



SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIER GUIDE



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SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIER GUIDE

A guide to help your business reduce single use plastic.

What is the problem with Single-Use Plastic?



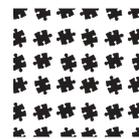
Used once, lasts forever. Every year we use over 300 million tonnes of new plastic. Half of this is used just once.



In Australia, 150 million plastic bags end up as litter, only 3% of them are currently being recycled and 200,000 bags are dumped in landfill every hour.



Australians use 2.7 billion single use plastic straws every year. Used on average for 20 minutes, they can take more than 45+ years to break down.



Plastic breaks up not down...fragmenting into even smaller pieces, microplastics are turning our ocean into plastic soup and end up in the food chain, and in us!

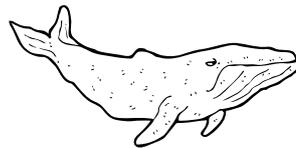
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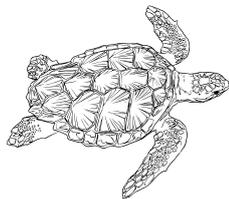
Reducing plastic is good for our oceans...



8 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into the world's oceans every year.



Plastic pollution adversely impacts over 700 species.



Half of all marine turtles have eaten plastic. Taronga's Wildlife Hospital has seen over 350 marine turtles brought in since 1984, many with plastic related illness.



Over 90% of seabirds worldwide have plastic in their stomach.

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And good for your business...



Reducing disposable products reduces waste and associated costs (repeat purchasing and removal)



Research indicates that 8 out of 10 shoppers support a plastic bag ban.



Many shoppers look for the 'green' credentials of a business to decide between competitors.



Business decisions can influence producer responsibility more greatly than consumer decisions alone, having a greater environmental impact.



TAKING ACTION

Phasing out single-use plastic from your business requires a double-pronged approach that includes:



Identifying all areas of your business that are reliant on single use plastic and over time saying Bye Bye to Plastic . Educating staff and customers and offering a viable alternative to single-use plastic items.

Fostering a BYO culture among your customers and staff and encouraging a behaviour shift to reflect this. You could do this by giving staff reusables, running competitions, offering incentives and / or discounts to customers who BYO.

Bye Bye Plastic - Reduce, switch, remove

The following sections will provide suggestions on how to phase single use plastic items out of your business - from reducing, switching to friendlier alternatives and where possible removing single use items all together.

Hello BYO - Reusables all round

Encouraging and incentivising customers to remember to bring their own reusable cups or bags with them is equally important as providing alternatives.

Consider rewarding behaviour and creating loyalty amongst your staff and customers by offering incentives. Communication is essential when it comes to fostering behavioural change.



Support your staff

Educating, engaging and supporting your staff, particularly customer-facing employees is just as important as guiding your customers. They are the face of your business to your customers and it's critical you get everyone on board to make the switch successful and create a positive impact by going plastic free!

Go Further

Once you are in the middle of the switch it will become so apparent just how pervasive the problem is and how reliant we are in our everyday lives on single use plastic.

Take a look at the goods you are purchasing and receiving and what items are recurring in your waste. If there is a lot of excess packaging, see if you can reduce this, recycle it through appropriate facilities or switch to more sustainable items and / or suppliers.



LESS POLLUTION IS THE BEST SOLUTION

Straws



The fact is that the vast majority of customers (but not all) do not require a straw to drink and there are many other more sustainable alternatives to straws available for customers that do require straws.

The simplest action for a business to make is to stop displaying or offering straws as the default. Many businesses have found it instantly reduces use and cost by up to 80%! These savings will allow the purchase of single use plastic alternatives.

Check out our supplier list for plastic straw alternatives. If you require extra support around straws The Last Straw (www.thelaststraw.com.au) has many resources available

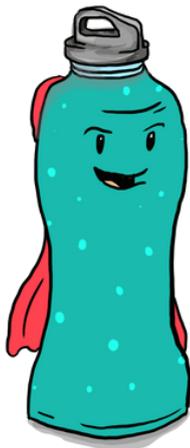


LESS POLLUTION IS THE BEST SOLUTION

Bottles



Plastic drink bottles can be very challenging to phase out, depending on what type of business you are in. Many pre-packaged drinks come in plastic containers, rather than glass, aluminium or paper and there are not currently many viable alternatives.



Plastic is the least recyclable material, with only 9% worldwide being recycled at all and it can only ever be down-graded through the recycling process. Compare that with aluminium, where 75% of the material produced is still in circulation today.

Consider offering reusables, beverages in washable cups or stocking products with more recyclable packaging, although this is not always feasible.

As an employer you could look at giving your team a reusable drink bottle to encourage them to reduce their reliance on disposable bottles and improve their health!



LESS POLLUTION IS THE BEST SOLUTION

Coffee Cups



If you are a cafe, you would no doubt be going through a mountain of cups every single day. The best way to reduce your cup waste is to incentivise customers to bring their own cup or to dine in.

Fostering a BYO culture can be done through many ways such as offering discounts, starting a mug library or even charging more for a disposable cup.

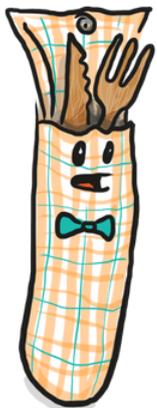


Sign up to our friends over at Responsible Cafes (<https://responsiblecafes.org/>) who provide information, tools and promotion of your business on their website. Save money, save waste and free promo? What's not to love.

As an employer you could perhaps look at giving your team a reusable coffee cup to encourage them to reduce their reliance on disposable coffee cups and improve their health!

LESS POLLUTION IS THE BEST SOLUTION

Takeaway Containers and Cutlery



Fostering a BYO culture in your customer base also means making allowances for that in areas you may not have considered. People bringing their coffee cup is now nothing new but what about a reusable takeaway container? Letting your customers know that if they Choose to Reuse, your business will support them, is a great way to encourage a behaviour shift like we are seeing with coffee cups and start more of these conversations.

There are great single use plastic free alternatives for every range of takeaway container out there. Whether for hot or cold food, soups, sandwiches or ice cream there are are wonderful compostable alternatives available.

If you are an employer, encourage staff to use office kitchen items and to request no cutlery with takeaway orders. You could look into signing your business up to a container sharing company like Returnr (<https://responsiblecafes.org>) to encourage staff to think about their other common waste streams and foster team lunch bonding.



LESS POLLUTION IS THE BEST SOLUTION

Bags



Here is a guide for plastic bag alternatives, listed from most environmentally beneficial to least.

Cardboard delivery boxes

If you've got the space, provide cardboard delivery boxes for customers to use. This is not only a great reuse opportunity but can help reduce your paper recycling costs.

Reusable bag made from polypropylene or PET plastic

PRO: These bags can be reused for many years and can be recycled through supermarket soft plastic collections. These can be branded and sold for a profit.

CON: Made from a non-renewable resource (gas or oil)



Reusable bag made from cotton or other fabric

PRO: Can be reused for many years and are made from a renewable material. They can be branded and sold for a profit. Upcycled & repurposed bags divert from landfill.

CON: Growing cotton can use a lot of water and chemicals.

LESS POLLUTION IS THE BEST SOLUTION

Bags



Paper bag made from recycled / recyclable materials

Paper is typically better than plastic as it is biodegradable and recyclable. However it can lack durability, takes a lot of energy to produce and may not come from a sustainable source.

Other Options

Bag share schemes like Boomerang bags or bag share walls / boxes set up within businesses or local areas such as shopping centres.



Please Note:

We do not recommend plastic bags labelled as biodegradable as they simply break down into smaller and smaller microplastics.

If you currently provide plastic bags and you are not ready to phase them out entirely, consider placing a surcharge on them. Implementing a fee for plastic bags has had incredible results in minimising use around the world.

SINGLE USE MATERIALS

What's the difference between compostable, biodegradable and degradable? Which one should you be using?



MATERIAL	SOURCE / BASE INGREDIENT	DURABLE FOR PACKAGING	DISPOSAL METHOD	BIODEGRADABLE
Plastic	Petrochemicals	Yes	Ideally recycled usually landfill	No - remains plastic or breaks into micro-plastics (lasting forever)
Biodegradable or Bio-plastic	Plant cellulose / corn starch	Yes	Ideally Industrial composting usually landfill	Not without special industrial treatment
Bagasse	Sugar cane pulp	Yes	Can be industrially composted, often landfilled	Yes home compostable
Bamboo / Wood	Bamboo plantation	Yes	Can be home or industrially composted, often landfilled	Yes
Paper / Cardboard	Wood pulp/ recycled paper / trees	Limited, depends on usage & conditions	Can be recycled if not contaminated, can be composted	Yes
Home Compostable Packaging	Crustacean shell, mushroom fibre, seaweed	Intentionally yes, still being tested	Designed for home compost / to be highly degradable	Yes, designed to be highly degradable, will enrich soil



Dont forget, REUSABLE is best! #helloby



Accreditations & Certifications to look out for when purchasing

Bioplastics & Home Compost

Cardboard & Paper



SUPPLIERS

GUIDE TO SINGLE USE ALTERNATIVES

There are a number of retailers offering more sustainable alternatives to all the single use plastic items that you may require for your business (and the list is growing every day!)

The following tables cover some great suppliers to get you started. Whilst this list is by no means exhaustive (or is any particular supplier endorsed) this is a great starting point for your business to discover some relevant alternatives based on your requirements.

These range from plant-based single use items, commercial and home compostables to reusable items as well as infrastructure / circular systems to further support the uptake of reusables.

They include everything from bottles, cups, straws, cutlery and bags to all types of packaging, trays and cling film.

You will also find a direct link to each supplier on our Supplier Resources page (byebyeplastic.org.au/toolkits-resources/suppliers-resources/), where you can sort by category.

SUPPLIERS

GUIDE TO SINGLE USE ALTERNATIVES

SUPPLIER	BAGS	BOTTLES & CUPS	STRAWS	CUTLERY	CONTAINERS	PACKAGING
Albury Enviro Bags	✓					
Biome	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biopak		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BioTuff	✓					
Carapac						✓
Cheeki		✓	✓		✓	
Custom Earth Promos	✓	✓				
Environmental Enterprises	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Flora & Fauna	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Frank Green	✓	✓				
Globelet		✓				

Disclaimer: This list of suppliers is non-exhaustive and does not suggest or indicate preference.

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GUIDE TO SINGLE USE ALTERNATIVES

SUPPLIER	BAGS	BOTTLES & CUPS	STRAWS	CUTLERY	CONTAINERS	PACKAGING
Going Green Solutions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Green Pack	✓					
Grounded						✓
Hello Green	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Huskee		✓				
Joco Cups	✓					
KeepCup	✓					
Ozepac	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promotional Eco Cups		✓				
Simply Cups		✓				
Sol		✓				
The Better Packaging Co.						✓

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