

Greater Dandenong City Council

# PLASTIC USE POLICY COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS GUIDE



April 2023

## COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Community groups using or operating out of Council owned community centres and facilities can send a strong message about single use plastics (SUPs) and engage many people across the municipality.

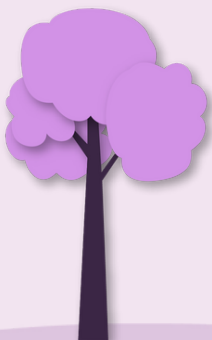
## WHERE MIGHT YOU FIND SUPS?

- Functions
- Meetings
- Workshops, information sessions and training events
- Programs
- Exercise classes
- Playgroups

## WHAT CAN YOU USE INSTEAD OF SUPS?

Council have developed the list below to assist you in selecting alternative items to the SUP items that are to be avoided in line with Council's Plastic Use Policy. You will notice that the recommendations are either:

- Reusable items\*
- 100% recyclable items
- Or items that are home compostable as signified by the home compostable logo AS5810-2010



## WHAT NOT TO USE:

This guide does not include recommendations for any of the following types of items:

- Commercially compostable items because Greater Dandenong does not accept these in our green lid food and garden waste bins.
- Items that are labelled 'biodegradable' as these types of plastics need a very specific environment to break down and are not accepted in the yellow lid recycling bins.
- Items that are labelled 'degradeable' as this refers to items that just break down into smaller pieces that end up becoming even more difficult to retrieve from the environment. These are also not accepted in the yellow lid recycling bins.

Find out more about these terms from [Going Green Solutions](#).

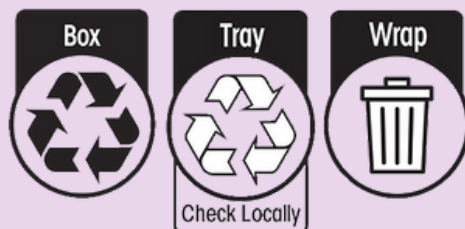
Items can only be recycled in Greater Dandenong when they are correctly placed in your regular yellow lid recycling bin.

\* Health advice supports the use of reusable items with appropriate cleaning.

[vic.gov.au/single-use-plastics](https://vic.gov.au/single-use-plastics)



## RECYCLING HELP



The Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) is an on-pack label that helps consumers to correctly recycle their household packaging. The ARL removes confusion and reduces waste by educating consumers on how to dispose of each component of packaging.

See the suggested alternatives to the SUPs that are included in the Plastic Use Policy below.

## 1. SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS



### How to avoid

- Don't use or distribute any kind of plastic bag. These are used as carry bags for food and belongings.
- Do you have distributors or caterers delivering food to your activities? When organising your next delivery, ask them to deliver these 'bagless' such as in cardboard boxes or crates.
- Carry a reusable bag with you.
- Plastic bags used for hygiene (e.g. nappy bags, soiled items, medical) and food safety (e.g. carrying raw meat or the like) can still be used.

### Alternative

Reusable – *best option*:

- Canvas, hessian and other fabric carry bags
- Heavy duty carry bags
- Mesh produce bags
- Tupperware or other reusable storage containers

Recyclable:

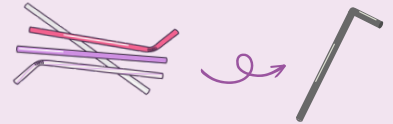
- Cardboard boxes
- Paper bags
- Foil trays and coverings



## Suggested suppliers

- Boomerang Bags (Greater Dandenong) - for reusable fabric bags
- Supermarkets and retail stores – for reusable mesh produce bags, foil trays and coverings and reusable storage containers
- BioPak - for paper bags

## 2. PLASTIC STRAWS\*



### How to avoid

- Don't offer plastic straws with drinks. This way, drinking straws will only be given to people who need one and ask for it.
- If you do need straws for drinks, stock bamboo or paper straws which can naturally break down or be collected for home composting. Reusable straws (e.g. silicone or metal) are also a useful alternative.
- Encourage BYO (bring your own) straws.

### Alternative

Reusable – *best option*:

- Bamboo, silicone, glass and metal straws

Compostable:

- Paper, wheat, sugarcane and other plant-based straws

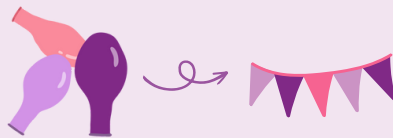
\*For many people with disability, plastic straws are an essential accessibility tool that allows for drinks to be consumed safely and easily. Straws should be made available on request to persons with physical or medical requirements. No proof of disability or need is required (any requests will be honoured).



### Suggested suppliers

- [Biome](#) - for silicone, glass and metal straws
- [The Other Straw](#) - for bamboo straws
- [Little Green Panda](#) - for sugarcane and wheat straws
- [Compostable alternatives](#) – for rye, grass and coconut straws

## 3. BALLOONS



### How to avoid

- Don't purchase or use balloons of any kind. This includes rubber and foil types.
- Use decorations that are reusable and can be modified or used over and over at different activities.

### Alternative

Reusable - *best option*:

- Paper and fabric bunting
- Festival flags and pennants
- Reusable decorations (banners and ribbons)
- Homemade bubbles - Try this [recipe](#) from Zoos Victoria

Recyclable:

- Tissue paper pom poms and streamers
- Plants and flowers – recycle in your green lid garden waste bin

### Suggested suppliers

- [Eco Party Box](#) – for fabric bunting and other party decorations
- [Spotlight](#) – for patterns to make your own fabric bunting

## 4. SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CUPS



### How to avoid

- Use the reusable cups in the facility kitchens. If you need more, bring in or hire reusable cups that can be washed using on site dishwashers or taken home for use again.
- Encourage attendees to bring in their own reusable coffee cups, mugs or drinking glasses.
- Request your attendees to bring a reusable drink bottle to refill onsite.

### Alternative

Reusable – *best option*:

- Ceramic, enamel and reusable plastics mugs/cups
- Glass, metal and reusable plastic coffee cup
- Glass, metal and reusable plastic drink bottle

Recyclable:

- Paper cups

Compostable:

- Sugarcane cups

### Suggested suppliers

- [IKEA](#) – for reusable cups and mugs
- Your local Salvation Army or Vinnies Op Shop - for second hand cups. By utilising second hand shops we can divert more than 158,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and support the circular economy.
- Party supply or beverage retailers for hiring of cups or glasses for large functions
- [No More Plastic Packaging](#) – for recyclable and home compostable cups

**FREE AND VISIBLE ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER MUST BE PROVIDED**

## 5. SINGLE USE PLASTIC PLATES, BOWLS, CUTLERY AND TAKEAWAY FOOD CONTAINERS



### How to avoid

- Use the reusable plates, bowls and cutlery in the facility kitchens. If you need to bring more onsite, bring in reusable items that you can wash and use again.
- Encourage attendees to bring in their own reusable plates, bowls and cutlery.
- Are you meeting regularly? Pool together your resources and purchase or collect via donation, a 'community dishes' kit of reusable tableware for your organisation, club or group to use. Return when finished to be washed on site using dishwashers.
- If you are sharing a meal or snack, transport it in reusable containers or in trays covered in foil (which is recyclable), tea towels or beeswax wraps.

### Alternative

Reusable – *best option*:

- Ceramic and enamel plates and bowls
- Metal containers
- Glass jars
- Metal and bamboo cutlery
- Reusable storage containers (e.g. Tupperware, Décor, Sistema)



Recyclable:

- Cardboard takeaway boxes
- Paper bags
- Aluminium trays

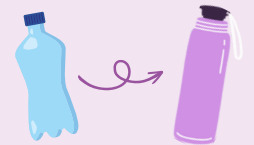
Compostable:

- Wooden or sugarcane cutlery

### Suggested suppliers

- [Returnr](#) - for reusable metal cups, bowls and containers
- [Green My Plate](#) - for rental plates and bowls
- Your local Op Shop - for second hand reusable plates, bowls, jars and cutlery.
- Supermarkets – for reusable containers and jars
- [BioPak](#) - for wooden and sugarcane cutlery

## 6. WATER BOTTLED IN PLASTIC



### How to avoid

- Use the jugs in the kitchens and fill with tap water. Provide reusable cups for attendees to refill. Clearly promote the presence and location of this free drinking water.
- Meeting outdoors? Bring water with you in a water cooler or find a public drink tap.
- Request your attendees to bring a reusable drink bottle to refill.

### Alternative

Reusable – *best option*:

- Reusable plastic bottles
- Large water jugs

Recyclable:

- Canned and glass bottled water – which you will be able to recycle through [Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme](#) in November 2023

## Suggested suppliers

- Supermarkets – for reusable drink bottles
- Wallaby Water – for canned still and sparkling water
- Olinda Springs – for glass bottled water

## ALL UNNECESSARY SOFT PLASTIC PACKAGING IS TO BE AVOIDED WHERE POSSIBLE, AND EVENT MATERIALS SHOULD BE REUSED

### How to avoid

- Provide and bring in snacks without plastic packaging, such a fruit in its natural 'packaging' i.e. bananas, oranges, mandarins, watermelon, etc.
- Think about stationery and table settings, these may be items that have more soft plastic packaging.
- Provide beverages such as soft drink or juice in larger bottles (1 or 2 litre bottles) for users to fill up their cups rather than individual smaller bottles.

### Alternative

- Bread in paper bags
- Bulk food items
- Beeswax wraps
- Aluminium foil
- Stationery and food packaged in cardboard

### Suggested suppliers

- Supermarkets for stationery packaged in cardboard
- Pavlov & Sons Textiles – for reusable tablecloth material
- Bee Nature – for beeswax wraps



## MORE INFORMATION

For targeted advice on alternatives to single use plastics for Sports Clubs and Facilities, and Event Organisers and Stallholders, please visit:


[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/plastics-policy](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/plastics-policy)

General information on reducing plastic use can be found at:

[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability)

For tailored advice and further information, contact Greater Dandenong City Council's Sustainability Planning Unit on 8571 1000 or email [sustainability@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@cgd.vic.gov.au).



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