

# Green Canteen

## What is a green canteen?

A green canteen is a school canteen that aims to make sustainable changes and reduce its ecological footprint. Green canteens choose to avoid and recover waste, in particular single-use items.

Single-use items are designed to be discarded after one use and have a big impact on our environment. It includes items such as straws, cups, water bottles, plastic bags and packaging.

Canteens that go green can save money, as well as the environment. A reusable container, for example, pays off its packaging costs after around 5 uses, so investing in some can save money in the long-run.

## Schools with green canteens

**easily make landfill the last resort by:**

- ✓ avoiding packaging by purchasing items in bulk, such as drinks (e.g. juice) and cleaning products
- ✓ using produce from the school garden instead of buying herbs, fruit and vegetables
- ✓ avoiding pre-packaged items by making your own, such as icy poles, chips and slices
- ✓ banning single-use items such as straws, bags and cutlery
- ✓ choosing reusable items instead of disposable items, such as cups, drink containers, lunch bags, sandwich wraps, lunch boxes and cutlery
- ✓ collecting canteen items such as bottle tops, boxes, and jars for reuse in school activities
- ✓ setting up bins in the canteen to collect Containers for Change, and food organics
- ✓ collecting fruit and veg scraps for the school compost or worm farm, or to feed the chickens
- ✓ using a waste-free canteen lunch order system
- ✓ buying recycled products or products with recycled content.

For more information about the WasteSorted Schools program visit [www.wastesortedschools.wa.gov.au](http://www.wastesortedschools.wa.gov.au)





## Swap this

- ✗ Cling wrap and snap lock bags
- ✗ Paper lunch bags
- ✗ Plastic bottles
- ✗ Juice boxes
- ✗ Hot drink/coffee cups

## for that

- ✓ reusable containers or sandwich wraps
- ✓ reusable lunch bags
- ✓ reusable bottles
- ✓ reusable drink bottles filled from bulk juice bottle
- ✓ reusable cups



## Key tips to success

Schools that have been successful in greening their canteen share the following advice:

- engage different representatives within the school community to plan and implement changes
- devise a good system for collecting and washing reusable items
- educate students and the whole school community about new canteen procedures, the problem with waste and the benefits of change
- label all reusable items to ensure their return
- find suitable suppliers for purchasing bulk items and recycled products
- have students help to drive the change
- start small with something that has a high impact (e.g. no cling wrap) and gradually build on your success
- set targets for reducing canteen waste
- measure your changes through regular waste audits or visual bin audits
- celebrate your success with the whole school community.

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## Remember

Recycle only these five through co-mingled recycling: **paper, cardboard, cans, glass bottles and containers, plastic bottles and containers**. Please note that straws, cutlery, paper towels and juice boxes cannot go in co-mingled recycling.

Eligible 10c containers can be collected and recycled through Containers for Change. This includes juice boxes, flavoured milk cartons, plastic drink bottles and aluminum cans. To check if an item is accepted go to the Containers for Change website [www.containersforchange.com.au/wa](http://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa).

Great green canteens choose to use **reusable containers and cutlery**.

**Compostable** containers and cutlery are still single-use items. They use valuable resources and energy, and only break down in certain conditions, so cannot go into home or school compost.

Green canteen projects are eligible for **funding** through [WasteSorted Schools grants](#). Items such as reusable containers, reusable cups, reusable canteen lunch bags, commercial dishwashers and materials for students to create their own reusable sandwich wraps will be considered, **where a school can clearly demonstrate how this will reduce waste to landfill** from the canteen.



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