

PLASTIC



THE FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING PLASTIC



Over

24,000 tonnes

of plastic PET bottles are purchased in Australia per year. That's **over 575 million** soft drink bottles!

Around **18,000 tonnes** of these are recycled.

WHY RECYCLE PLASTIC?



The energy saved by recycling one plastic bottle will **power a computer for 25 minutes.**

Most plastic is not biodegradable and will survive in the environment for over

600 years.

PET bottles are recycled in Australia to make new bottles or exported to be used in carpet, eco-fleece and other synthetic fibre products.

Plastic is made from non-renewable resources that, once depleted, cannot be replaced.

Fossil fuels such as **natural gas, oil and coal** are used in the production of plastic, emitting dangerous gases and toxic chemicals.



There are about

46,000

pieces of plastic floating in each square mile of our oceans.

Recycling **1 tonne** of plastic saves enough energy to run a refrigerator for a month, or 84% of the energy it would take to make it from raw materials.

NEVER RECYCLE:

Plastic bags, polystyrene and cling wrap, toys, personal hygiene products, lolly wrappers.



IF IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT

www.townsville.qld.gov.au 1300 878 001



WHAT HAPPENS TO PLASTIC?



THE SCRUNCH TEST *A+*

1. If a piece of plastic can be easily scrunched up or broken, then it probably can't be recycled. If you are still unsure, then throw it in your normal rubbish bin.
2. Examples of plastics that cannot be recycled include bubble wrap, plastic bags, lolly packets and meat trays.
3. Recyclable plastics are made into a number of products including wheelie bins, fleece, helmets, hangers and pipes.

