

PLASTIC FREE JULY WRAP UP

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) is a proud Plastic Free July Council Challenge member together with our member Councils—City of Melville, City of Kwinana, City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle.

Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution—so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a record breaking 326 MILLION people worldwide participated in the Plastic Free July challenge in 2020!

At the SMRC, we took part in a number of events and activities both with our staff and local community to celebrate Plastic Free July. We hosted plastic free morning teas where each SMRC staff member pledged to give up one single-use plastic item for the month and simultaneously launched a new 3-bin FOGO system across all staff lunch rooms. The City of Melville ran several workshops on plastic free living at the Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre covering topics like the circular economy and low waste living on a budget. You may have even seen our ‘31 Days, 31 Ways’ campaign online where we shared daily ideas for easy swaps you can make to reduce the amount of single-use plastic in your life.

The month of July may be over but that doesn't mean you need give up on your ‘plastic free’ dreams. Here's a few handy tips to help you keep the momentum throughout the rest of the year:



1. Pick your favourites—we know that some swaps can feel like a chore, whereas others feel so easy we're not sure why we didn't embrace them years ago! Remember even one or two swaps will have a huge impact if you can continue them for the rest of the year.
2. Choose pre-loved—when you buy something pre-loved, you skip all the plastic packaging! Not to mention, you're reducing potential landfill and avoiding the need to make new resources.
3. BYO—as often as possible bring your own reusable bags, containers and utensils to replace their single-use plastic counterparts. This could be as simple as refilling your own drink bottle rather than buying plastic water bottles, or asking for no disposable plastic cutlery with a takeaway meal in favour of reusable cutlery at work or home.





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GOATS IN RECYCLING? YOU'VE GOT TO BE 'KIDDING'!



We've recently had some very interesting items come through our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale. Please remember that organic materials, including dead animals, should never be placed in the yellow-top Recycling bin. Your kerbside Recycling bin is designed to accept generic household items including glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, hard plastic bottles and containers, and aluminium and steel cans.

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE

LAUNCHING THU 1 OCT 2020

THERE'S CASH IN YOUR CONTAINERS!

Whether you're keen to earn a bit of extra cash, raise money for your local sports club or even donate to your favourite charity, from 1 October 2020, you can start earning 10-cents for every eligible drink container collected for the Containers for Change program. Eligible containers include most aluminium, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard beverage containers which are typically consumed outside the home. The introduction of container deposits schemes in other states have resulted in a dramatic reduction in litter and a huge increase in recycling rates.



How it works:

Check out this quick video to learn how you can get the most out of Containers for Change. Visit <https://bit.ly/30P6GYy>





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WHICH BIN? TIPS TO HELP YOU TO RECYCLE RIGHT



Let's talk dish washing. Those yellow and green sponges you've probably been using all your life are made of plastic and contribute to issues like waste to landfill, fossil fuel consumption and micro plastics. These dish scrubbers sadly need to be placed in your General Waste bin when they're ready to be thrown out.

Alternatively, you can reduce your plastic footprint by opting for a compostable dish scrubber!

The compostable scrubber we've featured above is made of coconut husks. It's non-toxic, gentle on your hands, and can be placed in your home compost or FOGO bin when it's time to get a new one. You can pick one of these up at your local eco-store or online at Flora and Fauna.



LOCAL BIRTH OF PLASTIC FREE JULY

It was a visit to the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) back in 2011 that triggered Rebecca Prince-Ruiz to begin what is now a worldwide movement with a record-breaking 326 Million people participating in Plastic Free July this year!

Plastic Free July, now in its tenth year, helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

Whilst working in Waste and Sustainability Education in local government, Rebecca was mortified to see first-hand where her waste ended up when it was 'thrown away'.

"We put things in our kerbside bins and throw them 'away' and never think of it. And this is 'away'," Rebecca said.

"It wasn't until I came here [to the RRRC] that I was suddenly confronted with the actual enormity of my own waste. What my waste looked like with my neighbours and everyone in my street and my suburb. And then that was such an eye opener for me." Rebecca said the visit inspired her to take responsibility for her own waste and her recycling in particular, and actually put less into the system in the first place.

She went to work the next day and asked her colleagues if they wanted to join her to be part of the solution—going plastic free for the next month. And so Plastic Free July was born.

READ MORE: bit.ly/2XSJ9DV

RRRC COMMUNITY TOURS

Tours of our Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) have been postponed for the past few months due to Covid-19. We plan to recommence them in line with the WA Covid19 Roadmap Plan once we have reached Phase 5 easing of restrictions.



In the meantime, if you would like to see what happens to your recycling bin once it leaves the kerb, why not 'Like' our Recycle Right Facebook page (facebook.com/RecycleRightWA/) to view some behind the scenes videos from the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) .



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RECYCLE RIGHT RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

Our Recycle Right website and App (re-launched in November 2019) continues to help you—the people of Perth—to Recycle Right. Information on both the app and website is tailored to the full assortment of bin systems found in the Perth metropolitan area: 3-bin FOGO (Food Organics, Garden Organics), 3-bin GO (Garden Organics) and 2-bin. Visit recycleright.wa.gov.au/ to find out what goes in which bin, access an ever-growing A-Z list of items and what to do with them, Find My Nearest database of drop-off locations and Bin Day Reminders to alert you on your bin days.

The website also provides a Resources Hub of educational worksheets, how-to guides, fact sheets and templates.



NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK: UPCYCLING ART COMPETITION



A lot of everyday items that we use and throw away end up in landfill or polluting our oceans. Transforming waste into art is a great way to 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'. During National Science Week (15- 23 August), we're encouraging primary school classes within the City of Fremantle, Town of East Fremantle and City of Melville to take part in the 2020 Recycle Right Upcycling Art Competition.

Classes will choose a common waste item, waste stream or multiple waste items and make an art display that shows the item/items in a fun and creative way.

Art Sculptures will be judged on their creativity, uniqueness, maximum use of recycled products and 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message.

Prizes will include a Recycle Right Reusables pack and a gift voucher!

For more information or to submit your class's entry to the competition head to recycleright.wa.gov.au/upcycling-art-competition/

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THINGS WASTE, RECYCLING AND
SUSTAINABILITY!**

