

WASTE MINIMISATION GUIDE

Darebin is committed to reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill. This document provides guidance for minimising our waste through avoidance, reduction and reuse.

darebin.vic.gov.au/recycling



Darebin City Council Waste Minimisation Guide

Darebin City Council is committed to reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill.

Our 2018 household kerbside waste audit shows that up to 40% of what we send to landfill is food waste, and about 15% is recyclable items.



Image: Darebin waste collection truck - “You can reduce half of what ends up in this truck”

When items that can be recycled or composted end up in landfill it’s called a resource loss. We can reduce resource loss and waste that ends up in landfill by maximising the use of other bins (recycling and garden waste) and home composts to recycle wherever possible.

But there is more we can do. The waste hierarchy (figure 1) is an order of preference and states that waste should be managed in accordance with the hierarchy, with avoidance being the most preferred option and disposal being the least.

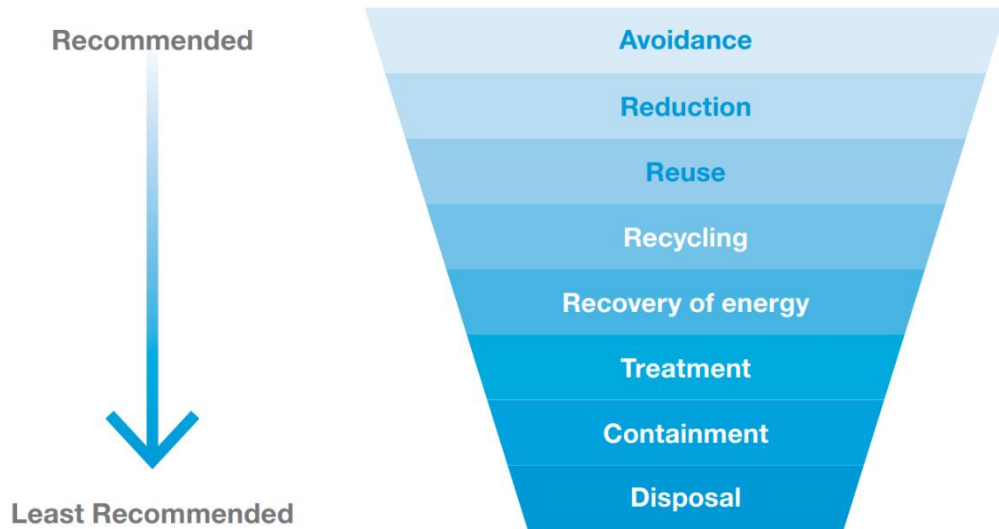


Figure 1: The Waste Minimisation Hierarchy. Source: Sustainability Victoria

This document provides guidance for minimising our waste through avoidance, reduction and reuse.

Avoid

Bring Your Own (BYO)

Carry a bag with you containing:

- a reusable cup
- container (for take-away, leftovers, or even your weekly trip to the deli)
- water bottle
- shopping bag, and
- cutlery.

Many businesses offer discounts for bringing your own cup. Visit responsiblecafes.org to find a local cafe offering discounts near you.



Image: display of reusable items that you can BYO

Write a list

Planning purchases, using things like shopping lists and meal plans, is an easy way to reduce waste and save money. This can help to avoid purchasing too much food which might rot at the back of the fridge, or clothes which linger unworn in the back of the closet.

Watch this short [documentary](#) featuring Cal Wilson to find out how writing a shopping list saved a family over \$2,000 in groceries, and a whole lot of food waste from going to landfill.

Say No

You can reduce waste going to landfill by saying 'no' to things like:

- Receiving bank statements and newsletters in the mail. Request to receive them electronically instead.
- Unnecessary packaging, such as plastic-wrapped fruits and vegetables, or individually wrapped snacks
- Single-use plastics like straws and individual soy sauce packets. You can easily find alternatives for these single-use products, or simply not use them.

Visit www.plasticfreejuly.org to find out how you can go plastic free.

Grow

Growing food at home is a wonderful way to access fresh, healthy food without the packaging. To learn more about growing your own food, visit [Darebin's website](#).

If you don't have the space for a garden where you live, you may be interested in joining a community garden. Community gardens allow local people to work together to grow food on local land.

To find out more or get involved, visit the [Darebin Food Harvest Network website](#).

Packaging free shopping

Whilst it is important to reduce the amount of “stuff” that we purchase, we still need to buy food and other essentials. Shop locally and go plastic and packaging free to reduce waste.

Purchasing reusable items such as coffee cups, carry bags, produce bags, and straws helps to cut down on single-use items.

Farmers markets	Farmers Markets are a great place to pick up local, plastic packaging-free fruits, vegetables and breads. Markets in Darebin include the Bundoora Park Farmers' Market and the Alphington Farmers' Market .
Preston Market	Bring reusable bags and containers to stock up on fruit, vegetables, nuts, legumes, grains, meat and seafood at Preston Market, located next to Preston Railway Station.
Shop package free	There are several locations across Darebin that allow you to purchase fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains and even meat using reusable containers and bags. Package-free and reusable beauty and personal care items can also be purchased from these stores. Visit The Rogue Ginger's guide to plastic free and zero waste food shopping in Melbourne, or check the Fair Food Forager's map of ethical and sustainable food. For a list of online stores, visit Zero Waste Victoria's 'where to shop' guide.

Ask and advocate

Sometimes there is no option to refuse single-use items.

In this situation, there are ways to encourage retailers to minimise their waste. You could do this by requesting that they stop providing single-use carry bags or plastic coffee cups. Or suggest that they provide a discount to customers who bring their own food containers.

You can also write to your local Victorian Member of Parliament encouraging them to support a container deposit scheme, or a transition to a circular economy



Reduce

Share

Swap, borrow and share with your community.

Darebin libraries	Find books, DVDs, comics, magazines and much more at Darebin's libraries. Visit www.darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au for more information.
Toy libraries	Just like a regular library, except instead of books – toys! Darebin's toy library visits community centres across the municipality. Click here for times, locations and fees.
Food Swaps	Grown too many zucchinis? Chooks laid too many eggs? Attend a produce swap with local Darebin residents to get what you need and give away what you don't. Or, post your excess produce on www.ripenear.me and find home grown food in your area.
Clothes Swaps	Organise a clothes swap and trade pre-loved, good quality pieces you no longer wear with your friends. Check out this handy guide from 1 Million Women to get you started.

Repair

Repairing damaged items extends their life and avoids more waste ending up in landfill. Transition Darebin regularly holds Repair Café events to fix broken items. Visit transitiondarebin.org for more information.

Donate

Give your second-hand items a new life

Charity stores	There are a variety of second-hand stores and op-shops in Darebin which accept household items in good condition, including clothing, books and furniture. Visit Planet Ark's clothing recycling page for locations in Darebin. It's best to contact these stores before visiting to check if they can accept your items.
Clothing donation	According to the Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia, Australians send around \$500 million worth of fashion clothing to the tip each year, yet over 95% of it can be recycled and reused. Aside from op-shops, many organisations in Melbourne accept specific types of clothing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ business attire: Dress For Success and Fitted For Work ○ sports shoes: Shoes for Planet Earth ○ bras: Uplift Bras

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ school uniforms: The Uniform Exchange ○ unwearable garments: the Make A Wish Foundation, the Brotherhood of St Laurence or SCR Group
Other ways to give	<p>freecycle.org is a platform that enables giving (and getting) of free items to reduce waste.</p> <p>Span Community House Inc accepts upcycling and recycling materials. Check their website to find out if you can contribute to their craft workshops.</p>

Sustainable gift giving

Sustainable gifting minimises unwanted gifts and waste. Visit this Sustainability Victoria [link](#) to get some sustainable shopping inspiration.

Reducing food waste

Rescue unsold food	<p>The Inconvenience Store in Thornbury stocks rescued, donated food which may be 'destined for the dump' due to its dented packaging, slight bruising or unusual shape.</p> <p>You can also purchase discounted, unsold food from cafes, restaurants and supermarkets on the Bring Me Home app.</p>
Fruit Squads	<p>Darebin Fruit Squad is a group of trained volunteers that harvests excess fruit from households in Darebin. Once collected, these otherwise wasted resources are made available to members of the community who struggle to access fresh, nutritious food.</p>

Reuse

Shop second-hand

Purchasing items second-hand is a great way to minimise waste. Op-shops and second-hand stores across Darebin stock all kinds of items, from crockery, to clothing, to furniture.

There are many online options available as well such as [Gumtree](#) and [Facebook Marketplace](#).

By purchasing second-hand, you create a market for reused items. So, when it's time to donate your own items, they are more likely to find a new home.

Choose reusable

Coffee cups

Australians use an estimated 1 billion takeaway hot drink cups every year, and these cups are not recyclable due to their plastic lining. Using a reusable travel mug not only reduces waste ending up in landfill, it often comes with added benefits - buy a thermal cup that keeps your drinks hot or cold for longer, and ask your local café if they provide a reusable cup discount.

Nappies

A staggering 3.75 million disposable nappies are used each day in Australia and New Zealand, and it takes about one cup of crude oil to make each nappy. In Darebin, nappies account for 7% of our waste going to landfill with conventional disposable nappies estimated to take up to 150 years to break down. Consider alternatives such as cloth nappies that can be washed and reused, and/or biodegradable disposable nappies. Download this [helpful guide](#) and give reusable nappies a go.



Image: a wide range of cloth nappies are available, making the switch from disposable nappies easier than ever

Recycle

Recycling Right is one way to make sure your waste doesn't end up in landfill. Recycling:

- saves energy
- reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- protects natural habitats and resources, and
- creates local jobs in the recycling industry.

Access Darebin Council's community educational materials at www.darebin.vic.gov.au/recycleright

Council also provides community education sessions on recycling. If you would like to request an education session for your community group, please email waste@darebin.vic.gov.au

Other recycling options

Darebin Resource Recovery Centre

The [Darebin Resource Recovery Centre](#) accepts household materials which can be recycled or that need special disposal. It is a permanent drop off facility accepting a range of materials including paint, batteries, and light globes, free of charge.

E-waste can also be dropped off at the Resource Recovery Centre.

E-waste (electronic waste) is anything that has a plug, battery or power cord and is no longer wanted. Charges may apply for some e-waste items. TVs, computers, printers and other peripherals (e.g. faxes, scanners, mice) can be recycled for free under the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme.



Image: Darebin Resource Recovery Centre accepts E-waste and other recyclable items

Community Recycling Stations

Household quantities of mobile phones and accessories, household batteries, CDs/DVDs/Videos, X-rays, fluorescent tubes, cameras and light globes can be recycled at a [some of Darebin's libraries and community centres](#), including:

- Bundoora Park Farm
- Reservoir Library
- Preston Library
- Northcote Library

Outlook Market

The Outlook Market is a shop run by [Outlook Environmental](#) at the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre which sells recycled goods.

The shop accepts items in good condition, including furniture, timber, building material, clothes, toys, games, tools, household fixtures and furnishings, collectables, books, CDS, DVDs and plants.

For even more options on recycling for items like polystyrene and printer toner cartridges, visit recyclingnearyou.com.au

Buy recycled products

Purchasing products made from recycled materials helps to create a market for recycled materials, which helps create a circular economy. It also helps prevent recyclables from ending up being stockpiled or sent to landfill.

Visit the [Planet Ark website](#) to find out how you can replace everyday items such as office paper and packaging with recycled items.

Food waste

Darebin sends about 10, 000 tonnes of food waste to landfill each year. When this food waste is buried in landfill it produces methane – a potent greenhouse gas. Avoiding food waste in the first place is the best way to avoid greenhouse gas emissions from food. For zero waste recipes, and other ideas for planning to reduce food waste at home, visit Sustainability Victoria's [Love Food, Hate Waste webpage](#), or check out the [Food Know How](#) website.

When food waste is unavoidable, composting is the next best option. Composting produces rich garden fertiliser and minimises greenhouse gas emissions.

Home composting

We encourage the use of compost or bokashi bins, worm farms or other food recycling options for residents. To find out more about how you can compost your food waste at home [visit Darebin's website](#).

ShareWaste

Space or capacity restrictions mean that not everyone has access to composting systems. We also recommend [ShareWaste.com](#), an online platform connecting people who have food scraps with neighbours who have compost or chickens.



Image: Worm farming is a great option for households with smaller gardens

Community gardens

There may also be a community garden near your house where you can drop off your food scraps. Visit the [Darebin Food Harvest Network website](#) for more information.

Put your food waste to good use

From October 2019, Darebin residents can recycle their food waste in their existing green waste bin. This service will support other methods of avoiding, reducing and home-composting food waste. To find out more about how you can recycle your food waste, visit Darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste

Learn More

Darebin City Council runs workshops every year to provide practical advice on ways to reduce your energy and water use, increase your use of sustainable transport, or minimise your waste.

To learn more about such events, sign up to Sustainability News for a monthly email update at darebin.vic.gov.au/subscribe

Minimising waste is easier to do with help from your friends, family and community. Connecting with others makes waste minimisation more fun, and allows you to learn and share new tricks, skills and ideas.

Join a Facebook Group	Zero Waste Victoria Zero Waste Westies
Join a local community group	Transition Darebin is a local community group that is aiming to help transition to a relocalised and resilient Darebin that is liveable for current and future generations.

More information for local businesses

Businesses can use business recycling bins to divert recyclable materials (paper, cans and aluminium, glass bottles and jars, plastic containers) from going to landfill. Recycling can reduce waste disposal costs, enhance your business' reputation as an environmentally friendly business, and benefit the community and environment. You can order business recycling bins online or by visiting one of our customer service centres.

Visit www.darebin.vic.gov.au/businessrecycling for more information or call 8470 8888 to request a brochure on Council's Business Recycling Service.

Many businesses in Darebin are taking a lead in terms of environmental sustainability. Watch this video to find out how [Moon Rabbit café](#) is achieving its zero waste goal. Many more inspiring videos are available on [Darebin Council's youtube channel](#).

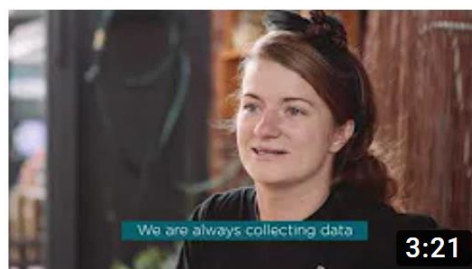


Image: Click on this image to learn about Moon Rabbit cafe's sustainability journey

Useful resources for schools

Primary and secondary schools in Victoria can access Sustainability Victoria's [ResourceSmart Schools program](#) which provides practical support to reduce resource use, save money, integrate sustainability into the curriculum, and share learnings beyond the school gate. Visit the link above to learn more and to get in touch with the ResourceSmart Schools Education Team.

This document is updated regularly and was last updated July 2019. If you have any feedback, or would like to have information added, please email waste@darebin.vic.gov.au