

WASTE NOTes

October 2022

Applications now open: Organic Waste Smart Schools Program



Following on from last year's success, the [Organic Waste Smart Schools Program](#) is open again to eligible Queensland State Schools and their affiliated Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) or Parents and Friends Association (P&F).

Grants of up to \$2,500 are available to offset the purchase of equipment that supports organic waste reduction strategies at school.

The program provides an opportunity for Queensland school students to understand and engage in waste avoidance and resource recovery activities.

Last year, Two Mile State School in Gympie received funding to help reduce the amount of food and paper waste in their school. The school invested in paper shredders and compost bins and as a result they have been able to dramatically reduce and repurpose their waste. The school is now saving at least six boxes of paper and five containers of food waste from landfill each week. The waste is now repurposed and turned into garden compost and organic fertilisers for veggie patches and school garden beds.

Food waste education materials now available for Queensland schools



The lesson plans and worksheets are designed for students in years 1 to 8 and can be downloaded for educators to incorporate into learning activities so that students become food waste avoidance champions at home and in the community.

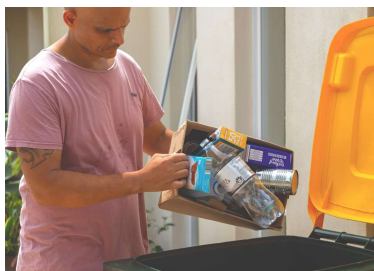
[Get the Love Food Hate Waste resources here.](#)

National Recycling Week 7-13 November

National Recycling Week is 7–13 November, it's the perfect chance to review and reflect on how we can all recycle better.

Recycling allows valuable materials to be kept out of landfill and be reused and repurposed to the greatest extent possible.

This National Recycling Week take the time to review what can go into your kerbside recycling bin.



 [recycling tips](#)

When placing items in your recycling bin, remember to keep them loose - not in plastic bags.

Soft plastics such as bread bags and chip packets can be taken to Coles or Woolworths to be recycled through the [REDcycle program](#).

To find out how you can get involved in National Recycling Week visit the [Planet Ark website](#).



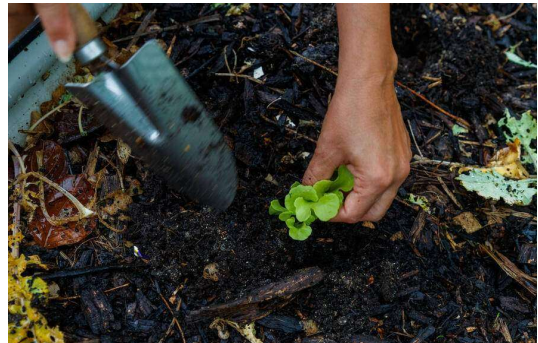
Increased composting capacity for Phoenix Powers

Phoenix Powers Gold Coast recycling centre is set to double its composting capacity as part of the Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund. The facility will see the installation of four new composting vessels and changes to infrastructure will allow Phoenix Power to double the amount of organic waste they can compost to more than 90,000 tons of a year.

The joint Federal and State \$67 million Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund aims to reduce the amount of food and organic waste generated and divert it from landfill to repurpose it into suitable products for farmers, industries and communities

This project further supports the [Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy](#) targets halving the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030.

[More information on the Food Waste for Healthy Soils program.](#)



Reducing food waste in your business

New resources to help small businesses in the food services industry reduce their food waste and save money are now available. The new [waste audit tool](#) provides businesses with a starting point to measure how much food waste is generated and to make a plan for how to minimise it.

There are many ways you can reduce food waste in your business, such as:

- find new uses for inedible waste
- be smart with your food preparation
- engage with customers to reduce plate waste
- avoid spoilage waste through smart ordering and storage.

For more details on how to reduce food waste access the [online resources here](#).

More information on how the Queensland Government plans to improve the management of organic materials over the next ten years is available in the [Queensland Organics Strategy and Action Plan](#).



Keeping Queensland Clean: Litter and Illegal Dumping update

A series of studies that investigate the economic costs associated with managing litter and illegal dumping (LID) have been published – one of the key deliverables of the [Keeping Queensland Clean: Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan](#).

A 'Willingness to Pay' study showed that Queenslanders believed it was reasonable to pay up to \$300

million a year (collectively) to see a reduction in LID for a cleaner environment.

The 'environmental costs' study investigated the economic impact that LID has on the environment. The report estimated annual costs of approximately:

- \$21 million associated with the ingestion of plastics in the marine environment
- \$43 million associated with entanglement in derelict fishing gear
- between \$97–\$487 million from invasive weeds from illegal dumping in terrestrial environments.

These costs depend on the type of environment, type of debris and the length of time the debris is in the environment.

These studies were conducted by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science in collaboration with NSW Environmental Protection Authority and Sustainability Victoria.

The full reports are available at [Litter and Illegal Dumping: Projects.](#)



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