

Environmental & Packaging Guidelines at Council Events



Acknowledgement of Country

Townsville City Council acknowledges the Wulgurukaba of Gurambilbarra and Yunbenun, Bindal, Gugu Badhun and Nywaigi as the Traditional Owners of this land. We pay our respects to their cultures, their ancestors and their Elders, past, present and all future generations.

Event Environmental Guidelines

We are committed to improving the sustainability of events organised and conducted within our city. Environmental Guidelines at Council Events requires all event organisers and stallholders to consider ways to minimise waste to landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimise environmental impacts as a stallholder or vendor.

Who does this apply to?

These requirements apply to all stallholders whether they are providing food, activities, information or other services. If you need assistance with understanding the Environmental Guidelines, please get in touch with the Events team.

We follow best practice standards

Townsville is a certified ECO Destination (Nature Tourism) by Ecotourism Australia and we follow a range of best practice standards to enable our City to flourish and lead in authentic local sustainability. To learn more about what our destination is doing to follow authentic environmental practices please visit [Townsville | Green Travel Guide](#)

Leaving no trace

It is encouraged that all rubbish and waste is cleaned up and collected from the event site by each vendor. For vendors who do not comply, an additional cleaning fee may be applied. This applies for:

- Rubbish left at site - including cigarette butts and food scraps
- Damage to flora or fauna
- Any wastewater, grease or oil inadequately disposed of



How to comply to the Guidelines

Council encourages continual improvement in terms of sustainability. It is not about doing everything perfectly, but trying small steps toward sustainable actions. To assist you in this process please see some of the resources available in these guidelines.

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Figure 1: Signage at the 2019 Eco Fiesta Council Event

Take care of the event site

Council events commonly take place in our beautiful parks, gardens and open spaces. It's our responsibility to take care to minimise our impact on the surrounding environment.

Protecting our wildlife

Stick to designated travel routes during setup and back down of events, and drive to the speed limit. Native fauna and flora are sensitive and live in the parks and gardens that Council events operate in. It's important to **leave no trace** and to leave the site as we found it.



Figure 2: a curious neighbour

Wastewater and oil disposal

Please note that stall holders are not permitted to use the waste facilities provided for patrons for any wastewater or oils or chemical products - please take all excess fluids including wastewater and oil off site or it may result in a cleaning fee.

Dispose of rubbish responsibly

Council events may have designated stallholder waste facilities set up. Please refer to the information provided for specific events and check maps provided. Otherwise, stallholders should dispose of all waste generated off site after events have concluded. The Events team reserve the right to charge for a cleaning fee if vendors or stallholders leave rubbish behind at a site.

Know the skip

Take note if there are separate waste bins allocated and use them appropriately.

- Blue lid = cardboard
- Yellow lid = recyclables
- Red lid = general waste
- Green lid = organic waste



Figure 3: example of skip bins

We are breaking up with Single-Use Plastic

Council's Corporate Plan aims to build a circular economy by reducing waste generation, whilst increasing recycling and landfill diversion. As a Reef Guardian Council, we are committed to changing the tide on single-use plastics and the impact to our oceans and the Great Barrier Reef. Council supports initiatives to reduce our dependence on single-use packaging. To learn on how to beat plastics, please visit Plastic Free Places [How To Guides](#) and get in contact with the local Plastic Free Places representative.

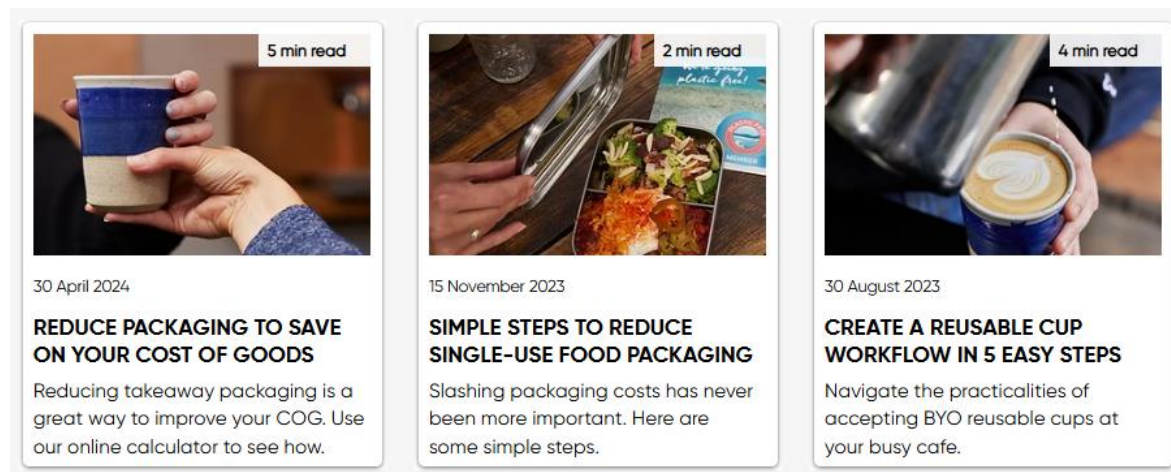


Figure 4: Examples of Guides available on Plastic Free Places website

Balloons, Bags and Bans

Queensland has banned the supply of a number of single-use plastic items, under [Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan](#). The bans follow strong support from the community, retailers and industry organisations. Items currently banned in Queensland:

- single-use plastic straws
- single-use plastic stirrers
- single-use plastic plates and bowls
- single-use plastic cutlery
- single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups
- expanded polystyrene loose ('peanut') packaging

The outdoor release of lighter-than-air (for example, helium) balloons is also banned.

Soft plastics cannot be recycled

Most plastic will survive in the environment for over 600 years. If you are unsure that an item is a soft plastic, do the 'scrunch test'. If it can be easily scrunched up or broken, it cannot be recycled and must go in general waste.

Did you know: Townsville has a Recycling Facility!

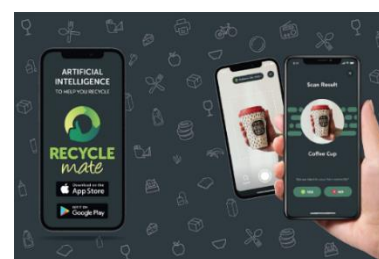
Resource recovery and waste minimisation is a key driver of our goal to facilitate a shift towards a circular economy and reach our target of **diverting 60% of material from landfill by 2026**. Sending waste to landfill not only takes up valuable and finite space, but also increases pressures on natural resources and emits powerful greenhouse gases.



Figure 5: Townsville's recyclables

Downloading Recycle Mate to help get you there!

[Recycle Mate](#) is free for Townsville residents to download and use on their mobile phones. Recycle Mate is a free resource available to every local council, recycler, and charity to get involved with and promote recycling initiatives.



What can be recycled in Townsville?	Resources
Hard plastics (nothing that 'scrunches')	Factsheet_Plastic_web.pdf
Glass	Factsheet_Glass_web.pdf
Paper and Cardboard	Factsheet_Paper-and-Cardboard_web.pdf
Steel and Aluminium	Factsheet_Steel-and-Metal_web.pdf
Tip - please ensure recyclables are cleaned of food organics and contaminants stuck on them so they can be processed more readily	

10c drinking containers

Drop off locations can be found at [Containers for Change QLD](#). The following containers are accepted:

- aluminium
- glass
- plastic
- steel
- juice poppers



Figure 6: Containers 4 Change

Check the 10c refund mark on the container if you are unsure.



GENERAL WASTE



polystyrene
& soft plastics



soiled cardboard
& shredded paper



nappies & wipes



liquid paperboard
(UHT) containers



food scraps,
grass
& garden clippings

NO:

- ✗ Hot ashes, liquids & oil
- ✗ Chemicals, paints & solvents
- ✗ Sharps & needles
- ✗ Gas bottles, corrosive & flammable items
- ✗ Car parts, including batteries
- ✗ TVs & computers

Recyclables – place in your yellow-lid recycling bin.



townsville.qld.gov.au

Scan here to find out more



RECYCLING



Items that are hazardous or could cause damage **CANNOT** be placed in your yellow lid bin.



paper &
cardboard



glass bottles
& jars



steel/aluminium
cans & foil



hard plastic bottles
& containers

NO:

- ✗ Shredded paper & soiled cardboard
- ✗ Food scraps, grass & garden clippings
- ✗ Fabric & clothing
- ✗ Scrap metal
- ✗ Plastic bags/ soft plastics
- ✗ Takeaway cups
- ✗ Medical waste, IV bags & sharps
- ✗ Gas bottles, batteries (household and car), fire extinguishers & marine flares

townsville.qld.gov.au

UNSURE?
ASK RECYCLE MATE!



Pop up wash stations & Mug Library

Food vendors at selected Council run events may have the opportunity to participate in a reuse library and wash up initiative to reduce waste. The Events team will provide more information about being involved for selected events.



Figure 7: Wash up station & mug library

Be part of the fun

At Ecofiesta 2024, Council provided a Mug Library and Wash Up Station for attendees to use when they grabbed a coffee. The initiative proved a success with patrons and vendors supporting the use of reusables. This led to a reduction in waste to landfill and provided cost savings to vendors through less packaging.

Hydration stations

To curb single-use plastic bottle use, Hydration Stations will be set up at select events to encourage patrons to fill up their water for free.



Figure 8: Portable Hydration station

Sustainable alternatives guide

A range of alternatives are available to encourage more eco-friendly options when it comes to serving ware. Council and the community show support and encourage any alternatives that aim to:

1. avoid and reduce unnecessary waste,
2. promote reusable serving ware and,
3. provide serving options that are compostable.

This can be done with:

Less packaging and centralised condiments

- Reducing unnecessary packaging products
- Having a condiments table - bottles of sauce instead of individual packets



Figure 9: Condiment table

Encouraging reusables

- At select events, there may be reusable initiatives such as Wash up & reusable programs
- Supporting customers that bring their own reusable serving ware



Figure 10: Reusable cup

Prioritising compostable

- Council encourages serving ware that is made with Australian-certified compostable standards.



AS 5810
ABAX 9999

Most preferred is AS5810
home compostable
Second preference is AS4736
industrially compostable



AS 4736
ABAX 9999



Figure 11: home compostable items

- Vendors are welcome to add these items to their own compost. At select events, Council may have organics recovery bins allocated.
- Home compostable items are natural materials such as paper, cardboard, cornstarch and bamboo which will break down to form a natural compost product.
- Tip: Look out for packaging products labelled “biodegradable” as these are often still made from plastic material that stay in the environment for a long time.
- Contact [Plastic Free NQ](#) for expert information on compostable products.

Sustainable merchandise & products

If you are selling or giving away merchandise or other products, please consider the environmental impact of the items. Some questions to ask are:

- Will they be used by the consumer and are they durable? Is it practical?
- Will it be thrown out quickly or valued for a while?
- Does it represent the values of your business and does it tread lightly on the planet?

This may look like:

Promoting eco-friendly products

- Selling or giving away eco-friendly products
- Encouraging a reuse culture
- Providing quality products that are built to last
- Providing products that will serve a purpose
- Promoting eco-friendly DIY products that locals can make at home (such as Beeswax wraps)
- Promoting eco-friendly living products e.g. organic foods, composting workshops, fermenting, bee hotels, upcycling, renewable energy technologies, etc.
- Natural household products e.g. microbial-based cleaners

Digitalising or minimising your collateral

- QR codes to link people to your materials
- 100% Recycled content in merchandise - bookmarks, business cards, brochures, posters.

Asking for advice!

- Please reach out to the Events team if you have questions about the Environmental Guidelines.
- They can put you in touch with an Environmental officer that will be able to assist.
- Plastic Free Places is a local organisation available to provide packaging advice to vendors. Please reach out to them here: [Plastic Free NQ](#) | [Plastic Free Places](#) | [Boomerang Alliance Australia](#)



Figure 12: Bamboo products



Figure 13: Beeswax wraps



Figure 14: Etched QR code on timber



Figure 15: Natural deodorant in a glass container

Environmental actions checklist ✓

Flick back through these guidelines to help you through each checklist. Let us know of initiatives you are proud of - it may help others!

Packaging checklist:

- ☐ Any packaging, coffee cups and foodware is Australian-certified compostable to AS5810 home compostable (preferred) or AS4736 industrially compostable (**see page 8 for more information on compostable options**)
- ☐ Avoid and reduce unnecessary serving ware
- ☐ Drink products (such as softdrinks) are recyclable and not single-use plastic i.e. made from glass and aluminium
- ☐ Plastic bags, polystyrene products, or balloons are not to be supplied
- ☐ A collect back system for 10c Containers for Change
- ☐ Do not use plastic straws or plastic stirrers (exceptions for accessibility needs and home compostable options)
- ☐ Correctly use allocated skip bins at Event site where available
- ☐ Bonus points: utilise reusable storage containers instead of disposable products such as cling wraps, alfoil, etc.

Self score for packaging: ____ out of 8

Leave no trace checklist:

- ☐ Dispose of all waste generated by your stall off site or to designated vendor waste facilities at event site (not in the smaller bins provided to the public/eventgoers).
- ☐ Take all excess fluids including wastewater and oil off site or it may result in a cleaning fee. Ensure none are dumped on parklands, into site soil or gardens.
- ☐ Follow established traffic routes to not damage fauna and flora on site.
- ☐ Opt for biodegradable cleaning and sullage products.

Self score for packaging: ____ out of 4

Other environmental actions checklist:

- ☐ All promotional material and handouts printed on 100% recycled paper
- ☐ Reduced power requirements at site, or using renewable energy/batteries
- ☐ Use of environmentally friendly cleaning products
- ☐ Use of organic or locally-grown produce and food products
- ☐ Digitilising your collateral to save paper (e.g. providing QR codes to your website)
- ☐ Partnering and/or supporting local environmental initiatives
- ☐ Certifying your business or organisation with eco-certification. See more information: [Sustainability in Business - Townsville City Council](#)
- ☐ Supplying and promoting ethically-sourced products and services

Self score for packaging: ____ out of 8

Total score: ____ out of 20 WHAT WAS YOUR SCORE?

1-7 = getting there!	8-14 = great work!	15-20 = you are a legend!
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