



Coffee Cup solution comes to Australia

As the takeaway coffee cup debate continues, it's great to see that there has been some positive action come out of the Coffee Cup trial* that took place in November last year in three office buildings in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Each office building (which had approximately 700 staff) was installed with specialised coffee cup collection tubes and staff were briefed on the programme and asked to 'Flip, Tip & Slip' - 'flip' the plastic lid into the Mixed (Commingled) Recycling bin, 'tip' out any coffee remnants, and 'slip' the coffee cup into the tube.

After the four week period, all coffee cups were counted taking into account contamination rate and a survey of staff was conducted to gain feedback and opinion on the scheme.

The results

- **Over 12,000 cups** were collected over the four week period from the three buildings at a rate of 1000 cups/building/week or 50,000/building year.

- The 'contamination' rate of non-cup materials was very low. Plastic coffee cup lids were the only contaminant of note – at a very low rate of less than twenty lids per thousand cups.
- Feedback provided was overwhelmingly positive. **94% of participants** supported a permanent collection program.

Overall the results were very positive and have proven that in the right environment it is possible to collect coffee cups as a separate waste stream, therefore supporting the feasibility of opening up a dedicated recycling facility for the cups.

The next stage

May 2017 saw the introduction of 'Simply Cups' coffee cup collections in Melbourne and Sydney (and coming soon to Brisbane). The way it works is similar to the pilot project but this time customers to actively contribute to a recycling solution by purchasing their coffee in 'Simply Cups' cups as well as using the collection tubes.

The aim is to collect 100 million cups per year (a contribution of 1 cent from each

cup sold goes in to fund the programme). Once this annualised target has been met the local coffee cup recycling programme will be viable.

A prominent Victorian organisation that has already set up a Simply Cups programme is the 'Department of Health & Human Services'. To give you an idea of how successful it's been so far and the quantity of coffee cups received – in just 7 weeks the Department of Health & Human Services, has diverted 20,000 cups from landfill!

The recycling programme

As the coffee cup collection programmes are running, Closed Loop and Simply Cups are working with technology partners in Australia and the UK.

One of these technologies shreds the cups and binds this material to recycled polypropylene using a specially developed polymer that acts as a glue. The end product is a fibre-infused plastic pellet that can then be used as a raw material for producing a vast range of plastic products – including food trays and **even reusable cups!**

The other technology effectively separates the paper outer from the polyethylene liner, creating two distinct materials that can then each be reprocessed at existing recycling facilities.

To find out more about how your organisation can get involved with the Simply Cups programme visit their website www.simplycups.com.au

* Refer to <https://ksenvironmental.com.au/coffee-cup-recycling-trial/>



Six tips to help you save on packaging

Almost everything we buy comes in some sort of packaging, some items seem excessively so. As ultimately all of this packaging will be disposed of (whether to landfill or recycling) it's a good idea to try to prevent the waste or make sensible decisions in relation to the type of packaging as much as we can.

Here are six things to consider packaging wise when making your next purchase:

1. Buy the **larger container or in bulk** if possible. It might sound obvious but the larger the container, the longer it will last (more convenient) and it is usually the more economical way to purchase. After you have finished with your product, can you reuse the container in anyway?
2. Choose **lighter packs** that use less material (less resources are used).
3. Check out what the **packaging is made of**. Has it got a recycling code on it?

4. Buy **locally made products** if possible. By avoiding aircraft and minimising road transportation, means fewer kilometres travelled and therefore fewer transport related emissions.



5. **Avoid buying single use products** and instead opt for bulk alternatives. For example, a single use microwave rice could be replaced with a large packet of rice that will last for many servings (or better yet take a container into a bulk supermarket and fill with rice). Instead of buying individual yoghurt pots, purchase a large tub and decant as needed.

6. If you are purchasing single use pouches for children's snacks, consider buying the Whole Kids range which can be recycled through a **Terracycle programme: terracycle.com.au/en-AU/brigades/whole-kids-brigade**



In the workplace if you have any type of packaging in bulk that you are currently throwing away in your general waste, please contact us to see if it could be recycled. Speak to your current representative or email sales@ksenvironmental.com.au

Keep Australia Beautiful Week - Litter Rally!

Save the date! Keep Australia Beautiful Week 2017 will take place from 21 – 27 August. This year it's all about a litter rally! Encouraging Aussie's to take the pledge to pick up 1 piece of rubbish per day for the week.

Roadside litter is the leading type of litter found in Australia and hugely detrimental to our environment, not to mention the associated costs with it.

Litter costs the public pocket an estimated **\$300 million to \$350 million annually** (NSW EPA). In Victoria, the cost for local government to provide litter maintenance and street sweeping services is in excess of **\$98 million** (Sustainability Victoria).

Cutting litter requires everybody to be involved, including local authorities, waste contractors, shops, pubs, businesses, community members and travellers. If we all get on board we can start to make a difference.

To find out more information about 'Keep Australia Beautiful Week' or to take the pledge for the 2017 Litter Rally visit:

<http://kab.org.au/keep-australia-beautiful-week/>

WILL YOU TAKE THE PLEDGE?

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL WEEK

TAKE THE PLEDGE | 21-27 AUGUST 2017

#LITTERRALLY



Special events involvement

'Recycling Awareness' and 'Sustainability' type events have been on the rise in businesses these days. They are great way to educate staff and promote recycling programmes through fun and interactive events.

Here are just a few events KS Environmental Group have been involved with lately:



KEY

- 1: Swinburne University O-Week, Feb/March 17
- 2: Crown Casino Enviro Day, June 17
- 3: Holmesglen, Enviro Week, June 17
- 4: MCG 'Battle the Plastic' day, July 2017
- 5: 313 Spencer St 'War on Waste' day, Aug 17





Stay warm and comfortable in winter with this energy saving app!

Are you in need of an appliance to keep you warm this winter or feel the need for a new TV to stay home with Netflix on these cold winter evenings? If so, why not check out this power-saving app before purchasing to ensure you are choosing an energy efficient option!

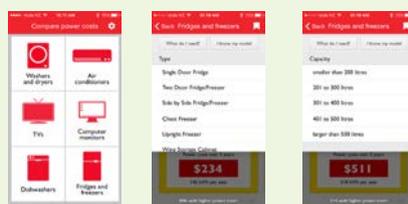
Most of us are probably aware of the Energy Rating labels that are featured on equipment and appliances and in short know that the more stars the more energy efficient the appliance is.

What we should also be aware of is that often some of the most expensive models can be the cheapest to run, and likewise – the cheapest models can be the most expensive to run. So when making a purchase of any appliance we need to do our research to work out what the running costs are likely to be.

Energy Rating app in brief

The Energy Rating app (by Department of Industry) features all Energy Rating labelled products and can tell you the estimated power cost for any of these given appliances (over a five year period).

Current products covered are Washers and dryers, Air conditioners, TVs, Computer monitors, Dishwashers, Fridges and freezers.



Searching functionality (above) allows the user to compare by category or individual model numbers (if you know these). For example, if you are after a two door fridge/

freezer approx. 400 litres you can select these variables and the app will return all fridge/freezers that fall under this category. The model with the cheapest power costs over 5 years will be featured first. Then you can swipe through to view the rest.



The verdict

Overall we found the Energy Rating app is a great, easy to use tool which allows consumers to conduct quick research and analysis prior to purchase of an appliance.

For more info on Energy Ratings go to www.energyrating.gov.au/ or download the app on the App Store or Google Play.

Waste Avoidance tip # 2

Buy good quality products – you may have heard of the saying ‘poor man pays twice’? No one wants to do that and by **purchasing higher quality products less often** rather than cheap, disposable products over again it is much **better for the environment and your pocket.**

For items such as electronics and white wares do your research and look at the product that has the greater life expectancy.

Check out the Energy Rating app (refer to article above) to help you with your purchase decision.



Electronic ‘Waste Not’

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