

UQ Unwrapped

A guide for mobile food vendors



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UQ Unwrapped is a sustainability initiative to reduce UQ's plastic footprint.

To achieve this, we engage directly with UQ food outlets, events, markets and catering providers, to switch from single-use plastics to better alternatives. We also encourage UQ students, staff and visitors to take up a plastic-free lifestyle.

Our target is single-use, disposable plastic items which represent the most problematic and prolific sources of the litter stream.

These items include, coffee cups/lids, takeaway containers, food ware (plastic cutlery, cups plates) plastic straws, plastic bags, single use water bottles, and balloons.

To become a certified UQ Unwrapped Sustainable Event the targeted single-use, disposable plastic items must be not be used, sold or distributed during the event.

The following table has been created to assist mobile food vendors at UQ events eliminate these single use plastic items.



Swap it Out

REMOVE	SWAP IT OUT	COMPOSTABLE ALTERNATIVES	
<p>Plastic Cutlery</p> 	<p>Remove plastic cutlery including 'landfill biodegradable' or 'oxy degradable' plastics.</p>	<p>Switch to compostable cutlery such as responsibly sourced wood or bamboo. Avoid bioplastics which persist in the environment when littered and look like plastic to customers.</p>	
<p>Paper Coffee Cups lined with plastic</p> 	<p>Remove non-certified compostable coffee cups, including 'landfill biodegradable' or 'oxy degradable' plastic-lined cups.</p>	<p>Accept customers with BYO cups and consider offering a discount for this. Stock certified compostable cups with a waxed or biodegradable (PLA) lining. Consider rewarding customers that bring their own cup with a discount.</p>	
<p>Plastic Straws</p> 	<p>Remove plastic straws from sight and only provide upon request.</p>	<p>Provide a paper or pasta straw dispenser at your point of sale or on request only (reducing the total required to save on any price difference). Make sure you have plastic straws available for people who rely on them.</p>	
<p>Plastic & Polystyrene Packaging</p> 	<p>Remove plastic and polystyrene plates, trays or clam shells, including 'landfill degradable' or 'oxy degradable' plastics.</p>	<p>Switch to compostable plates and trays such as responsibly sourced paper, bamboo or sugarcane. Avoid clear plastic viewing panels in trays which are generally made from plastic. Remove plastic lined paper cups.</p>	
<p>Plastic Cups & Paper Drink Cups (with plastic lining)</p> 	<p>Switch to certified compostable (hot or cold) cups with a thin waxed or biodegradable (PLA) lining. Avoid unmarked bioplastic cups, which are confusing for customers who mistake them for plastic and incorrectly recycle them.</p>	<p>If water points are available on site, avoid water bottles and provide glass or canned cold drinks instead of plastic or composite packaging.</p>	
<p>Plastic Bag</p> 	<p>Remove plastic, bio-plastic or degradable bags of any thickness - including plastic bags or produce bags .</p>	<p>Provide boxes, paper bags or reusable bags for free or at a small cost.</p>	

Compostable Product Catalogues

The below plastic-free catalogues can be used to source compostable products.

BioPak

GreenMark

Bygreen

DetPack



One last tip

Be clear to your distributor exactly what products you are ordering. Biodegradable or degradable does not mean the same thing as compostable, and may be a plastic product. Always ensure you purchase 100% certified compostable. Where possible, try to choose natural products such as paper, bagasse, cardboard, wood, palm or bamboo.



Vendor letter

Vendors need to be informed early of the goal to minimise waste and packaging, and their expected compliance with the UQ Unwrapped Sustainable Event aims.

The example template letter below can be sent to vendors to provide information & gain their support.

Example template letter

ATTENTION ALL STALLHOLDERS AND VENDORS

[Event Name] is a UQ Unwrapped Sustainable Event.

Events are a fantastic way to raise awareness about sustainability and foster positive change. They present a great opportunity to inspire attendees, including students, staff and the local community. As a leading educational institution, UQ has an obligation to demonstrate sustainability leadership across all its events.

The [Event name], is a certified UQ Unwrapped Sustainable Event and as such the following criteria must be met:

- The event will be advertised and promoted as a Sustainable Event.
- All vendors are required to supply only reusable or 100% compostable service ware (Australian standard or equivalent) to their customers at the event. This includes coffee cups/lids, takeaway containers, food ware (plastic cutlery, cups plates) plastic straws*, plastic bags.
- Balloons are not to be used or released. Plastic free alternatives must instead be sourced.
- Bottled water must not be provided, sold or distributed. Water refill points will be available on site for refillable bottles.
- Recycling, composting and waste bins will be provided on site with clear signage.

Please refer to the Swap it Out table to assist you eliminate single use plastic food ware at [Event name].

Should you require any assistance or have any additional requirements, please contact [Event Organiser].

*Plastic straws must be made available for people requiring them.

Vendor clause

Stallholders and vendors' commitment can be gained by inserting a short standard clause in their agreement, permit or contract that commits them to using compostable or reusable food service ware.

Example Clause

Compliance with UQ Unwrapped Sustainable Event requirements must be followed and include:

- Single-use plastics food ware must not be used, sold or distributed during the event, including coffee cups/lids,

takeaway containers, food ware (plastic cutlery, cups plates) plastic straws*, plastic bags, single use water bottles, and balloons.

- Reusable or 100% compostable food ware (Australian standard or equivalent) must be used instead.
- Bottled water must not be provided, sold or distributed.
- Balloons must not be used, sold or distributed.

*Plastic straws must be made available for people requiring them.



UQ Sustainability

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