

# Heron Island Research Station (HIRS)

## Recycling

### 1. Scope

This policy applies to the four recycling streams at The University of Queensland campuses:

- Paper (white boxes in offices transferred to yellow-lidded wheelie bins to be shipped off the island;
- Aluminium (grey wheelie bins)
- Co-mingled stream (glass, tin and plastics) (green wheelie bins with signage); and
- Cardboard (brown wood bails)

### 2. Objectives

The University of Queensland's policy is to promote recycling of waste materials by having in place a comprehensive recycling scheme.

The objectives are:

- To reduce the output of the general waste stream;
- To minimise contamination in the recycling stream;
- To reduce the need for landfill space;
- To take advantage of the economic benefits arising from recycling; and
- To promote resource conservation of non-renewable and renewable resources.

### 3. Procedure

#### 3.1 Recycling Streams

The typical contents of the recyclable materials are shown in the table below:

**Table 3.0 - Recycling streams**

Category	Typical contents	Notes
<b>Paper</b>	Photocopy and computer paper, and letterheads	Place in recycling boxes that are then emptied into green bins with yellow lids. Limited paper is held on site for reuse.
<b>Aluminium</b>	Aluminium cans	Place in grey wheelie bins.
<b>Cardboard</b>	Cardboard boxes	Place in brown wool bails.
<b>Co-mingled stream</b>	Glass, tin and plastics	Place in green wheelie bins with signage. Remove plastic lids (from drink bottles) before disposing. Ensure any wastes used as a container are cleaned thoroughly before disposal. Containers used for holding and storing chemicals are not to be disposed of in this stream.

## **3.2 Recycling System and Responsibilities**

### **3.2.1 Sorting for all recyclable streams**

It is the responsibility of individual users to sort and dispose of their **recyclables** thoughtfully. Appropriate bins for the recycling streams are placed throughout the research station.

### **3.2.2 Paper Recycling**

#### **3.2.2.1 Disposal**

Paper wastes can be disposed of in two ways:

- Paper should be placed in the recycling boxes; or
- They can be placed directly into the 240 litre yellow-lidded green wheelie bins.

#### **3.2.2.2 Collection and Removal**

The 240 litre yellow-lidded wheelie bins are checked daily and collected when full, and loaded on the barge for collection by the waste contractors.

### **3.2.3 Cardboard**

#### **3.2.3.1 Disposal, Collection and Removal**

- Cardboard should be placed in brown wool bails which are loaded onto the barge for removal to the mainland for disposal by the waste contractor.

### **3.2.4 Aluminium and Co-mingled Recycling Stream**

#### **3.2.4.1 Disposal**

Aluminium and Co-mingled recyclable wastes (plastic, tins, glass) can be disposed of directly into the 240 litre green wheelie bins as directed by recycling signs. When disposing, do not leave food wastes in plastic containers. Aluminium cans should be placed in grey wheelie bins.

#### **3.2.4.2 Collection and Removal**

- Wheelie bins and wool bails are loaded onto the barge for removal to the mainland for disposal by the waste contractor.

### **3.2.5 Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the Manager, Heron Island Research Station to:

- Identify and arrange for collection points in buildings for recyclable wastes;
- Arrange for collection from bins and transfer to 240 litre wheelie bins; and
- Ensure that recycling bins and bails are loaded onto the barge for removal to the mainland for disposal by the waste contractor..

#### **4. Enquiries**

Any enquiries regarding the management of the recyclable wastes should be addressed to the Manager, Heron Island Research Station on Ph: 4978-1399 Ext 222.

#### **5. Definitions**

##### **5.1 Waste**

Under Section 13 of the *Environmental Protection Act, 1994* **waste** is defined as “any gas, liquid, solid or energy (or a combination of wastes) that is surplus to, or unwanted from, any industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity, whether or not of value.”

##### **5.2 Recycling**

**Recycling** refers to capturing materials from the post-consumer waste stream to be used as secondary source material.

##### **5.3 Contamination of Recycling Streams**

Contamination of recycling streams occurs when unwanted material is disposed of with the recyclable material. Contaminated material is not suitable for reprocessing and must be separated from the recyclable stream.

##### **5.4 Co-mingled Recycling Stream**

It is a stream that contains several recycling waste materials such as:

- Aluminium (tins and cans);
- Glass; and
- Plastics (PET milk bottles and HDPE soft drink bottles).

##### **5.5 Cardboard**

Thin, stiff pasteboard generally used as packaging material.