



Livingstone Shire Council's Waste Strategy has been adopted and is now online!

Following in the footsteps of Council's newly adopted strategy, [Management of Resource Recovery and Waste Strategy](#), this quarter we are focussing on **Conscious Christmas choices**.

Christmas can be a time of overindulgence and over-consumption, but it doesn't have to be that way. And being a little bit more mindful during the festive season won't dampen your holiday spirit. Did you know that it's estimated that our waste increases by 30% at Christmas!

In this newsletter we want to share some handy hints on waste reduction during your festive season and you'll still have a jolly good time. Our first piece of advice is to use what you have. If you have an artificial tree and a box of baubles and tinsel in your cupboard or shed, don't feel bad about using these.

Have yourself a Conscious Little Christmas!

The Festive Season is a fantastic opportunity to try new sustainable ideas and rethink some of our habits. There's some great sites outlining ideas on how you and your loved ones can participate in an activity such as the Sustainable 12 Days of Christmas. Check out some of these sites to get an idea to suit

- <http://www.ethical.org.au/consumer/ethicalshopper/christmas.html>
- <https://thechiaco.com/au/12-days-of-sustainable-christmas/>



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Be Present Conscious

Think about what you're giving and how you give it!

- Make your own gift wrap! Wrap your presents in old newspaper, magazines and for kids use old comic books; they love it! Or wrap your gift in part of your gift e.g. a scarf, sarong or tablecloth.
- Another idea is to make your own Christmas tree by collecting branches from the garden or driftwood from the beach. Have fun arranging them in a pot and then hang on the decorations. Or buy a potted plant and plant it in your garden once the season is over.
- Get creative and make your own Christmas cards and gift cards by using old cards, magazines, pretty paper, stamps and more. There's nothing quite like receiving something that someone has put the time and love into creating just for you and you are also recycling instead of disposing. If you're not creative, an option rather than throwing the cards in the bin, would be to contact a local community group (e.g. QCWA) to see if they have members who reuse old greeting cards and decorations to create new cards. There are a lot of charitable organisations who do this. Maybe even purchase this season's cards from a group such as this.



You don't have to be a Grinch to be Green this Christmas!

Have yourselves a sustainable little Christmas by reusing or sharing an item instead of buying a new one; by doing this we reduce the consumption of water, energy fuel and other valuable resources in the construction of an item. There are lots of ways to donate, trade or exchange pre-loved items – give your no longer wanted things to a new home or receive things that don't cost a heap of money.

Shop at or donate to charity shops, or look in an online trade/exchange forum or go to a garage sale. Gift an experience e.g. an adventure, a workshop, dinner or a movie. Sustainable gifting options are almost endless, so many options! Also be conscious of the environmental impact of what you are buying, check out Choice Magazine's comments on this FoodCycler they've given the "Shonky Award" to the <https://www.choice.com.au/shonky-awards/hall-of-shame/shonkys-2021/breville-foodcycler>.

A great idea is to host or attend a Swap Party with friends. Get yourself a new outfit for the season or get a gift for loved ones. This is also a fabulous opportunity to catch up with your friends and socialise and exchange goods so you save yourself money and declutter at the same time.

Highlighting the Changes a Local Business has Made

Our local Yeppoon Vinnies store has made lots of changes over the past few years in relation to the amount of items donated to them that are not suitable for reuse or repurposing.

Their philosophy is to rethink, reuse, recycle and save everything they can from going to the Landfill. Some of the amazing changes Vinnies has made are:

- Any cotton, flannelette, T-shirt and towelling items that are not fit for sale are cut into rags and sold to businesses who can re-use the rags such as Cleaners, Mechanics and Cabinet Makers to polish granite stone bench tops, just to name a few.
- Denim is a fabric that takes a long time to break down when it is buried. Denim that can't be worn is sold to community members who make bags, coasters, pin cushions and hair scrunches from the fabric.
- Vinnies has a partnership with the Endeavour Foundation in Rockhampton who every Friday collect books which are not saleable. Endeavour Foundation turn the books into cat litter and mulch, recycling at its finest!

Our Yeppoon and Emu Park Vinnies stores have lots of items that they've created from donations received. As mentioned above in relation to the gift wrap you use on your presents the stores have some fabulous ideas and displays for sustainable gifting.

One great gift wrapping idea on display for a child was using a hat as a basket and filling it with toys, making the gift sun safe for our hot climate as well; very creative. There are so many affordable gift options at your local Vinnies store, pop in and have a look, you won't be disappointed.



Recycling at Christmas

Christmas is sadly a time where thousands of tonnes of waste can be created. Reduce your waste output by:

- **Christmas Trees** Plastic trees are re-useable, but they can't be recycled and must go to Landfill. Real trees can be mulched and the material used for gardening. Tinsel trees with a metal trunk can be disposed at Council's Waste Facilities.
- **Christmas Decorations** are made from all sorts of materials, these generally aren't recyclable. Tinsel is plastic and can cause significant issues at the Material Recycling Facility (MRF). Consider reusing and repurposing instead of getting rid of.
- **Fairy Lights** can't go into the kerbside recycling bin because they're electronic, long and stringy and will also get caught in the conveyer belts at the MRF. They can be taken to a Council Waste Facility and recycled as eWaste.
- **Wrapping Paper** Cardboard and paper wrapping that isn't shiny can be recycled in your kerbside recycling bin. **Foil and Plastic Paper** can't be recycled, unwrap this paper carefully and reuse it or dispose of it in your general waste kerbside bin. There's some confusion around **Cellophane Wrap** – some is plastic and some is cellulose. A standard test for cellophane is the 'tear test'; if you can tear it, it's cellophane and can't be recycled but can be put in your home compost bin. If it stretches, it's plastic, and can be recycled as soft plastic at a RedCycle collection point outside branches of Coles and Woolworths.
- **Tissue Paper and Napkins** are able to be placed in your home compost bin.
- **Plastic Cups and Glasses** Once rinsed, these can be placed in your kerbside recycling bin. **Plastic Plates and Cutlery** are too small and the wrong shape to be placed in your recycling bin, these items go into your kerbside general waste bin.



Council's Waste and Resource Recovery team would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe festive season and we look forward to connecting with you all again in 2022.

Previous editions of our Clean and Green Waste eNewsletter can be read on Council's website here <https://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/downloads/download/149/waste-and-recycling-newsletter>



Make a Conscious Pledge/ New Year Resolution

Why not make a new small sustainable season pledge/resolution that is easily implemented into your way of life?

A little bit of effort by us all will make huge changes and become part of our lifestyle permanently. Some examples for this quarter are listed below, or research to find a pledge that suits you. Please feel free to share your pledge on Council's Facebook page, a photo would be wonderful, as we'd love to see what each of you are doing.

- I pledge to have a family creative Christmas
- I pledge to plan my shopping trips in advance
- I pledge to minimize my car usage this holidays
- I pledge to avoid the January sales and not buy what I don't need!
- I pledge to not buy a gift that needs batteries so not to produce toxic chemicals

There's so much information available, so our advice is taking small steps and tackle what you can. It's easy to get overwhelmed by all things we can do to lower our impact this Christmas but remember that every change is a positive one.

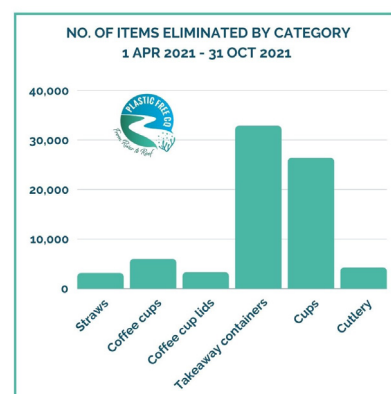
Plastic Free CQ - Have You Heard?

Plastic Free CQ has been up and running for 7 months now and is busy working with food businesses in Livingstone and Rockhampton to help them find sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic items, including takeaway containers, coffee cups and lids, bags, water bottles, straws, cutlery and other foodware items.

In that time, we've seen the program grow to 52 business members, 3 of which are Plastic Free Champions - which means they've eliminated all of those target plastic items. To date, our members have eliminated a combined total of 76,190 pieces of single-use plastic! That's some seriously positive impacts on the waste stream and our Shire in general.

We urge our community to support our members by dining in and considering your reusable options before just grabbing a single-use item. Bring your own cup or container, or engage with a free swap-&-go coffee cup network. Our members are a great place to start as they are supportive of these actions. We are fortunate to have these choices; they may seem like they have minimal impact, but this couldn't be further from the truth. It's far from minimal when you see the difference, with less litter in and around the community. That's proof your impact is creating lasting change.

With the Christmas season coming up, consider sustainable gifts such as a reusable cup or water bottle. Be the influencer in your family or work team (there are some great ideas here www.plasticfreeplaces.org/post/the-gift-of-plastic-free-this-christmas) You can influence your friends, family and community every time you choose re-usables over single-use options. For more information, contact Jo at jo@plasticfreecq.org Check out our website www.plasticfreecq.org, follow our members and support their journey. It's a win-win for our community, environment and future generations.



To read all of Council's Clean & Green waste eNewsletters go to Council's website at www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/newsletters

