

# PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN FOCUS AREA AWAY FROM HOME

CCIQ Powering  
business  
potential

Queensland  
Government

**This outcome area focuses on reducing plastic waste created when people are out and about, including takeaway food and beverages, at events, and personal care amenities used in accommodation settings.**

This fact sheet will give you some ideas to help these businesses reduce the plastic waste created through offering these products and services.

**Takeaway food and beverage packaging.** Encourage people to bring their own packaging where suitable, like reusable coffee mugs, and cutlery. Programs like Green Caffein can help provide solutions when people forget their own. If you need to provide single-use packaging, home compostable is best, or buying products containing recycled content.

**Personal amenities in accommodation.** Instead of using single-use mini-size shampoos, conditioners, and body washes in hotels, try using refillable, larger pump packs, or switching to bar soaps, with little or no paper packaging.

**Thirst quenchers.** Ensure people have access to clean tap water to refill their own bottles. This can be by providing a chilled water station, or connecting to services like Water3.

**Recycle the rest.** For products you can't replace with reusable or compostable alternatives, ensure you can recycle them correctly. Check out programs like RedCycle for soft plastics.

**Low impact events.** Ensure events don't leave a plastic legacy by using innovative services such as Globelet for reusable beer and wine cups, having well-marked and accessible recycling and waste separation stations, and using decorations such as fabric bunting or light displays, rather than balloons.

## PLASTIC FREE PLACES

An initiative of Boomerang Alliance, Plastic Free Places started in Noosa, and is now operating in Cairns and Townsville as well. The program aims to reduce single-use plastics from use, and helps participating food retailers, events and market organisers switch over to reusable or compostable alternatives.

Boomerang Alliance can also work with organisations to adapt the program to their needs, such as the University of Queensland's 'Unwrapped' program for their St Lucia campus.

See [www.plasticfreeplaces.org](http://www.plasticfreeplaces.org) for more.

## QUICK TIPS

1. Be sure to make use of the Australasian Recycling Label on product packaging to be sure of how to dispose of it correctly.
2. Remember to use the waste hierarchy, which ranks the **most preferred** (avoid) to **least preferred** (recycle) options when considering how to reduce waste and save money:
  1. Avoid
  2. Reduce
  3. Reuse
  4. Recycle

**On the way out.** The Queensland Government are currently developing legislation to ban the use single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery.

**Partnerships.** The Queensland Government is working with the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, Australian Food and Grocery Council, National Retailers Association, CCIQ and LGAQ to ensure businesses are involved in changes being made.

**Investing in capacity.** Collection services, reprocessing and infrastructure to capture and recycle more plastics is being invested in, including in regional areas.

## NEXT STEPS

1. Register your business for the free ecoBiz program. to receive a waste assessment, and to measure and reduce your energy, water and waste use and costs.
2. Check out the other resources in this series, including case studies.
3. Check out Boomerang Alliance's guides to Takeaway Packaging and Reusables
4. Look at Plastic Free July's guide to reducing plastics through procurement
5. Know your plastics, with this handy identification guide!

THE ECOBIZ TEAM IS ALWAYS  
AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU.

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