

# WAR ON WASTE

## ACTION TOOLKIT

YOUR GUIDE TO TAKING UP THE WAR  
ON WASTE IN YOUR 'HOOD

GOOD  
FOR THE  
HOOD



Stream the series now

Waste is back on the agenda in a big way. While so much has happened in the last five years, it's clear Australia; we still have a problem! By letting too many things go to waste, we are paying high environmental costs and missing out on the value of our wasted resources.

Now because you're a savvy citizen, you'll know that changing anything this big and messy takes many different steps, so we've sat down to help you.

### WHO ARE WE?

**Good for the Hood** are your friendly (non-creepy) hand-holders in action. We specialise in helping people like you take up their role in the War On Waste. We love to gently nudge neighbours and help people make ripples of change beyond their 'hood. We've teamed up with the ABC to make this toolkit, so think of us as your partners in action and impact.

### HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT?

- 1 In the community:** share the message, amplify what's worked for you and encourage neighbours and other residents to try solutions together.
- 2 In your organisation:** your workplace, sporting club or local community groups are great places to champion initiatives and influence a broader network.
- 3 Taking it further:** communicate the wins and remind your leaders what matters to you.

### WHAT DO WE THINK YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON?

Like the show, we believe the conversations should be about:

- 1 Plastic and packaging waste**
- 2 Food waste**
- 3 Fashion, clothing and textiles waste**

If you want to spread the word about the ABC's War on Waste, here's a link to all the [promotional materials](#).



Look out for these prompts on how to build more community solutions when you see this symbol.



# FIGHT THE WAR ON WASTE ON... PLASTIC AND PACKAGING

## 3 QUICK FACTS

- 1 Australia has a big plastic problem. In the year 2020 to 2021, we threw out around 2.6 million tons of plastic waste - that's MILLIONS of tons. This waste is more than the weight of 16 thousand 747 jumbo jets.
- 2 Half of that was commercial and industrial waste - but most of the remainder was produced by households. The good news is that what we do in our homes can make a difference.
- 3 A simple change in packaging design can make a massive difference in whether items can be recycled or whether they will end up in landfill.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO... IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

### Champion BYO

The BYO Friday initiative encourages people to bring their own cups and takeaway containers on Fridays. You might have already nailed this habit, so why not talk to your local cafe, or share the poster on your socials? Don't forget to tag your family and friends who might like to participate or create a bit of a month-long challenge. If you are approaching cafes, we've found businesses close together are more likely to participate, so maybe start with a strip of businesses in your local area first.

### Go plastic free...for a month

Plastic Free July is a global movement for millions of people to be part of the solution to plastic pollution, not bad huh? Participating organisations are encouraged to refuse single-use plastics as part of their service or supply chain. Why not suggest phasing out unnecessary items from the tea room or canteen to your club president, school canteen manager or Ops Manager? There are plenty of ways you can make a start, but small steps are best.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO... IN YOUR ORGANISATION

### Be a mug... in a good way

Why not set up a mug library or reusable containers for your organisation? Your local charity store will have excess mugs on the cheap, and you can tally up just how many containers you've avoided and award a prize to the person or team that's made the biggest difference! Nothing moves people like a little friendly leaderboard.



Focus on one or two simple actions or one day a week in your organisation to start. Going completely plastic-free in any space is not only challenging, but it can also be entirely overwhelming for most people, so starting small is best.





# FIGHT THE WAR ON WASTE ON... PLASTIC AND PACKAGING



## WHAT CAN YOU DO... TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM?

**Ask your decision makers what they are doing about plastic and packaging waste**

No matter which side of politics represents you at the moment, there's a lot that can be done at the local, state and federal level!

Ask your representative what they are doing.



*Because litter is so visible it's a great hook to get people engaging on a broader issue. Why not organise a clean up of the local carpark or bus stop with some work colleagues?*

*What about a post-game clean-up along the sidelines of your sports field with team mates Ali and Dean?*

## GOOD IN ACTION



### Meet Elijah!

10-year-old Elijah Richardson is on a mission to protect the Great Barrier Reef from pollution like plastic. Through Elijah's work, he's an ambassador for Coral Watch and has become pen pals with David Attenborough. Elijah's efforts to protect the reef have also put him in contact with Billie Eilish, getting her to lend her song 'Ocean Eyes' to the Coral Watch campaign.



[ABC iview](#) [YouTube](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [TikTok](#)



# FIGHT THE WAR ON WASTE ON... PLASTIC AND PACKAGING

## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

There are lots of community organisations dedicated to tackling plastic waste through campaigns and programs. A great way to meet like-minded people is to volunteer with a community group or to join a national program. This is by no means an extensive list, but a place to explore.

<b><u>Boomerang Alliance</u></b>	A network of 55 national, state, and local allies supporting plastic pollution campaigns.
<b><u>Boomerang Bags</u></b>	Join a grassroots community of volunteers who upcycle material destined for landfill into beautiful reusable bags.
<b><u>BYO Containers</u></b>	Search a network of restaurants and cafés that accept reusable BYO containers.
<b><u>Clean Up Australia Day</u></b>	Organise a clean up in your local park or beach.
<b><u>Keep Australia Beautiful</u></b>	Nominate your rural or regional community for a Tidy Town award.
<b><u>Planet Ark</u></b>	Find recycling near you, and learn about the Australian Recycling Label.
<b><u>Plastic Free July</u></b>	Champion the global campaign to ditch single-use items for one month of the year. Includes a directory of ways to live waste-free.
<b><u>Recycle Mate</u></b>	Use the app helping you recycle anywhere in Australia with location-specific advice about how to dispose of items.
<b><u>Reconnect Project</u></b>	Donate your phones and laptops to a repair and refurbishment service to assist those without access to digital devices.
<b><u>Responsible Cafes</u></b>	Join the BYO Friday movement and search a network of cafes and committed to sustainable practices.
<b><u>Take 3</u></b>	Commit to collecting three pieces of rubbish with you when you leave a place.



# FIGHT THE WAR ON WASTE ON... FOOD

## 3 QUICK FACTS

- 1 Australia sends 7.6 million tonnes of household and commercial food waste to landfill in Australia every year. That's even more than our plastic waste! A quarter of all fruit and vegetables in Australia is lost inside the farm gate as supermarkets are still maintaining cosmetic standards that rule out perfectly edible food.
- 2 Australian households throw out an average of \$2500 worth of groceries annually. That's one out of every five shopping bags of food carelessly discarded.
- 3 Organic waste in landfill generates around 10% of the world's greenhouse gases. That's five times more harmful than the emissions the aviation industry generates worldwide.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO... IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

### Care and share

When you've used up what you've got, you'll still end up with some food scraps. One way to stop them from going to landfill is to become a compost donor, or host, in your 'hood. Share Waste will help you team up with neighbours to prevent food waste from going in the bin. Many councils also provide communities with heavily subsidised compost bins - ask your council if they do.

### Garden for good

Some local community gardens can help you with growing food and composting food scraps. Many will also have workshops and programs which support their local community. Find a local community garden in your neighbourhood.



*Community composting is a great way to get to know your neighbours and improve soil health at the same time. Make sure you communicate with your compost host or donor about what you need so it can work for all.*

## WHAT CAN YOU DO... IN YOUR ORGANISATION?

### Take me home

Food waste is a big deal. Why not develop a strategy for events, fundraisers and morning teas to encourage people to take excess food? You can set up a 'Take Me Home' table or shelf in the fridge, just make sure it's all taken by the end of the day!



Source: Sandhills Community Garden (Facebook)





# FIGHT THE WAR ON WASTE ON... FOOD

## WHAT CAN YOU DO... TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM?

**Ask your decision makers what they are doing about food waste**

No matter which side of politics represents you at the moment, there's a lot that can be done at the local, state and federal level!

Ask your representative what they are doing.



## GOOD IN ACTION



### Mt Eliza's young waste foodies

A primary school in Mount Eliza, Victoria are waste champions on the food front, learning why food waste is a problem, how to reduce food waste, and modifying food behaviour from creative leftovers to upskilling their kitchen flare.



### Mad about maggots

Food waste makes up 30 per cent of global emissions. Scientist Luke Wheat has decided to do something about it and recruited a few million wriggly friends to help with his cause.





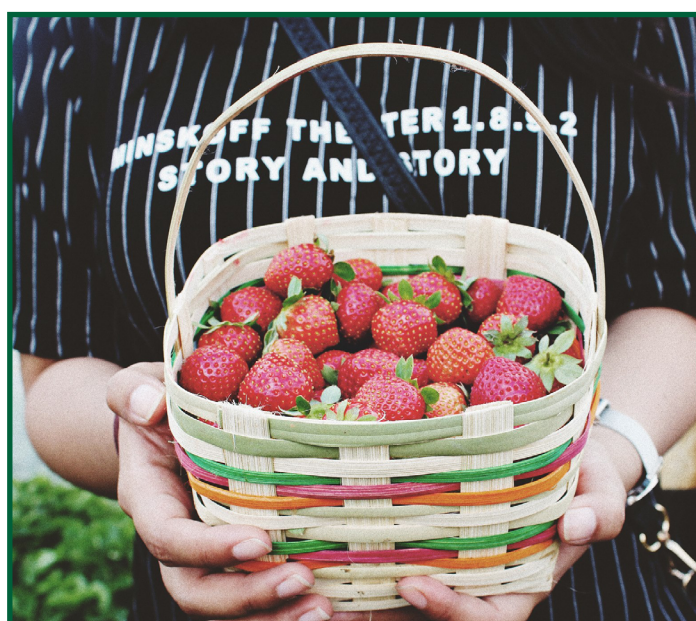


# FIGHT THE WAR ON WASTE ON... FOOD

## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

There are lots of national community organisations and places dedicated to food waste avoidance. A great way to meet like minded people is to volunteer with a community group or to join a national program. This is by no means an extensive list, but a place to explore.

<a href="#"><u>Community Gardens Australia</u></a>	Search the local network to find places near you growing food and composting food scraps.
<a href="#"><u>Crop Swap</u></a>	Join a network of people sharing excess home grown produce.
<a href="#"><u>Foodbank, OzHarvest and Secondbite</u></a>	Volunteer and support food relief and rescue organisations like Foodbank, Ozharvest and Secondbite supplying charities and community groups around the country.
<a href="#"><u>International Compost Awareness Week</u></a>	Join the annual events to promote composting.
<a href="#"><u>Share Waste</u></a>	Join the community of compost donors and hosts.



Source: Crop Swap (Facebook)



Source: OzHarvest (Facebook)



# FIGHT THE WAR ON WASTE ON... TEXTILES

## 3 QUICK FACTS

- 1 Australians are one of the largest consumers of textiles in the world per capita: 1.42 billion garments are imported (costing Australians \$9.2 billion). 227 million kilograms end up in landfill every year.
- 2 In the average wardrobe, 30% of the clothes have not been worn in the last year.
- 3 60% -70% of new clothes are now made from plastic derived from fossil fuels, contributing massively to the climate crisis.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO... IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

### Swap to shop

Organise a War on Waste Clothes Swap with your neighbours, family and friends. The ABC hosted two 'How To Run A Clothes Swap' sessions and have created a toolkit to inspire you to host your own in your community. To end clothing waste, we want to see swaps become an everyday activity in Australia. Encourage your friends, family, social groups, councils and workplaces to have clothes swap parties alongside your regular social activities. If you're a council, use the toolkit to teach and inspire your local residents, community groups, businesses and organisations to join the war on textile waste by swapping.



Source: Eco Styles (Facebook)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO... IN YOUR ORGANISATION

### Slow down

The speed of consumption is part of the solution. Often uniforms are used for only a short time before being discarded. Why not set up a second-hand uniform service in your school, sports club or workplace?



Source: Eco Styles (Facebook)

### Make second hand the first choice

Many people consider new best, but with encouragement, secondhand can be not only acceptable, but exciting. Could you make the dress code for your next event or end of year soccer event, "Something borrowed?". Could you encourage the costumes at a school book week or dance concert to be sourced via a community swap?





# FIGHT THE WAR ON WASTE ON... TEXTILES

## WHAT CAN YOU DO... TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM?

**Ask your decision makers what they are doing  
about textile waste**

No matter which side of politics represents  
you at the moment, there's a lot that can be  
done at the local, state and federal level!

Ask your representative what they are doing.



## GOOD IN ACTION



### Trash to fash

Students from St Paul's The Apostle Primary School in Victoria have been 'upcycling' old clothes for their initiative 'Trash to Fash'. The Senior classes participated in a STEM for Humanity project "Caring for Our Planet". As a result they focused on the repurposing of 'Unwanted Clothing' as a solution to reduce clothes-to-landfill. The class won a major national STEM award for their project.



*With all the cheap options available to us,  
it's easy to forget the true cost of fashion.*

*Encouraging those around us to care for  
what we have and extending the life of  
items can make a big difference.*



# FIGHT THE WAR ON WASTE ON... TEXTILES

## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

There are lots of national community organisations dedicated to textiles waste. A great way to meet like minded people is to volunteer with a community group or to join a national program. This is by no means an extensive list, but a place to explore.

<a href="#"><u>Australian Repair Network</u></a>	Search for Community Repair Groups nationwide and learn new skills.
<a href="#"><u>Buy Nothing New Month</u></a>	Join the October long event encouraging people to use what they have.
<a href="#"><u>Good 360</u></a>	Donate unsold or surplus goods, services, and disaster recovery essentials.
<a href="#"><u>Fashion Revolution</u></a>	Host an event during Fashion Revolution Week in April.
<a href="#"><u>Garage Sale Trail</u></a>	Join a weekend of second hand sales in November each year.
<a href="#"><u>Tread Lightly</u></a>	Return unwanted sports footwear to store for recycling.



Source: Garage Sale Trail (Facebook)



Source: Tread Lightly (Facebook)



# APPENDIX 1:



# MY WAR ON WASTE

ACTIONS THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO  
FOOD, TEXTILES AND PLASTIC WASTE (10 MINS)

