



Recycling crisis - what can we do?

There has been much in the press lately about the China ban on recyclables. The import bans (sometimes dubbed as the 'National Sword Policy') took effect on 1st January and restrict the imports of 24 types of solid waste including mixed papers and various plastics. It also sets a much tougher standard for contamination levels. Following on from this, China has more recently announced a customs enforcement campaign - 'Blue Sky 2018'. This initiative will run from March through to December and will focus on the crackdown of illegal imports of material.

This situation has certainly sent the recycling world into a spin and has left Victoria in a conundrum on how to deal with the stockpiling of waste for both municipal and commercial recyclables.

To date, recyclers utilised by KS Environmental have continued to receive and process materials. However due to pressures brought about by the China ban, and the market demanding recyclables presented to much higher

quality standards we are starting to see a huge impact on the industry as a whole.

The changes have brought about unprecedented market volatility with instability of price, and from 1st March 2018 we were hit with significant gate rate increases on recyclables.

In the home, it's thought that Victorians are likely to be hit with a 5 percent rise in Council rates to help deal with the crisis.

What can we do to help?

Councils are encouraging households to do what they can to reduce the amount of waste and recycling they are producing. This has a lot to do with product purchasing decisions as well as changing mind sets to think about 'reuse' before disposing of an item.

To help you out, we have had a look through our bins at home and have come up with eight common items you might have in your recycling bin. From here we look at alternative solutions to throwing these into your recycling bins.

1. Newspapers

If you have a fire why not start keeping a stockpile of paper to use when winter comes. Or to avoid them altogether, think about signing yourself up to an online subscription.



2. Magazines

If they are still in good condition and fairly recent then it might be worth asking at your local doctors surgery or aged care facility if they would like them.



3. Small Tins, Cans and Containers

Buy the larger container or in bulk if possible. For example if you have cooked something using two small tins of chopped tomatoes then next time buy just one bigger tin. Or instead of buying individual yoghurt pots, purchase a large tub and decant as needed. This reduces the packaging and is usually the more economical way to purchase.



4. Boxes and Cartons

If you have children ask at your day care or school if they could use any boxes or cartons for craft projects. These could be used to make a robot or some other wonderful creation!

Alternatively, if you know anyone that is moving house, your old boxes could come in very useful.



5. Glass Jars

Your old jars (for instance sauce, jam etc) can be reused for a multitude of things. Some ideas: kitchen storage or preserves, DIY candles, pencil/pen holder.



6. Wine, Beer and Soda Bottles

Over the summer period with more socialising happening we may have noticed our bin has been filling up with bottles. With the change of season, now could be time for a challenge to cut back on the consumption and see what impact it makes to your recycling bin.



7. Takeaway Containers

Keep these for storing leftovers.



8. Plastic Water Bottles

This is an easy one – stop buying them! These are not only a huge waste of energy and resources, they are also expensive.

Not to mention, recent news has come out about some of the leading brands of bottled water being contaminated with tiny plastic particles. While the health risks from this contamination remains unclear at this stage we think it's best to avoid bottled water altogether!

Buy yourself a good quality water bottle that you can carry around with you and refill for free!



At work

In the workplace we should also be mindful of what and how we are disposing of recyclable items. If you would like some help or advice on your current waste management systems, please speak to your current representative or email sales@ksenvironmental.com.au

Eating sustainably in Autumn

Yes it's Autumn! And with that comes new seasonal produce. To help think sustainably about your food and reduce the 'food miles' (the distance food is transported from time of production until it reaches us) it's a great idea to focus on eating what's in season.

Food that isn't in season has generally travelled thousands of kilometres to reach our supermarkets or fruit shops, meaning it has used more energy to reach our kitchens. Eating seasonal produce is also often cheaper and is a fantastic way to gain inspiration and try out new recipes and menus plans. *Here's a glimpse of what is now in season in Victoria...*

Fruit

- Apples
- Bananas
- Figs
- Grapefruit
- Grapes
- Mandarins
- Melons
- Oranges
- Pears
- Strawberries

Vegetables

- Beans
- Beetroot
- Brussel sprouts
- Cabbage
- Capsicums
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Chillies
- Corn
- Cucumber
- Eggplant
- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Onions
- Parsley
- Parsnips
- Peas
- Rhubarb
- Potatoes
- Silverbeet
- Spinach
- Spring onion
- Squash
- Sweet potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Zucchini

Source: seasonalfoodguide.com



What's new at Eastern Liquid

The team at Eastern Liquid have been super busy lately, here's an insight into some of the things that have been happening in our liquid division...

Check out our new social media

ELS have jumped on the social media bandwagon. To find out more please come follow us on LinkedIn!

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/liquid-waste-removal-eastern-liquid-services/>



10 year contribution at Crown

The crew at ELS celebrated in style at the Crown Property Services awards night in February. Eastern Liquid Services has now been providing services to Crown for ten years and as such we were presented with

this snazzy award in recognition of our efforts over the years.



Eastern Liquid also sponsored the 'Wardrobe Employee of the Year' award. (Pictured above)

Thank you Crown Melbourne, we look forward to the next ten years of working with you!

2018 Formula 1 Grand Prix

It's all over again for another year, and what an exciting event it was this year... Lewis Hamilton started out in pole position, but it was his fellow four-time champion Sebastian Vettel that claimed victory finishing five seconds ahead of Hamilton. As always the air displays were huge highlights, with the definite must see (and hear) being the F18 flyover!



Eastern Liquid Services was proud to be a supplier at the highly anticipated event. It was an extremely busy but fun few days - we had 11 drivers and 6 operational vehicles onsite working nonstop to pump out the toilet blocks and portaloos throughout the weekend.

Growing sustainably for Winter



While you are enjoying tucking into the fresh Autumnal produce it's time to start thinking about the next season and get planting for Winter! Check out this [Autumn planting guide for Melbourne...](#)

What to plant in March, April & May

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asparagus• Beetroot (March only)• Broad beans• Broccoli• Brussel sprouts• Cabbage• Carrots (March only)• Cauliflower• Celery• Chervil | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chives• Coriander• Garlic• Kale• Leek• Lettuce• Mustard greens• Onion• Peas• Parsnips | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radish• Rocket• Sliverbeet• Spinach• Spring onions• Strawberries• Turnips (March only) |
|--|--|--|

Source: leafrootfruit.com.au

Share your food waste with 'ShareWaste'

At home are you feeling guilty about throwing out your compostable food waste in the general waste but don't have the room for a compost or a worm farm? Or do you have a compost or a worm farm you would love others to share?

Either way, the ShareWaste app and online platform is for you...

The goal of ShareWaste is to connect people and community places that are willing to share their compost heaps and worm farms with others in their area, who don't have composts but would like to dispose of food scraps in an environmentally responsible way.

Acceptable items are usually vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, leaves and flowers. Items that are generally not acceptable include meat, dairy, bread and pasta as they attract vermin. Different people often have their own rules in regards to what they can accept in their compost or worm farm (and in what form) so finding this out first is important to prevent compost contamination.

To a lesser extent there are also sites that will receive food scraps for chooks and this will vary in what is acceptable.

How does the ShareWaste app work?



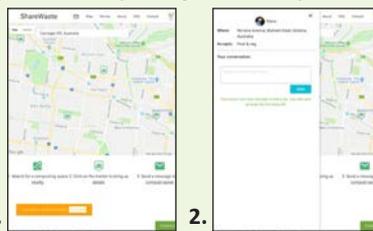
After opening the app you have the option straight away to choose if you are a 'donor' (I have Scraps) or a 'host' (I have a Compost). The sign up/in process can then be done either by clicking one of these options or by scrolling down on this screen.

Sign up/in is easy. You can register with either FaceBook/Google or an email address with password.

If you 'HAVE SCRAPS'

Click into this option and then a map will come up. To set your desired location, type in the street name or area, or alternatively you can let Google maps find you.

1. You will see icons appear which represent composting sites near you.



2. Click on the icon to bring up more details – this will tell you recipients first name, street name and what they accept/ do not accept.

You can then directly contact the site owner to organise your first drop off.

If you cannot find a compost nearby there is an option to send a message to become notified when one comes up in your area.

If you 'HAVE A COMPOST'

You will need to register and let them know what you can receive and where you are.

After the registration process you'll start getting messages as people in your area would like to arrange a drop off.

Community Gardens

It is also possible to register as a community garden (or other community place with compost bins or worm farms). The system will allow you to add details about the garden and a link to your website or social media.

Overall verdict

This is a great, free community driven initiative which is growing organically. At the moment depending on the area that you are in, you might not see that many sites in your location. But as time goes on and word gets out we are sure that the number of composting sites will increase. If you sign up, invite your friends to join and share it in your circles on social media, you will soon find donors or a host for yourselves in any residential area no matter where you are. And of course, there is the option to be contacted when something does come up.

To start using ShareWaste you can download the app for FREE on the App Store or Google Play. If you prefer to use the online platform visit sharewaste.com

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