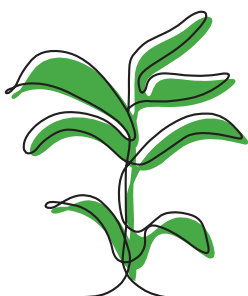


Bundaberg Regional Council

Handy guide

to waste and recycling



Building Australia's **best regional community**





Bundaberg Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Country of the Taribelang Bunda, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang, and Bailai Peoples and recognises that this Country has always been and continues to be of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. We recognise the thousands of generations of continuous culture that have shaped this Country and the people on it. We pay respects to Elders, past and present. Bundaberg Regional Council further acknowledges other neighbouring traditional owner groups within the Wide Bay-Burnett Region.

Contents



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How to reduce your waste **9**



Waste and recycling services across our region **15**

- Kerbside bin collections
- Waste facilities



Handy tip

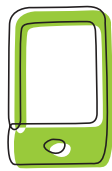
Make sure everyone in your household is on board with what item goes where



What is waste?

Waste is something that has been discarded which is deemed no longer useful or an unwanted item, substance or by-product.

Why is waste produced?



Items are **not built to last**

Choosing **easy options**
e.g. takeaway food

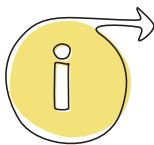


Single use packaging

Not knowing what else
to do with the product



This guide will help you:



make **informed choices** about your recycling options and reducing your waste.



find services and programs which support waste minimisation



understand Council's waste and recycling services.



Why should we care?

Knowing how to dispose of your waste and recycling items can make a huge difference to your household and the planet!

Reducing waste can:



Help save money

as it costs less for residents and Council to sort and dispose of your waste. If you have less waste, you don't rely as heavily on Council services!



Help the environment

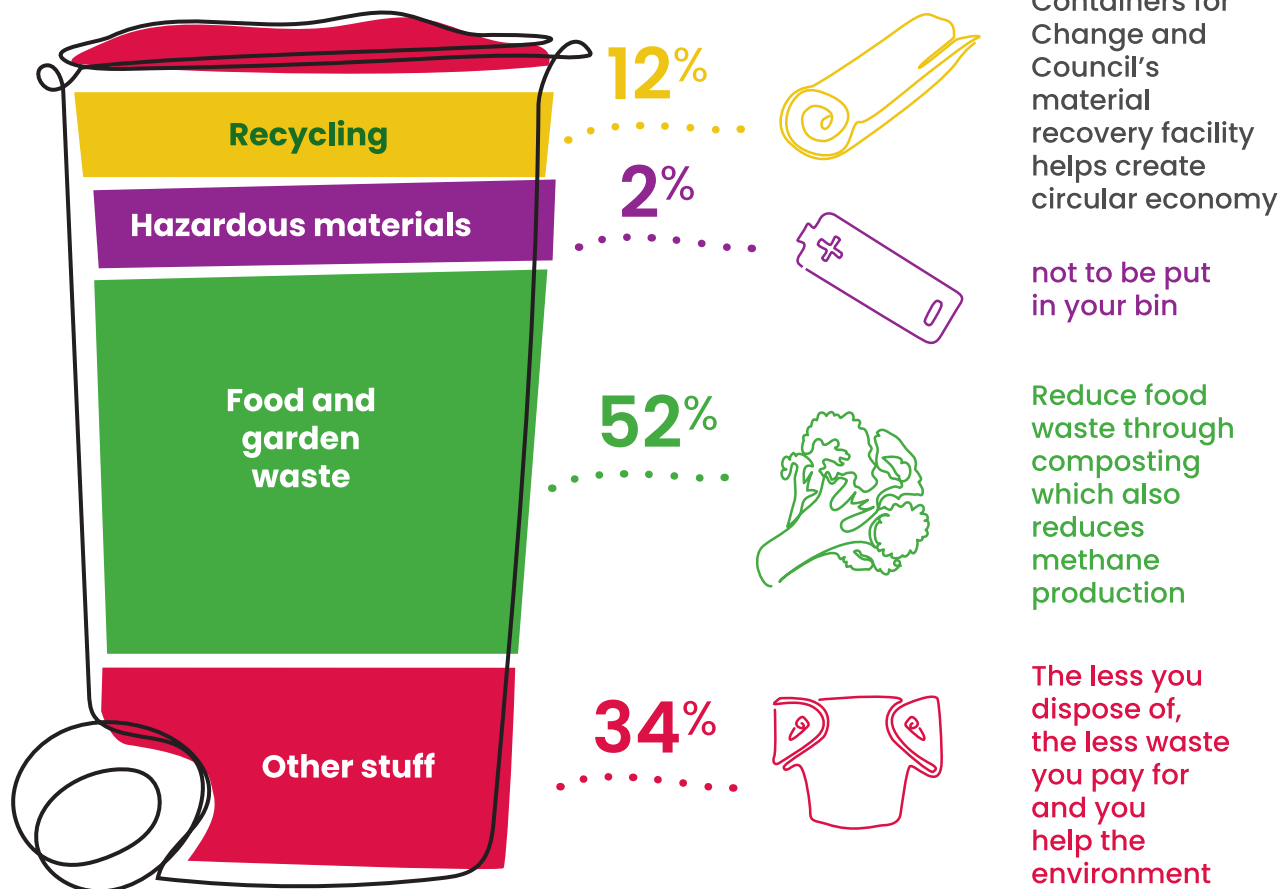
by reducing your production of waste you lessen the amount of waste to landfill and therefore less carbon emissions.



Create new jobs

through resource recovery industries throughout our region.

Household Waste Stats:



Did you know?



Each household produces on average

18.7 kg of waste and recycling per week.

15.9% of recycling contamination

mainly due to residents placing items in plastic bags. **Keep items loose in your recycle bin.**

Each household puts

11 batteries

on average in their household bin per year.

Avoid garbage truck fires by dropping batteries at local collection points.

\$1.52 million

worth of **eligible 10c containers are placed in household bins annually** in our region, rather than taken to a container refund point.



What happens to your recycling?



**Your yellow lid bin
recyclables are collected**



**They are taken to our
material recovery facility**



They are sorted by hand
by Impact Community Services staff >



**They are baled and
transported for recycling**



**Your recyclables live on
to become new products**





If you wouldn't want to touch it in two weeks time, neither do they!

Contamination within your recycling

can have significant drawbacks including increased sorting costs, decreases in efficiency and operational safety. There's a few simple things you can do to reduce contamination rates and help the team who sort your recycling by not putting these items in your yellow lid bin:



Plastic bags

can cause blockages and tangle machinery as well as conceal recyclables



Garden waste and soil

contaminate materials such as paper and glass



Medical waste, syringes and nappies

pose health risks to Council's materials recovery facility staff



Food and other perishable waste

contaminate paper products making them unrecyclable



Oil, chemical and other liquid wastes

contaminate paper and cardboard products as well as posing health risks to Council's materials recovery facility staff



eWaste (electronic waste/small appliances)

is not recycled via the Council's material recovery facility (your yellow lid bin), however it can be taken to any Council waste facility for recycling - FREE OF CHARGE





recycle Right

Here's what **can** and **cannot**
go in your **yellow lid recycle bin**



Items you **can** put in your **yellow lid recycle bin**



Steel and aluminium



Paper and cardboard

Hints and tips

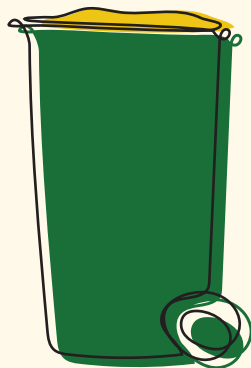
- **Leave recyclables loose** (do not bag)
- **Fold boxes** to save space
- **Leave lids off** drink bottles and containers
- **No need to crush** tins and cans
- **Rinse** recyclables for a better end product



Plastic (jars and bottles)



Glass (jars and bottles)



Items you **cannot** put in your **yellow lid recycle bin**

- Plastic trays
- Polystyrene
- Food scraps
- Green waste and vegetation
- Ceramics and crockery
- Toys
- Car parts
- Garden hose
- Glassware
- Tupperware
- Nappies
- Plastic bags
- Soft plastics
- Syringes
- Sharps bins
- Shredded paper



More ways you can recycle

Free of charge



Battery recycling

While seemingly small and harmless, batteries are the leading cause of fires in landfill and in our garbage trucks. They can also leak harmful chemicals into the environment.

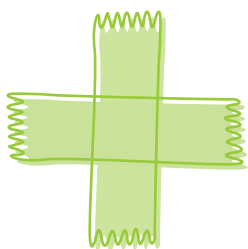
It is important that you do not place batteries in any kerbside collection bin.

The positive side (pun intended) is they contain valuable metals and plastics that can be recovered when recycled correctly, and for free.

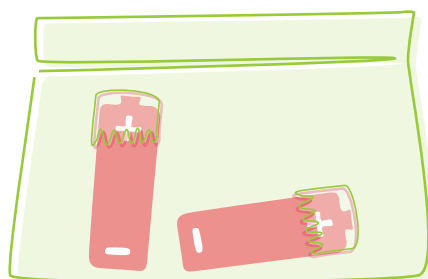
To recycle batteries, simply **tape, bag, and drop your batteries off** at one of the many collection points around the region.

- Waste facilities
- Council service centres
- Council libraries
- Other local businesses, such as Officeworks and Aldi

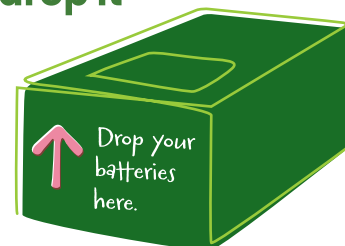
tape it



bag it



drop it



ChemClear

ChemClear is a national not-for-profit program that, through Council, facilitates the collection and disposal of unwanted and obsolete agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

It provides our farmers, primary producers and other chemical users with a safe and environmentally friendly method to dispose of these chemicals, ensuring they do not harm the environment or contaminate waterways.

Since its establishment in 2003, ChemClear has collected and safely disposed of over 8 million kilograms of unwanted chemicals, reducing the risk of environmental pollution and protecting the health of ecosystems.

These **collections occur in bulk every two years.**

More information about the collection process and next round, head to Council's website.



Containers for Change

Containers for Change (CRS) is a popular recycling initiative that aims to reduce litter and promote recycling by providing a financial incentive for returning eligible containers.

Since its launch, the scheme has made a significant impact on recycling rates nationwide with over three billion containers recycled through the program, resulting in a remarkable >80% recycling rate.

The Bundaberg Region currently has a recycling rate of

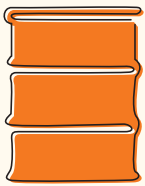
60%
= \$2.25 m

which means there's still plenty of opportunity for residents to participate and earn

40%
= \$1.52 m

To participate residents can:

visit one of the registered refund points to return eligible containers and receive a refund.



drumMUSTER

Hand in hand with ChemClear, drumMUSTER is an initiative that aims to promote the responsible disposal of empty agvet chemical containers.

It provides a nationwide collection and recycling service for these containers, preventing them from being disposed of inappropriately or ending up in landfill. By participating in drumMUSTER, farmers and chemical users can contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable agricultural industry.

Drop your unwanted containers at select local Council waste facilities for free.



eWaste

Electronic waste, or eWaste, is a growing concern due to the high turnover rate of electronic devices seen today.

While the volume of recycled electronics is also increasing, it's estimated around 20,000 tonnes of eWaste is still ending up in landfill each year in Queensland alone.

Improper disposal of eWaste can have serious environmental consequences, which is why it's important to dispose of eWaste correctly, and for free, at any of our local waste facilities.

**If it has a plug,
it's free to recycle!**

This includes:

Computer equipment such as:

- Laptops
- TVs
- Monitors
- Towers
- Printers
- Tablets

Small electrical items:

- Kettles
- Microwaves
- Toasters
- Heaters



FluoroCycle

FluoroCycle is an industry-led program that focuses on the responsible and sustainable management of end-of-life fluorescent lamps and bulbs.

Council have partnered with FluoroCycle to provide collection points around the region for these lights to prevent the release of hazardous materials into the environment and promote resource recovery.

Over 9 million fluorescent lamps have been collected and recycled through the FluoroCycle program since its inception.

This has reduced the environmental impact from these lamps.

Items that can be recycled for free at Council Waste facilities include:

- Compact fluorescent lamps
- Fluorescent u-tubes
- Linear fluorescent lamps
- Mercury vapour lamps
- Metal halide lamps
- High pressure/sodium/ceramic arc lamps
- Incandescent lamps



Green waste

The Bundaberg Region is fortunate to have a free green waste disposal point provided by Green Solutions Wide Bay. Council waste facilities also accept green waste free of charge from domestic customers.

By participating, we can play an important role in waste reduction, resource recovery, and the creation of nutrient-rich compost for local gardens and landscapes.

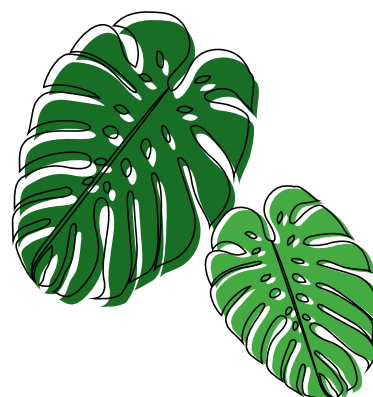
This sustainable waste management program that focuses on the proper disposal and recycling of organic green waste and can have a significant positive impact on the environment by diverting green waste from landfill and promoting its transformation into valuable resources like compost and mulch.

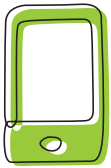
Residents can take part by separating their organic green waste such as grass clippings, leaves, branches, and garden trimmings from other household waste before dropping them off at the disposal point.

This new product is then available to the public – completing the cycle!

Disposal point:

Green Solutions Wide Bay
Windermere Road, Qunaba.





Mobile Muster

Did you know 95% of your mobile phone can be recycled?

Like eWaste, regular smartphone replacements or upgrades result in a high volume of potential waste. Next time you upgrade your mobile phone, recycle your old one for free by dropping it off at a collection point across the region.

3% of mobile phones were recycled in 2020

Mobile Muster statistics

millions of devices

are still being sent to landfill or stored away.

Items include:

- All makes and models of mobile phones
- Mobile charges and accessories
- Wearable devices (smart watches, etc.)

Drop off locations:

- All Council waste facilities
- Council service centres
- Other locations
- Officeworks
- Optus stores
- Telstra stores
- Woolworths



Paintback

Wet paint is a common household item that can be difficult to dispose of safely.

To avoid serious environmental impacts, do not pour wet paint down drains or place in any kerbside bin.

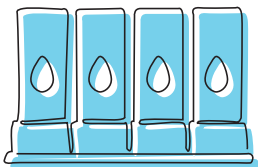
Paintback is a non-profit organisation that provides households and businesses with a convenient way to responsibly dispose of leftover paint.

We've partnered with Paintback to give residents an outlet to dispose of wet paint, free of charge.

Disposal is available at:

- Bundaberg waste facility
- Qunaba waste facility

You can drop off paint tins/drums up to 20 L in size, and a maximum of 100 L per visit.



Printer cartridges

Have an empty printer cartridge you're not sure how to dispose of?

Cartridge recycling is a crucial aspect of sustainable waste management that helps prevent harmful materials from ending up in landfill.

In the Bundaberg Region, households and businesses alike can easily recycle printer cartridges for free by utilising designated collection points or drop-off locations.

Disposal locations are:

typically found in participating office supply stores, electronics retailers that sell printers.

7,000 tonnes

of printer cartridges are discarded each year.

However, only a small fraction of these cartridges are currently being recycled.





How you can reduce waste

Choose to reuse

Single use items are used once then thrown away.

This poses harm to our environment and wastes money, energy and materials. Many end up as problematic litter or in our water ways.

There are many reusable items which benefit us by saving money, being environmentally friendly and making healthy choices. They can also be customised to your individual style.

- Water bottles
- Lunch boxes
- Food containers
- Reusable bags
- Coffee cups

Handy tip

- Borrow or swap items
- Rent items
- Repair, reuse or upcycle
- Buy second hand
- Buy local
- Buy in bulk

Donations or on-selling

Many in our region choose to donate or on-sell items that are no longer useful. This is a great way to take part in a circular economy.

If you would like to be part of the Bundaberg Region's circular economy, you can donate or sell goods here:

- **Charitable donations:** Lifeline, St Vincent de Paul, Guide Dogs, Salvation Army, RSPCA, etc.
- **Online marketplaces:** Facebook, Gumtree, or classified pages.
- **Recycled goods shops:** Council runs shops at some of our waste facilities where you can find some treasure!

Recycled goods shops

Where you can purchase local treasures.

If you have unwanted goods that could have a second life, you can also donate to Council's recycled goods shops.

Head to Council's website for more information. bundaberg.qld.gov.au

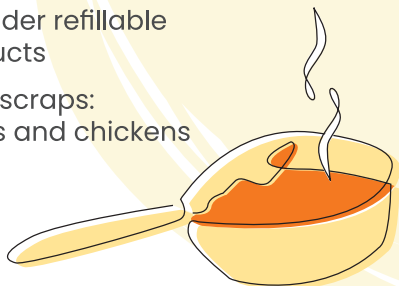


What you can do at home

Kitchen

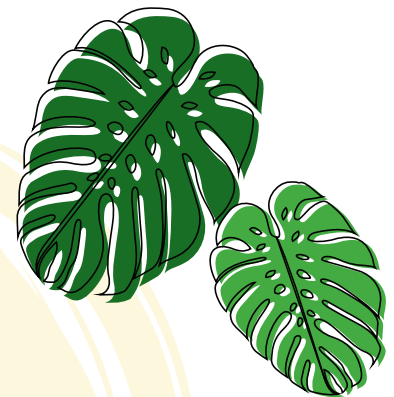
Separate waste and recycle bins in the kitchen is a must.

- Plan your grocery list
- Bulk cooking:
 - stews and curries
 - baked goods
- Freeze excess food and meals
- Share home grown food or herbs
- Keep food scraps for:
 - composting
 - soil conditioner
 - worm farms
- Consider refillable products
- Food scraps:
 - pets and chickens



Bathroom

- Consider refillable products:
 - laundry detergent
 - hand and body wash
 - shampoo and conditioner
- Reusable items:
 - nappies
 - period underwear
- DIY cleaning products



Garden

- Grow your own food
- Compost
- Worm farms



Handy tip

Waste collection containers should be located closest to where the item is used the most



Council kerbside bin service

Don't bin it

- Hazardous products
- Large, bulky or heavy items
- Liquids/oils
- Needles and sharps
- Loose dusts
- Batteries



Did you know?

You can contact Council to arrange new, additional services, **to report damaged or missing bins, or if you've missed a service.**

Council's team will be happy to help bundaberg.qld.gov.au or **1300 883 699**.

Help our garbos in four easy steps:

1. Place bin/s on the kerbside the night before collection.
2. Place bin/s one metre away from other objects like cars, power poles, trees, etc.
3. Make sure you can close the bin lid - do not overfill or jam waste in your bin.
4. No large or heavy objects - keep your bin less than 75 kg

Safety is our utmost priority

for our community and team. Here's how you can keep your household safe during bin collections:

1. **Keep safe distance** from the garbage truck. Do not run up to the truck.
2. If you're out exercising while the street's collection is in progress, **pass on the opposite side of the road** from the truck to ensure our drivers can see you.

Council's Bin Day Finder

To stay on top of your kerbside collection schedule

go to bundaberg.qld.gov.au

type Bin Day Finder in the search bar

scroll to Bin Collection Day Finder and simply type in your **address** and we'll tell you when your next waste and recycling collection is!

We also have a **recycling collection calendar** to tell you which fortnight your recycling bin is due for collection. If you'd like a printable version

click the **recycling collection calendar** tab

and **print**

Or for one of our printed recycling calendars visit any of Council's customer service centres.




Handy tip


Check out where to find your **waste facility, disposal fees** the fees and what you can and cannot dispose of on Council's website.


Council waste facilities

Make your trip to the tip easy before you leave home:

1. Be aware of **open hours, disposal fees** and **conditions of entry** for your local facility.
2. **Separate** your recycling and waste products
3. **Group** similar items together.
4. **Pack** your vehicle or trailer for when you get to the waste facility. Items unloaded first need to be packed last.
5. Consider taking an **extra person** with you to help with heavier items.
6. Make sure to **comply** with the following waste facility safety regulations:


Follow staff directions and signage at all times


Declare your load correctly


Your load may be inspected


Enclosed shoes only


Children and pets must remain in vehicle at all times


No smoking

Handy tip

recyclables are unloaded **first** then **garden waste** and **general waste** last.



Declare for health and safety



Your load
may be
inspected



Asbestos

Batteries



Chemicals



Explosives
and ammunition

Gas bottles



Oils



Mattresses



Paint



Tyres



Green Waste

Sort your load



General waste



Bricks and concrete



E-waste



Steel/other metals



Recyclables

1300 883 699
bundaberg.qld.gov.au



Hazardous items

There are many hazardous items that put our community and team in harm's way.

Make sure you know what you **can** and **cannot** dispose of through **kerbside collections** or **waste facilities**

Can

dispose of at Council's waste facilities

Always declare any hazardous items upon arrival.

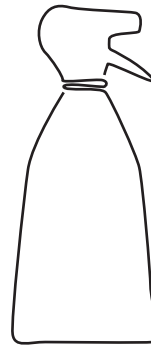


Asbestos

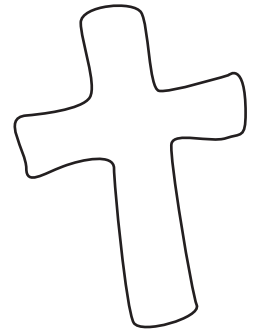
Bundaberg waste facility ONLY



Contaminated soils



Chemicals
Bundaberg waste facility ONLY

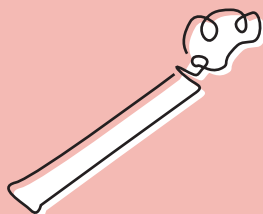


Dead animals



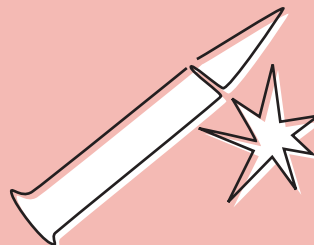
Cannot

dispose of at Council's waste facilities



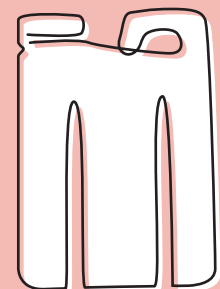
Flares

Please return to marine supply outlet



Explosives and ammunition

For more information call the 24 hour explosives hotline on 1300 739 868



Fuel

Please refer to your local petrol station for advice.

Resources

Bundaberg Regional Council – bundaberg.qld.gov.au

Planet Ark – Recycling Near You – recyclingnearyou.com.au

Recycle Mate – recyclemate.com.au

Containers For Change – containersforchange.com.au

RedCycle – redcycle.net.au

PaintBack – paintback.com.au

Mobile Muster – mobilemuster.com.au

drumMuster – drummuster.org.au

Chemclear – chemclear.org.au

Tyre Recycling – [TBA](#)

EnviroStream – envirostream.com.au

Kleicon Concrete Recycling – facebook.com/KleiconRecycling

Metal recycling – arconmetals.com.au/



1300 883 699
bundaberg.qld.gov.au

