

PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN FOCUS AREA COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL



This outcome area focuses on reducing plastic waste created by commercial and industrial businesses, including manufacturing.

This fact sheet will give these businesses some ideas to help reduce the plastic waste they create, both in their core offering, and as by-product.

Sources. Plastic waste can be created by commercial and industrial businesses through plastic pallet wrap, mailing bags, offcuts and waste from manufacturing processes, and more.

Innovative plastic manufacturing. Many Queensland plastic manufacturers are incorporating recycled content into their production, and reusing their own manufacturing waste to produce new products. See our case studies on B&C Plastics and other ecoBiz participants for more.

Supply chain. Talk to your supply chain, and review your procurement. Upstream: can your raw materials be delivered in alternative packaging, in bulk to reduce packaging, or can the packaging be collected for reuse? Downstream: Can your product be posted to customers in compostable mailing bags, or returned at end of life for recycling?

Your product. Can your finished product be sold without packaging, or in recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging? Is it clearly labelled so customers know how to dispose of it responsibly?

Think big. Waste plastics are also making their way into construction materials and major infrastructure, with the Department of Main Roads and Transport and Queensland Rail developing standards for plastic waste content in materials like asphalt, concrete and sleepers.

Investing in opportunity. The collection, recycling and reprocessing industries themselves are being built up, to enable the more efficient collection and flow of plastic as a resource stream. This includes grants and incentives for regional areas.

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

PERFECT POTION

ecoBiz Star Partner Perfect Potion, a Brisbane-based manufacturer of aromatherapy-based products, has rethought plastic at many stages of product development:

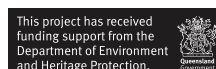
- They use a cardboard shredder to reuse cardboard as packing material (avoiding the use of packing peanuts or bubble wrap).
- They have switched from packaging many of their products in plastic bottles to recyclable glass.
- They have enabled a number of their products to be refilled in the original bottles in their retail stores.

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. Look at Plastic Free July's guide to reducing plastics through procurement.
4. Know your plastics, with this handy identification guide!

THE ECOBIZ TEAM IS ALWAYS
AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU.

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