

Plastic Free Events

95% of plastic packaging is used once and then thrown away, often as litter.

Organising plastic free events is a great way to reduce this waste and show your community how to be more environmentally friendly - ***and it's easy to do!***

What You Should Avoid



plastic bags



single plastic food ware



plastic straws



plastic takeaway containers



plastic takeaway coffee cups

10 Steps To A Plastic Free Event - Your Checklist

- ✓ Advertise and promote your event as plastic free.
- ✓ Provide BYO bags (you could brand these) and reusable water bottles and sell these at the gate for a small fee. Some schools make their own singlet bags for events.
- ✓ Require all vendors to supply only reusable or compostable food ware (plates, knives and forks, spoons, cups and containers). No plastic bags. Vendors/organisers can sell soft drinks/alcohol in bottles and cans.
- ✓ Provide a water station or hydration station for refillable bottles.

Your Checklist Continued...

- ✓ Provide only compost and recycling bins on site. Make sure these are well signed. All food and compostable food ware go into compost bins, and soft drink/alcohol containers into recycling (you may decide to provide a garbage bin as well but make this less accessible).
- ✓ Monitor bins throughout the event. Use simple signage. Positioning someone to explain how the bins work is a helpful idea, too.
- ✓ Arrange for your waste service to pick up recycling and compost bins and take them to the appropriate facility. Your event/school may also have its own composting facilities you could use/partially use.
- ✓ Use the exercise as an educational opportunity for your students/members/community.
- ✓ Repeat next year!

Note: If there are no accessible compost facilities in your area, stick with this process as you are still creating a plastic free event. In this instance, your compostables may have to go to landfill. Please follow up with local authorities as to why no facilities are available and try to get these supplied for the future.

We use **3 million tonnes** of plastic every year, that's 129 kg per person

420 million
Plastic Bottles

200 million
Packaging Items

180 million
Plastic Bags

11 billion
Cigarette Butts

"Plastic is so permanent and so indestructible, that when you've cast it in the ocean, or even in a dust bin...it does not go away." Sir David Attenborough



"In Australia, two-thirds of marine debris found along the coastline is plastic, with most coming from local sources." CSIRO Marine Debris Report 2014

FACT

10 international studies show an average 27% of seafood examined contained plastics.

FACT

8-9 million tonnes of plastic leaks into the ocean every year. At that rate there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050 (by weight).

FACT

26% of all plastics used is for packaging. 95% of plastic packaging is used only once and then wasted.

FACT

30% of plastic packaging could be avoided or compostable, 20% could be reused and 50% could be recycled according to New Plastics Economy.