

Reducing P&C waste

Why do we need to do something?

- In 2018-2019 Australia generated 74million tonnes of waste. That's 2.9 tonnes per person.
- The ACT Government has a commitment to both waste avoidance and waste diversion with a focus on food waste and single use plastics.
- By changing our behaviours we protect the environment, and better manage valuable and finite resources.
- Taking action on waste generation in P&C events supports school sustainability initiatives.

Reducing P&C waste

What can we do?

- **Reduce** our waste generation.
 - Through considered and planned decision making
 - By partnerships with the school community
 - By considering waste during planning.
- **Divert** our waste from landfill.
 - Did you know that food waste in landfill causes methane emissions?
 - There is very little waste from a canteen which can not be recovered.
- Support a **circular** and sustainable materials system
 - By reusing.
 - By repurposing,
 - By buying recycled.
- Support a **clean** environment
 - By reducing canteen and P&C derived litter.

Reducing P&C waste

How do I make this happen?

- Do a waste audit! Where are you generating waste?
- Set your objectives
- Develop a plan
 - Focus on your objectives and step through logically.
 - Don't try to do everything at once. Pick something and work it through to find a solution.
 - Workshop with the subcommittee and kids for ideas.
 - A draft plan template is available.
- Collect data if you can and celebrate your achievements.

Reducing P&C waste

Canteen operations	Packaging - supplier	soft plastics / cardboard / paper
	Packaging - food	Soft plastics
	Storage	Soft plastics
	Food waste from preparation	Organics
	Unsold food	Organics

Reducing P&C waste

Food distribution	Packaging – food	Hard plastic
	Cutlery	Hard plastic
	Plate / bowl	Hard plastic
	Tetra packs	
	Uneaten food	Organics

Reducing P&C waste

Develop your plan	Which items can be avoided?	Single use plastics Soft plastics in storage
	Which items can be replaced with a reusable option?	Food distribution items Baking paper Food delivery bags
	Which items can be replaced with a more readily recyclable version	Food distribution items Supplier packaging
	Which items can be ordered in bulk to reduce packaging?	
	What additional bins do I need in the canteen to segregate my waste?	Organics Cardboard Soft plastics

Reducing P&C waste

Setting objectives

- 1 - Avoid or minimise the problem
- 2 – Divert for resource recovery
- 3 – Reduce litter
- 3 – Encourage, collaborate and celebrate

Some ideas!?

- No hot food over the counter. Preorder only.
- Use meal deal or daily specials to focus buying
- Update menu to support objectives. Including review of:
 - Number of options
 - High waste items
 - Popular items
- Add a surcharge for disposable items
- Create an incentives scheme for return of items
- Determine options for food waste.
- School compost
- Parent chooks
- Commercial composter (ie. Global worming)
- Collect soft plastic packaging for REDCYCLE
- Determine options for student green team to support the change

Reducing P&C waste

That all sounds good ... but

Common issues

- Pre packaged items are easy money makers and popular.
- If we have BYOC and they are dirty, what do we do?
- Our dishwasher is not big / good / hot / fast enough
- How will we deliver food to classrooms?

There is no single solution to these.

- The workshop aspect of planning will help to decide how and if to solve these.
- Perhaps they may be future steps or ones your P&C is prepared to invest in.