



**KATHERINE**  
TOWN COUNCIL

# Banning of Single Use Plastics

**User Group Toolkit**

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# Welcome

Welcome to the banning of single use plastics user group toolkit. Katherine Town Council has developed a policy banning all single use plastics at its facilities. The policy will come into effect 1 January 2021. This toolkit will assist you to make changes to become plastic free. Council understands that there might be challenges along the way and is here to support you.

## What is Single Use Plastics?

Single Use Plastics are products are primarily made from fossil fuel-based chemicals and typically used once for a few minutes before being thrown away. Most of these plastics are non-biodegradable and break down into smaller pieces of

plastics call microplastics.

The average Australian per year uses 130kg of plastics and only 9% of that is recycled. From these plastics up to 130 000 tonnes of plastic will find its way into our waterways.

This is equivalent to

dumping the contents of one garbage truck into the ocean per minute.

You can help reduce single-use plastic pollution by reusing, recycling and find an alternative where possible.



The most commonly used single use plastic items

# What Can Usergroups Do?

There are alternatives to single use plastic products and by banning these items at Council facilities will assist in reducing these statistics.

Usergroups can do the following;

- Identify the problem
- Make alternatives changes
- Influence the community
- Spread the word!

A list of alternatives of the one use plastics supplies can be viewed below.



**By 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the worlds ocean**



- Cut single use plastics and encourage to bring their own
- Only provide paper bags on request



- Stop giving out straws
- keep small stock of paper/bamboo straws
- Encourage purchasing metal straws



- Stop selling bottled water
- Offer a refill service
- Provide reusable bottles



- Stop providing plastic cutlery
- Offer decomposable cutlery on request
- Sell reusable cutlery sets



- Encourage reusable cups
- Provide reusable cups with your banding
- Lead by example



- Encourage the community to bring their own reusable containers
- Offer paper boxes when requested



- Stop using disposable plastic plates
- Instead serve food on reusable tableware or replace with compostable ones instead

# Should we Just Swap to Paper Products?

Reusable products are the best option as there is no waste at all and should be used as the first option. However, paper products are a great alternative when they can't be used.

# FAQ

## **Q. Can a customer legally bring their own containers?**

A. Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) have no set regulations in place regarding customers bringing their own containers when purchasing food. Most businesses are happy to accept a BYO container to save them money. BUT, if a customer brings a dirty unhygienic container businesses have the right to refuse to use it.

# Single Use Plastics Audit Checklist

How much single use plastic does your usergroup use? Answer the below questions.

## What single use plastics do you use?

	No. of items	Supplier	Notes
<b>Bottles</b>			
<b>Cups and Lids</b>			
<b>Straws</b>			
<b>Bags</b>			
<b>Cutlery</b>			
<b>Plates</b>			
<b>Take-away Containers</b>			
<b>Other</b>			
<b>Total</b>			

# Resources

## Suppliers;

- Dollars and Sense Katherine
- Biome
- Hello Green
- Greenpack
- Going Green Solutions
- KeepCup, Joco Cups, Huskee Cup
- Frank Green
- Biopack
- Plantmade
- Vegware
- Green Cafeen

## Additional Sites

- Bye Bye Plastics
- Earthpower
- Biopack
- War on Waste
- Panet Ark
- Business Recycling





