

Recycling and Waste Disposal Guide

General Waste



General waste items include:

- Plastic bags, packaging and wrappers**
- Disposable plastic lined coffee cups
- Biodegradable coffee cups*
- Styrofoam cups and containers
- Pens and pencils
- Disposable plastic utensils and plastic straws

The general waste stream is collected and compacted before being transferred to an engineered landfill site. Engineered landfill sites generate power using the methane created by the decomposing waste.

*Biodegradable is different to compostable.

**These items can be recycled through soft plastic recycling (see below).

Co-mingled Recycling



Co-mingled waste includes recyclable materials, such as:

- Plastic bottles and containers (including yoghurt and takeaway containers)
- Glass bottles and jars
- Milk and juice cartons
- Disposable coffee cup lids (not the cup)
- Paper and cardboard

These are taken off site for segregation at a materials recycling facility. There, they are placed in a sorting line, and each type (plastic bottles, cardboard) is segregated out and then bulked up. Once enough of these items have been collected, they are sent to manufacturers for reprocessing.

Organics



Organics materials include:

- Food left overs (including dairy, meat, bread, fruit vegetables, rice, pasta etc.)
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Compostable coffee cups
- Compostable food ware (bioplastic cups, bamboo cutlery, paper and bamboo straws)
- Tissue, napkins and paper towels
- Contaminated paper (e.g. greasy paper bags and pizza boxes)

Food scraps and other organic waste are collected and taken to a waste facility for industrial composting. They are turned into high-grade composts, soils and soil conditioners to be used in agricultural, commercial and landscape settings.

Drink Containers



Eligible Drink Containers include:

- Plastic drink bottles (excl. milk or cordial bottles)
- Glass drink bottles (excl. wine bottles)
- Aluminium drink cans
- Milk and juice cartons

The 10 cent refund generated per bottle, through Containers for Change, is being allocated to the [Student Green Fund](#). This fund provides grants for student-led projects that improve the University's sustainability performance.

Through Containers for Change, cans and bottles are collected and crushed into bales, which are then sold to recyclers via auction to create recycled goods.

Paper Waste



Paper waste that can be recycled includes:

- Clean or printed paper (no need to remove staples)
- White, coloured and glossy paper
- Magazines, newspapers and books
- Envelopes (including those with plastic windows)

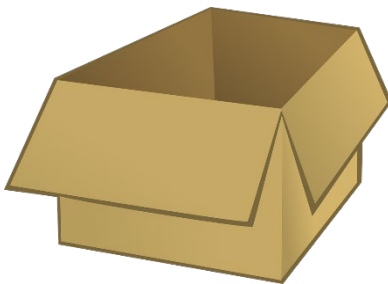
Not all paper is recyclable. For example, paper towels are not recyclable and must be disposed of as either organics or general waste.

Students - If paper recycling wheelie bins are not available, use the co-mingled recycling bins.

Staff - Place paper waste into the dedicated paper recycling wheelie bins in your building.

Paper waste is collected by our waste contractor and taken to a resource materials recycling facility, where it is screened, decontaminated, sorted and baled. The baled material is then sent to paper processors to be made into recycled paper and cardboard products.

Cardboard



All types of cardboard except waxed or glossy can be recycled.

Students - Where designated cardboard bins are not available, use the co-mingled recycling bins.

Staff - Flatten cardboard waste and place it:

- At the designated collection point in your building for collection.
- In the cardboard skip bins located around campus.

Cardboard waste is collected by our waste contractor and taken to a resource materials recycling facility, where it is screened, decontaminated, sorted and baled. The baled material is then sent to paper processors to be made into recycled paper and cardboard products.

Mobile Phones



Mobile phone waste includes all types of:

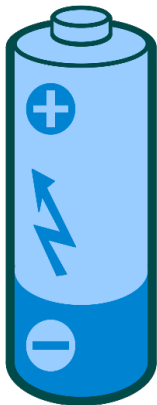
- Mobile phones
- Phone batteries
- Chargers and accessories
- Wireless internet devices
- Smart watches

Students - Drop them off at over 3500 public drop off points. Check out [Planet Ark website](#) for drop off locations

Staff - Send mobile phone handsets, batteries and accessories to the mail room. They are then collected for free by national mobile phone industry recycling program.

Old mobile phones are collected and transported to a Brisbane recycling facility where they are disassembled into individual components. The recovered glass, mixed plastic and most metals are sent to manufacturing companies in Australia for processing.

Batteries



Batteries contain dangerous heavy metals that can contaminate soils and waterways if sent to landfill.

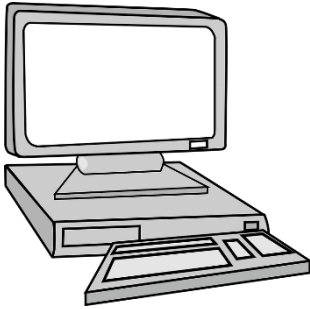
Students - Aldi supermarkets offer a free battery recycling service at all their Australian stores.

Staff - Send rechargeable and single-use batteries in a sealed container via internal mail to: University Chemical Store, Cnr Glasshouse Road and Walcott St, St Lucia campus

Batteries are collected by our waste contractor and delivered to a local recycling facility. The recycling facility processes nickel-cadmium batteries, and all other battery types are exported for processing. Materials such as cobalt, lithium, cadmium and nickel are recovered for re-use.



E-Waste



E-waste refers to electronic appliances that are no longer functional or are obsolete, such as:

- Televisions
- Computers
- Photocopiers
- Printers.

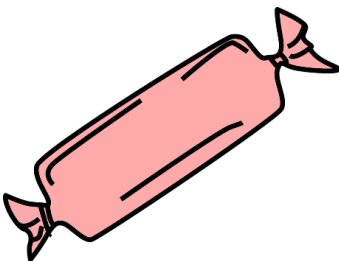
Students - Check out [Planet Ark website](#) for drop off locations.

Staff - Log a 'waste' request in [ARCHIBUS](#) to arrange collection.

E-waste is collected by our waste contractor and delivered to a local recycling facility, where it is disassembled into individual components:

- Recovered glass, mixed plastic and most metals are sent to manufacturing companies in Australia for processing.
- Glass from CRT monitors is converted to glass fibre for insulation.
- Mixed plastic is turned into posts and pallets.
- Metals are recovered for re-use in Australia.
- Circuit boards are processed in Korea, where the gold and silver is recovered for re-use.

Soft Plastic



Soft plastic includes any plastic that can be easily scrunched into a ball, including:

- Plastic shopping bags
- Shrink wrap or pallet wrap
- Packaging such as biscuit packet wrappers, pasta bags, bread or cereal bags

Soft plastic is collected by our waste contractor and delivered to a recycling facility, where it is baled, sent to packaging manufacturers and used to manufacture products such as irrigation piping and mobile garbage bins.

Students - Collect a quantity and drop at your local supermarket's plastic bag recycling collection bin.

Staff - Store this material until you have at least enough to fill one shopping bag or box, and then log a 'waste' request in [ARCHIBUS](#) to arrange collection.