

Greater Dandenong City Council

PLASTIC USE POLICY EVENT ORGANISERS AND STALLHOLDERS GUIDE



April 2023

EVENT ORGANISERS AND STALLHOLDERS

Whether you are participating in a Council festival or hosting a 21st birthday party at a community hall, events are the largest generators of single use plastics (SUPs) which can be easily avoided. Therefore, these groups have been specifically included in the Plastic Use Policy.

WHERE MIGHT YOU FIND SUPS?

- Catering
- Food and drink vendors
- Decorations
- Party favours
- Merchandise and products

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.

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.

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

**When ordering single-use alternatives to SUPs, ask your supplier to confirm in writing that the items do not contain any form of plastic polymer, including compostable or bioplastic.



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 include those used as carry bags and for merchandise, prizes, takeaway food etc.
- Consider selling branded reusable bags at your event.
- Encourage attendees to BYO bag.
- When ordering merchandise such as t-shirts, toys and lanyards, ask your suppliers if they can send these 'bagless' prior to postage.
- 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 bags
- Heavy duty carry 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
- Minuteman Press – for custom fabric carry bags
- Supermarkets and retail stores – for reusable mesh produce bags, foil trays and coverings, and reusable 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.
- 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. Thick straws made without plastic are available for bubble tea.

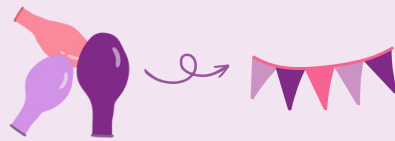
*For many people with disability, plastic straws are an essential accessibility tool that allows for drinks to be consumed safely and easily. Straws should be made available on request to persons with physical or medical requirements. No proof of disability or need is required (any requests will be honoured).



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 functions.

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 bunting and other party decorations
- [Bangin Hangings](#) - for plastic-free flags, stage backdrops and aerial decorations.

4. SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CUPS



This includes drinking cups for cold drinks and food i.e. smoothies, slushies, lollies and fairy floss. All polystyrene/ foam cups are also not permitted.

How to avoid

- Give patrons permission to bring their own reusable cups and bottles. Consider offering a discount to encourage this behaviour.
- Suggest applicable vendors sell branded reusable cups and bottles.
- Implement a borrow scheme where patrons receive a drinking cup with the purchase of their first drink and return it when finished to be washed on site using dishwashers or portable dishwashing buckets.

Alternative

Reusable - *best option*:

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

Recyclable:

- Paper and sugarcane cups

Compostable:

- Sugarcane cups

Suggested suppliers

- [IKEA](#) - for reusable cups and mugs
- [Bottles Plus](#) - for custom drink bottles
- [Bettercup](#) and [B- alternative](#) - for rental drinking cups for events and festivals
- [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

- Encourage BYO to applicable events and festivals. Let patrons know that their own containers and cutlery will be accepted.
- Paper, cardboard and sugarcane containers come in all sorts of shapes and sizes to suit all stallholders.
- Save your glass jars and use these to hold products for sale such as salads, lollies, jams and other food items.
- Hire communal tableware for use by all vendors.
- 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.

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
- Bettercup and B- alternative - for rental plates and bowls
- Your local Salvation Army or Vinnies Op Shop - for second hand reusable plates, bowls, glass jars and cutlery. By utilising second hand shops we can diverting more than 158,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and support the circular economy
- Supermarkets – for reusable containers and jars
- BioPak - for wooden and sugarcane cutlery
- No More Plastic Packaging – for recyclable and home compostable cups

6. WATER BOTTLED IN PLASTIC



How to avoid

- Communication prior to the event is key. Inform patrons, volunteers, performers and crew that no SUP water bottles will be supplied and that BYO reusable drink bottles are encouraged.
- Supply water drinking stations ('hydration stations') if you have access to public water taps and provide reusable cups. Clearly promote the presence and location of this free drinking water.
- If you do not have access to free drinking water, giveaway or sell water in recyclable packaging.
- Consider selling branded reusable drink bottles as an additional income source.



Alternative

Reusable – *best option*:

- Reusable plastic bottles and cups
- 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

- [Bottles Plus](#) – for custom 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

- Discuss with your food vendors what plastic packaging-free, recyclable or home compostable options they have.
- Retail stalls should consider selling products unwrapped, without shrink-wrap and cellophane.
- Think about sanitation, infrastructure and backstage, these may be areas that have more soft plastic packaging.
- Use reusable, rather than event specific, lanyards, badges, wristbands, signs and display materials, etc. As a start, what can be reused if you remove the year/date?

Alternative

- Bread in paper bags
- Bulk food items
- Toilet paper packaged in paper
- Aluminium foil
- Honeycomb wrap (alternative to bubble wrap)
- Refillable condiment bottles
- Crates

Suggested suppliers

- [Hero Packaging](#) – for home compostable mailer bags
- [We Bar None](#) – for muesli bars with home compostable packaging
- [Who Gives a Crap](#) – for paper wrapped toilet paper



MORE INFORMATION

For targeted advice on alternatives to single use plastics for Sports Clubs and Facilities, and Community Groups and Organisations, please visit:


greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/plastics-policy

General information on reducing plastic use can be found at:

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



 (03) 8571 1000

 council@cgd.vic.gov.au

 greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
Online: relayservice.gov.au



TIS: 13 14 50

Follow us:



**GREATER
DANDENONG**
City of Opportunity