must go in the landfill bin (bright red lid). Any facilities or events using Council-supplied bins must avoid compostable and biodegradable products.

Note: This is likely to be the same if using external waste contract companies.

What are the issues associated with compostable products?

- Sometimes there is confusion and "greenwashing" where products may be mislabeled or falsely appear to be compostable.
- A recent studyⁱⁱⁱ found that items labelled 'biodegradable' and 'compostable' were not breaking down adequately, leaving behind microplastics in the end product (compost).
- Compostable products^{iv} are not that useful in organic waste processing because they break down into components with limited nutritional value for the soil.

Key takeaway: It is best to avoid 'biodegradable' and 'compostable' packaging, and where possible offer reusable or recyclable items instead.



4. What if I need to use single-use packaging?

Offering reusable packaging or crockery is the best option if labour and infrastructure allows (e.g. if there is a dishwasher on-site). Reusable items can reduce long-term costs by eliminating the need for repeated purchases of disposable items and minimise waste disposal expenses with less waste being generated. If reusables can't be used, read on for tips on what materials are the best to recycle, and additional considerations for food and drink packaging.

Which materials are the best to recycle?

When considering what type of product to choose, it can be helpful to consider how easy it is for that material to be recycled at end of life.

Recycling rates from most to least recyclable:

	Aluminium	Considered infinitely recyclable - meaning it can be recycled again and again without losing its properties or qualities. Because of this around 75% of all aluminium ever made is still in use today ^v .
	Glass	Highly recyclable, but recycling is energy intensive and limited by glass colour (clear is better). Can degrade in quality over time.
	Paper/Cardboard	Able to be recycled multiple times but paper fibres shorten over time (reducing the quality) and coatings can reduce recyclability.
	Plastic	Limited recyclability, often downcycled; quality and recovery highly dependent on type and cleanliness <i>*note plastics pose a far greater pollution risk to the environment.</i>

Preferred materials for food and drinks packaging:

Cold beverages: For refrigerated pre-packaged beverages, aluminium should be prioritised as it has the highest recycling outcomes, followed by glass^{vi}, and then plastic. For on-demand service of cold drinks, a reusable recyclable cup is preferred.

Hot beverages: All hot beverage cups must be disposed of in landfill, whether they are made from compostable or traditional materials^{vii}. If a reusable cup is not possible, certified compostable cups are preferred (as these generally have a lower environmental impact and pose less pollution risk to the environment). Ensure you clearly communicate that all cups – compostable or otherwise – must be disposed of in landfill.

Food packaging: Once packaging has a significant amount of food residue it must be disposed of in the landfill bin not the recycling bin (even if it is cardboard or paper). Cardboard, paper and plastic need to be clean and free from any food residue to be recycled. If there is food residue (typically greater than 5% of the packaging) it must be disposed of in landfill. If reusable packaging is not possible, recycled cardboard or plant derived packaging is preferred (e.g. bamboo fibre^{viii}).



Check our website for more tips and fact sheets.

5. Swap this for that

ITEM	ALTERNATIVES	OTHER OPTIONS	TIPS FOR SUCCESS
Plastic bags 	Reusable bags (BYO bags, Boomerang Bags, or sell quality, non-plastic reusable bags)	100% recycled paper bags or FSC certified bags	- Offer “On Request” only - Consider charging small fee if customers request a bag
Straws 	- No straw - BYO straw - Offer or sell reusable straws e.g. glass^{N3} / silicon / stainless steel	- Paper straw (must be disposed in landfill bin¹) - Edible straws (sometimes not suitable for hot drinks)	- Avoid straws wherever possible - Offer “On Request” only and keep straws out of site
Drink stirrers 	Reusable teaspoon or stirrer	Plant-derived stirrer (must be disposed in landfill bin¹)	Offer “On Request” only
Plates and cutlery 	- Avoid cutlery if not essential - BYO plate / cutlery - Provide reusable crockery and cutlery	- Cardboard clamshell - Paper plate (no plastic lining) / serviette (must be disposed in landfill bin if there is food residue) - Plant-derived cutlery (must be disposed in landfill bin^{N1}) - Banana leaf (being a plant, this <u>can</u> go in the FOGO bin)	- Offer “On Request” only - Ensure you have an appropriate wash station for reusables^{N2} - If using a compostable product^{N1} check there is no PFAS in the lining (Note: if an item is certified compostable it should not contain PFAS)
Drink containers and lids 	- BYO reusable cup - Reusable cups / glasses (e.g. metal, glass or durable plastic)	100% recyclable plastic cup (can be recycled if clean after use)	- Offer discount to customers who BYO reusable cup - If providing a single-use cup, clearly communicate how it should be disposed - clean plastic can be recycled, compostable cups must go in landfill^{N1}
Coffee cups and lids 	- BYO reusable cup - Offer or sell reusable cups / mugs - Use a cup exchange or cup library system	Certified compostable cups (must be disposed in landfill bin^{N1})	- Offer a discount to customers who BYO reusable coffee cup - Offer lids “On Request” only

ITEM	ALTERNATIVES	OTHER OPTIONS	TIPS FOR SUCCESS
Single-use bottled water 	– Provide drinking water on site e.g. taps, portable water station, water barrels – Jugs and glasses / cups BYO bottles or hydration pack – Edible hydration gels for sporting events	– Recyclable aluminium cans or glass^{N3} bottles – Plastic bottles (if providing any single-use bottled products - recycling or CDS bins must be available onsite for collection)	– Provide water fountains or bulk water supply, e.g. Barwon Water Hydration Station^{ix} or Council's MEET PAT water stations – Offer water "On tap" or from a jug to reduce single-use packaging – Collaborate with other businesses or stallholders for combined solutions and pricing discounts
Juice box with straw attached 	– Juice from a large bottle poured into reusable cups	– 100% recyclable plastic bottle (e.g. plastic types 1, 2 & 5)	– Look for items that are 100% plastic that can be recycled or collected through the CDS
Takeaway food containers 	– Encourage consumers to BYO containers	– Provide reusable 100% recycled and recyclable takeaway containers (e.g. plastic types 1, 2 & 5)	– Consider offering a returnable / refillable container (e.g. where the consumer pays a fee that is refunded when they return the container)
Single-serve condiments and sachets 	– Serve condiments from large / bulk containers (e.g. large sauce bottles)	– Use recyclable hard plastic containers (instead of soft plastic sachets) – Provide a self-serve sauce station with reusable or recyclable containers where customers can self-serve and only take the condiments they need.	– Ensure that large condiment containers are cleaned and sanitised before refilling^{N2} – Sachets often include both plastic and foil, so if using a disposable product, try to use a plastic-only vessel that is recyclable
Individually packaged confectionery 	– Bulk packaged sweets – Homemade items – Chocolate / slices or fudge that can be cut into pieces	– Fruit or other sweet alternatives that are not packaged	– Look for items that can be purchased in bulk with less packaging – To replace individually packaged sweets, consider shelf stable hard candy

ITEM	ALTERNATIVES	OTHER OPTIONS	TIPS FOR SUCCESS
Balloons, decorations and glitter 	– Reusable paper lanterns, bunting, flags or banners – Living flowers or pot plants (instead of cut flowers that will die) – Dried flowers / petals – Coloured sand – Garden spinners / pinwheels – Ribbon sticks – Kites	– Cut flowers – Colourful streamers (not plastic) – Water-soluble confetti (e.g. confetti made from natural materials such as glutinous rice) – Eco glitter (biodegradable / cellulose glitter) – Natural sparkles (synthetic mica / borosilicates)	– Rent reusable decorations (e.g. festoon lighting, paper lanterns, etc.) – Decorative living flowers or plants (e.g. pot plants that could be rented or bought and reused for future events) – If single-use decorations are used ensure these are recyclable or compostable (e.g. cut flowers)
Water balloons 	– Refillable water balloons / wet sponge throwing game	– Reusable water guns	– If you have a toy library near you check if they have any items like these that you could borrow
Soft plastic packaging 	– Avoid packaging – Offer or accept reusable containers	– Reusable silicon food covers / lids – Reusable containers	– Consider options that avoid the need for packaging or for groups or clubs consider whether you could collect a stockpile of reusable containers
Kitchen supplies 	– Reusable compostable^{N1} dish cloths (e.g. “Swedish” dish cloths), coconut fibre scourers, bamboo / wooden scrubbing brush with natural fibre bristles – Plastic free soaps / detergents (e.g. soap block, dishwasher sheets or tablets)	– Refillable soap / detergents with bulk refill options – Scourers / scrubbers made from recyclable materials	– Look for plastic-free options made from natural materials – Check the external packaging (e.g. dishwasher tablets in a cardboard box instead of thick plastic container)

ITEM	ALTERNATIVES	OTHER OPTIONS	TIPS FOR SUCCESS
Merchandise and promotional items 	– Quality reusable items (stainless steel cups or drink bottles as opposed to plastic drink bottles, even if they are designed to be reused) – For clothing prioritise natural materials (cotton) over synthetic (nylon / polyester)	– If providing people with event-specific items consider removing any reference to the calendar year, so these can continue to be used in future years / seasons	– Choose high quality, plastic free reusable products that last longer over lower quality items, even if they are reusable – Offer merchandise “On Request” only – Consider ‘pre-order’ where people opt-in for merchandise to reduce wastage and over-ordering
Promotional bags 	– Avoid promotional bags (particularly flimsy bags made of plastic / nylon / polyester) even if these are designed to be reused	– If packaging or bags are required, prioritise recyclable materials (e.g. paper bag or envelope) – High quality natural materials designed to be reused (e.g. jute / hessian / cotton / calico)	– Consider paper bags first – Natural fibres (e.g. cotton or calico) are preferable to plastic, but there is high water consumption in the production process meaning they need to be used many times to offset the water and environmental impact
Single-use event infrastructure 	– Signage without dates that can be reused for future events – Reusable decorations (see Balloons and Decorations) – Reusable course markings – Avoid zip ties (consider metal sign holders you can slide a sign into and reuse)	– Single-use recyclable options (note: corflute^{N4} cannot go in household recycling bins) – Non-toxic materials or course markings that will not pollute the environment if unintentionally lost / unable to be removed	– If single-use signage is required, aim for materials that are recyclable – Consider whether digital signage could be utilised to reduce single-use waste – If zip ties are used make sure these are removed and securely disposed and do not end up in the environment

Notes:

^{N1} Compostables products cannot be accepted in Council FOGO bins (lime-green lid) and these must be disposed of in the landfill bin (bright red lid). If organising your own organics waste contractor be sure to confirm whether they can accept compostable products as many cannot. Remember compostable products are not recyclable.

^{N2} See FAQs for information on cleaning and sanitising surfaces and utensils to comply with the Food Standards Code.

^{N3} Note: also refer to Council's Community Amenity Local Law Part 4, Section 4.11 Glass Free Areas (p.19)

^{N4} Note: Corflute can not be disposed of in Council recycling (yellow lid) bins. There are some recyclers who can recycle corflute, but this must be arranged with a specialist provider, and signs must be free from PVC or other contaminants.

6. Frequently asked questions

Can food and drink be served in containers provided by customers?

Yes, businesses can accept customer-provided containers. [The Victorian Food Act 1984](#)^x and the [Food Standards Australia New Zealand \(FSANZ\)](#)^{xi} Food Standards Code does not prohibit businesses or vendors from letting customers use their own containers. Council supports businesses right to accept clean containers, and [Sustainability Victoria](#)^{xii} also acknowledges this approach 'accepting reusables at your business'.

How do I wash reusable cups, plates and cutlery to comply with the Food Standards Code?

Refer to Appendix 6, p214-222 of [Safe Food Australia – A guide to the food safety standards](#)^{xiii}, 4th edition, February 2023. Council's Environmental Health Officers can also provide advice.

Is it more expensive to switch to reusables?

Not necessarily. The initial cost may be slightly higher, but in the long run, it can lead to financial savings to use durable reusable items that can be used multiple times. Second-hand stores are often a great place to find affordable crockery and utensils. Compared to reusable systems, vendors can spend up to 30–40% more on single-use packaging compared to reusable systems, especially when buying compostable or branded items in small quantities.

Are takeaway coffee cups and lids recyclable?

Coffee cups are in most cases not recyclable. This is because traditionally coffee cups were made of a paper cup with a waterproof wax or plastic lining to make the paper watertight. The combination of materials complicates the recycling process.

- **Paper cup – No.** Because they contain a waterproof (plastic or wax) lining they must be put in the landfill bin (bright red lid).
- **Plastic lid – Yes and No...** Typically, takeaway coffee cup lids are made from polystyrene (6) or polypropylene (5) a petroleum-based plastic that is difficult to recycle. Black plastics are also harder to recycle as they are harder to sort and have a lower market value. **Only plastic types 1 (PET), 2 (HDPE) & 5 (PP) can go in the yellow-lid recycling bin.**
- **Compostable cup and lid – No.** If using Council-supplied bins they need to be disposed of in the landfill bin (bright red lid).

What is the best type of coffee cup?

The best coffee cups are ones that are reusable! Compostable products cannot be accepted in Council FOGO bins (lime-green lid) and many organics contractors cannot accept these products. With our current system, coffee cups **must go to landfill bin** (bright red lid) after use unless there is a proven compostable processing arrangement with your waste contractor. If you require a single-use disposable coffee cup, paper or plant based certified compostable cups with a plant based non-PFAS waterproof barrier are preferred.

What is the difference between compostable and biodegradable?

Compostable products *(not accepted in Council FOGO bins):

Compostable products are a subset of biodegradable products. They are designed to break down into organic matter within a given timeframe. Originally it was thought that these products would break down sufficiently, however [a recent study](#)^{xiv} showed these items are not breaking down adequately and contaminating compost.

Bioplastics *(not accepted in Council FOGO bins):

Bioplastics are either bio-based, biodegradable or both:

- **Bio-based plastics:** made from natural materials such as potato starch, sugar cane, wheat.
- **Bio-degradable plastics:** has the potential to break down over time under specific conditions (compostable products are biodegradable but are not always bio-based).

Plastics labelled as 'degradable' might sound like a good idea, but this is a general term given to any product that breaks up into smaller pieces via natural processes (e.g. exposure to light or high temperatures). Often the conditions needed for this are not possible in landfill as the items are buried and preserved. Over time these products may break down into smaller particles and remain in the environment as microplastics, instead of breaking down into organic, non-toxic materials.

What is the difference between commercial and home compostable?

There are two Australian Standard (AS) certifications, **AS 4736-2006 Commercial Composting** and **AS 5810-2010 Home Composting**. Many products currently available (sometimes just labelled compostable) are generally only suitable for commercial composting facilities that can sustain temperatures of over 55°C for extended periods of time. (See Section 3. Can't we just use compostable products?)

Remember: Compostable products cannot be accepted in Council FOGO bins and these must be disposed of in the landfill bin.

Australian Standard Compostable Certifications (note these certifications are voluntary and they are not currently regulated):



**Commercial Compostable
AS4736**

The seedling logo is a symbol that the product's claims of biodegradability and compostability as per AS 4736-2006 has been verified.



**Home Compostable
AS5810**

The Home Compostable Verification logo is a symbol that the product's claims of biodegradability and compostability as per AS 5810-2010 has been verified.

Can compostable packaging go in the home compost?

Only put compostables in your home compost system if they are **certified home compostable AS 5810**, otherwise it is unlikely that it will break down sufficiently and may impact the health of your compost. Ensure you use a dedicated home compost bin to prevent contamination of the recycling bins (yellow lid) and FOGO bins (lime-green lid). If in doubt, dispose of in the landfill bin (bright red lid).

Why can't Council accept compostable packaging in the kerbside FOGO bins?	Council's organic processor cannot accept compostable packaging in FOGO bins. This is largely due to plastic contamination and PFAS. Compostable packaging, particularly those made of moulded plant fibres, may contain plastics and PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or "forever chemicals") that can contaminate compost. This can potentially contaminate soil and crops, raising concerns for environmental and human health. Compostable packaging also adds little value to the composition of any fertiliser or products produced during the composting process.
Are there any exemptions to the Policy?	There are blanket exemptions (for health and safety, accessibility and public safety requirements), and conditional exemptions (where alternatives may be limited, where existing agreements are in place or where established collection and recycling programs exist). Refer to the Single-use Items and Packaging Policy for more information.
Are paper bags / cotton / material reusable tote bags better than plastic bags?	Yes they are. While all products require resources to produce (e.g. water, energy, raw materials) paper bags will generally decompose after 1 year and leave behind natural components that are not harmful to the natural environment. Plastic bags can take between 20 - 100 years to decompose, polluting the environment and harming wildlife in the process. Additionally paper bags, if sourced from sustainably managed forest (e.g. FSC) are made from a renewal resource (wood pulp) whereas plastic bags are made from petroleum, a non-renewable (finite) resource. Look for FSC certified or 100% recycled content paper bags. Reusable bags (e.g. cotton or synthetic materials such as polypropylene) also have an environmental impact associated with them, so it is important to consider firstly if a bag is required at all, and secondly if they are a high enough quality to encourage reuse over many years. In recent years tote bags have become increasingly popular, but there is a limit to how many tote bags the average human actually needs! An Australian study found that the environmental benefits of reusable bags are realised after 52 uses – so get in the habit!
Does Council supply signage that says which items go in each bin?	The list of items accepted in bins can vary. For Council bins – check SCRRApp or the Council website. For commercial businesses or events, check with your waste provider.
Does the Policy and this Guide only apply to users of Council sites?	Yes, however we encourage anyone who is keen to reduce single-use waste and plastic to use the Policy and guidelines to help reduce their environmental footprint.
Are there grants or incentives for businesses reducing single-use items?	There may be local, state, or federal grants and incentives available to businesses that adopt more sustainable practices. Check with your local council or relevant government bodies for more information.

Page 3 'Did You Know' References

- ¹ Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2021, www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/publications/national-plastics-plan-summary
- ² United Nations Environment Program, n.d., <https://leap.unep.org/en/knowledge/toolkits/plastic/about>
- ³ Tangaroa Blue, 2018, www.tangaroablue.org/
- ⁴ The Australia Institute, 2024, www.australiainstitute.org.au/report/plastic-waste-in-australia/
- ⁵ Environment Protection Authority Victoria, 2021, www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/our-programs-and-projects/single-use-plastics-ban
- ⁶ State of Bioplastics in Australia report, 2024, <https://research.csiro.au/ending-plastic-waste/bioplastics-report/>
- ⁷ Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, 2022, Victorian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report, www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/greenhouse-gas-emissions

References

- ⁱ Surf Coast Business Survey Results, 2024, www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Community/Businesses/Business-Surveys
- ⁱⁱ Proposed Household Waste and Recycling Draft Service Standard, 2024, www.engage.vic.gov.au/setting-the-standard-for-better-recycling-at-home
- ⁱⁱⁱ Quantification of microplastics in biowastes including biosolids, compost, and vermicompost destined for land application, 2025, <http://dx.doi.org/10.20517/wecr.2024.65>
- ^{iv} Note: Compostable packaging generally has lower embodied carbon than traditional plastic alternatives, particularly those made from renewable sources like PLA or bagasse. Council FOGO bins currently cannot accept compostable packaging, and compostables must be disposed of in landfill bin (bright red lid). Compostable items in landfill can release methane as they break down anaerobically, limiting their environmental benefit unless separate industrial composting access is arranged.
- ^v Australian Aluminium Council, 2024, www.aluminium.org.au/sustainability-main/recycling/
- ^{vi} Note: refer to Council's Community Amenity Local Law 2021 Part 4, Section 4.11 Glass Free Areas (p.19). www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Council/Laws-and-regulations
- ^{vii} Traditional coffee cups cannot be recycled as the paper cup has a plastic lining to make it watertight. Compostable cups can no longer be accepted in Council FOGO bins, and thus all coffee cups must be disposed of in the landfill bin.
- ^{viii} Bamboo typically has a lower environmental footprint compared to paper and lower chemical usage.
- ^{ix} Barwon Water Hydration Station, www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/community-and-education/community-support/hydration-station-and-portable-refill-units
- ^x The Victorian Food Act 1984, www.health.vic.gov.au/food-safety/the-food-act-1984
- ^{xi} Food Standards Code, FSANZ, www.foodstandards.gov.au/food-standards-code
- ^{xii} Accepting reusables at your business, Sustainability Victoria, 2025, www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/circular-economy/accepting-reusables-at-your-business
- ^{xiii} Safe Food Australia, FSANZ, www.foodstandards.gov.au/publications/safe-food-australia
- ^{xiv} Quantification of microplastics in biowastes including biosolids, compost, and vermicompost destined for land application, 2025, www.oaepublish.com/articles/wecr.2024.65

Seeking more information?

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W. www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/SingleUsePolicy

