

# recycle right newsletter

A publication helping Western Australians to reduce their household waste, recycle right and live more sustainably.



## 12 ZERO WASTE CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

On the 12th day of Christmas,  
my true love gave to me...



## WISHING YOU AN ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS

Here at Recycle Right and the Resource Recovery Group, we're always looking for Zero Waste Gift Ideas. Check out our 12-days of Christmas for great gift alternatives. Also, read our blog [Inspiration for Zero Waste Gift Giving](#) and have a waste-less Christmas!



If you're looking for an eco-friendly Christmas tree but not much of a green thumb, try your hand at a DIY tree made from old branches or twigs. It could be as simple as a single large branch standing in a pot of sand or a more intricate hanging design using small branches and twine. Decorate with your favourite ornaments and

when you're finished, either keep to use again next year or place the branches and twigs in to your lime-green lidded FOGO bin to be composted.

Also, check out our [Guide to a sustainable holiday season](#) for even more ideas.

### This year why not try a bit of Merry Thrift-massing?

Visit your local Charity store for some great Christmas bargains. The items sold at these stores are very often 'as new', so you can grab some real bargains for those Christmas presents and know that you're doing your bit to help save the planet!





# IS YOUR COUNCIL **ON THE PATH TO FOGO?**

We all know the usual suspects when it comes to climate change. But did you know FOGO is a huge part of the solution? When you place your food and garden organics in your FOGO bin, you actively increase carbon sequestration, play a part in solving net nutrient loss, and help keep our limited resources in the circular economy.

Gayle Sloane, CEO of Australia's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association remarked, "Our soil is probably the most diminished from a nutrient point-of-view that it's been in history. So getting that goodness out of the food and the garden organics and putting it back into the soil and improving its quality is a very good higher order use."

Don't have FOGO? Is your Council not on the path to FOGO? Write in and tell them that it is time to GO (FOGO).



## PLASTICS PROCESSING AT CANNING VALE

Chairay Sustainable Plastic Company are on track for leasing part of the space in our Canning Vale Centre. Hard plastic bottles and containers will be re-processed into a flake for domestic and overseas recycled products markets. In preparation for Chairay's arrival, Resource Recovery Group has undertaken electrical modifications, and developed a Fire Management Strategy in conjunction with a Fire Engineer which is currently under review by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). Equipment is due to arrive on site in mid-December.

Excitingly, this means that plastics from the Canning Vale Centre will eventually feed directly into this plant! Chairay have received \$5.6 million from the Federal and State Government's Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) to construct the 15,000 tonne per year plastic reprocessing plant and a 6,000 tonne sorting line for the Perth metropolitan region.







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### SUSTAINABLE NEWS

Every week, tune in to our social media channels to hear the Sustainability News from Mr Rheece Sighcal.

Reece will pick out highlights from the week and provide some insight with a healthy dose of dad-jokes.



## THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Recognising International Volunteer Day on 6 December, we'd especially like to take the time to thank all who volunteer to help us to promote waste and recycling messages to residents and schools. We really appreciate the great work you do and time you give to help give back to the community. We've had a busy last month with stalls at both the Jacaranda Festival (19 November) and the George Street Festival in East Fremantle (4 December). These are a great opportunity for us to meet with residents face-to-face to be on hand to answer any tricky questions about recycling and waste processing. We also often have our GREAT Games on hand for people to play and learn more about correct waste disposal and recycling.



In addition to events, we've also had intern Jade Roycroft adding to her mural wall painting, with a design on the adjacent hut wall of the Community Garden. Thanks again Jade!

If you're interested in joining like-minded individuals who are passionate about creating positive, sustainable change in their community, then contact us about becoming a Recycle Right Ranger, via email: [hello@recycleright.wa.gov.au](mailto:hello@recycleright.wa.gov.au). As a Ranger, you'll also



get the opportunity to join exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of waste and recycling facilities, provide feedback on the Recycle Right waste education material, attend quarterly workshops and get to wear one of our fabulous (new) Recycle Right Ranger shirts (as pictured above).







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# IN-PERSON COMMUNITY TOURS



Come and join a tour of our facility at the Resource Recovery Group's Canning Vale Centre, to see first-hand what happens to your waste when it leaves your kerbside.

On the tour you will:

- have a short presentation about the Resource Recovery Group;
- view the Materials Recovery Facility where recyclables are separated, baled and sold for reuse;
- see the Green Waste Facility, where garden waste is turned into mulch;
- learn about our very own Community Garden;
- visit the biofilters outside the FOGO Processing Facility; and
- view a video of the complete FOGO process.

We will then return to the Education Centre for questions. [UPCOMING TOUR DATES](#)

## REVISIT OUR ONLINE WEBINARS



**Webinar**  
**Community Gardens:**  
Enriching our soils and lives  
Monday 7 November, 2022



**Webinar**  
**Glass Recycling:**  
What happens in WA  
Friday 19 August, 2022



Recycle Right has held several webinars over the last 12 months, inviting experts to come together to discuss a particular waste topic. Our latest Webinar for National Recycling Week was on 7 November and covered lots of information about '[Community Gardens](#)'. APACE Community Gardener George Finch, North Freo Social Farm's Amy Warne and Purearth's David Farthing spoke to us about community gardening and enriching our soils with compost, building friendships and great outdoors!

If you weren't able to tune in at the time, this, and other webinars are all available on the [Recycle Right YouTube Channel](#). Please subscribe to be kept up to date of future webinars and new videos!

**August:** [Glass Recycling in WA](#)

**November:** [Community Gardens](#)

**July:** [Ditch the Disposables](#): Best practice reusables for business

## UPDATE ON SOFT PLASTICS

In November, we were made aware of the temporary cessation of REDcycle's soft plastic recycling operations. Unfortunately, until their operations recommence, or new sustainable solutions are found, most soft plastic waste will be landfilled or incinerated.



Resource Recovery Group and Recycle Right want to thank REDcycle and Liz Kasell for being an integral part in creating a circular economy in Western Australia.

It is at times like this that we recognise not just the need to recover resources like soft plastics, but also to cultivate a market for the resources to be used again. If WA is to be net-zero by 2050, it is imperative that we do not just build the infrastructure to collect waste and recover it into a resource but to create policy and an economic environment that makes recycled material more competitive than virgin materials.

REDcycle's announcement to temporarily, we hope, cease operations is a portent to Western Australians, local governments, and the State Government that we need to do more than just hope that another REDcycle will arrive and ameliorate our addiction to soft plastic.

# REUSABLE BOTTLES VS PLASTIC BOTTLES— ONE BATTLE IN THE WAR ON WASTE

(EXCERPT FROM OUR ONLINE BLOG)

By Stephanie Collins

Once hailed as a pinnacle of modern conveniences, the plastic bottle has become symbolic of the fight to end plastic waste. Recently, a report commissioned by the [WWF Australia](#) estimated there to be the equivalent of 600 million bottles worth of plastic entering our environment each year, and the [national plastic plan 2021](#) reports 130,000 tonnes of plastic in our marine environment.

The thought of millions of plastic bottles littering the oceans can leave us all feeling a little guilty and once we see those disturbing images, appalled. Bottled water has left many, myself included, with a habit of having water readily available all day every day, and that's a hard luxury to give up. But, there are alternatives and steps we can take to reduce the number of bottles that are sent to landfill or that make their way into our oceans. These alternatives are our ammunition in this war.

With the push to move away from single use plastics a wide range of reusable bottles have hit the market. From stainless steel, glass, and reusable plastic there's a lot of choices for maintaining a hydrated lifestyle on the go, each with its own benefits.

- Stainless steel bottles are lightweight, made of safe food grade materials and can keep their temperature for longer

- Glass bottles are a good option if you are worried about the taste of metal and are dishwasher safe for easy cleaning
- Reusable plastic bottles are affordable and are also easy to clean

In 2015 a [Roy Morgan](#) report found that 27.1% of Australians (5.3 million people) were drinking from plastic water bottles at least once a week. Purchasing a reusable bottle not only means you have fewer plastic bottles to dispose of but you're also spending less on water. A 1L bottle water costs around \$3, for a similar price you could get [1000L of tap water](#), with most of the cost going into the production of the bottle itself.

## Winning the war should be done safely: Why you shouldn't reuse a plastic water bottle

It can be tempting to reuse a plastic water bottle rather than purchasing a reusable alternative; however, we do not recommend this as disposable bottles are not designed to be reused. While newer bottles made from PET plastic are safer than older ones made from plastic containing BPA; there are [still some concerns](#) that degrading plastic, especially if left in the sun, can leach harmful components into

the water. Disposable plastic bottles also have thin walls that tend to crease and damage easily providing ideal spots for bacteria to hangout and grow.

## What should I do with a plastic bottle?

If you do use a disposable plastic bottle, they are recyclable through your yellow-lidded kerbside recycling bin, just remember to remove the lid first and either put it in the general waste bin (it's too small for the recycling machines) or take to a drop off centre for specialist plastic lid recycling.

WA has also begun its [container deposit program](#) in October 2020. This program aims to bring in more empty drink containers, including plastic bottles, for recycling through Containers for Change refund points. If you have any plastic, steel, aluminium, glass, or paper-board drink containers between 150 millilitres and 3 litres they can be handed in and exchanged for 10c per container. For more information or to find your local drop-off spot visit [containersforchange.com.au/wa/](https://containersforchange.com.au/wa/).

So, what are you waiting for? Come into Churchill's bunker and join the war on waste (bring water, it is thirsty work (in a reusable bottle, of course)).







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### RECYCLE RIGHT TIPS

For all those battery-operated Christmas gifts, choose rechargeable batteries over disposable ones. Rather than having to dispose of 'disposable' batteries at your local drop-off centre (find in the Recycle Right '[Find-My-Nearest](#)'), these batteries can be used over and over again—a much more sustainable option! Pop some batteries and a charger in with the gift.

The Recycle Right website and App continue to be invaluable resources to help you to Recycle Right. Whether you have 3-bin FOGO (Food Organics, Garden Organics), 3-bin GO (Garden Organics) and 2-bin, you can visit [recycleright.wa.gov.au/](https://recycleright.wa.gov.au/) to find out what goes in which bin, access an ever-growing A-Z list of items and find out what to do with specific waste items along with a Find My Nearest database of drop-off locations.



[recycleright.wa.gov.au](https://recycleright.wa.gov.au)

**Resource Recovery Group** are leaders in providing best practice resource recovery solutions with a proven supply chain and high recovery rates. We:



**Recycle** materials to their highest practical value.



**Innovate** and implement new approaches to recycling and resource recovery.



**Educate** by providing tools to recycle right, reduce waste and live more sustainably.



Find out more [resourcerecoverygroup.com.au/](https://resourcerecoverygroup.com.au/)



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Recovery  
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Recycle. Innovate. Educate.

LIKE US ON [FACEBOOK](#) AND [INSTAGRAM](#) OR VISIT OUR [YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#) OR [TIK TOK CHANNEL](#) FOR MORE NEWS, TIPS AND TRICKS ON ALL THINGS WASTE, RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY!



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