

March 2023

# recycle right newsletter

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



## W.A.'s PHASE OUT OF SOFT PLASTIC



### We are all pretty excited about W.A.'s phase out of plastic!

Our good friends at [WA.gov.au](http://WA.gov.au) have announced, that the “Stage 2 of the WA Plan for Plastics commences from 27 February 2023”.

All of us at Recycle Right want everyone to be aware that this is a phase-out and not a direct ban with immediate effect. This will allow, “businesses to run down supplies and make plans for alternative processes and packaging.”

**At this time, it is important for coffee lovers out there, and any users of compostable containers, to remember that the new compostable coffee cups, that are replacing their plastic lined cousins, cannot be placed in GO or FOGO bins (for now).**

At this stage, Perth Metro waste facilities cannot differentiate plastic lined cups from compostable cups. That means that any cup that is disposed of in the FOGO/GO bin will be processed as contamination. This makes the process of turning FOGO or GO into compost

inefficient and therefore more expensive for our residents. The only way that compostable coffee cups can be submitted to the FOGO or GO waste streams is if businesses and events deposit their cups as a separate ‘stream’.

Unfortunately, if you wish to place your compostable coffee cup in your home waste bins, it will have to be your general waste (for now).

Want to know more about the phase-out? Well, it takes action on plastic microbeads, lids, coffee cups, expanded polystyrene packaging and cups, degradable plastics, produce bags, cotton buds with plastic stems and trays. Multiple enforcement deadlines will apply from September 2023 to July 2025.

For more information, visit the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation’s website: [wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-water-and-environmental-regulation/western-australias-plan-plastics-stage-2](http://wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-water-and-environmental-regulation/western-australias-plan-plastics-stage-2)

[business.gov.au/news/the-phase-out-of-single-use-plastics](http://business.gov.au/news/the-phase-out-of-single-use-plastics)



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### CARE FOR A COMPOST COMPETITION



Recycle Right and Resource Recovery Group are excited to kickstart the lead up to International Compost Awareness Week by giving away some bags of our Australian Soil Standard Approved FOGO compost.

Follow our socials on Instagram and Facebook to learn how you can add some nutrients to your soil and take part in the circular economy.



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WIND-UP ORDER



## REDCYCLE WIND UP ORDER

REDcycle has been issued a wind-up order by the NSW Supreme Court. In the wake of REDcycle's closure, the storage of 12,000 tonnes of soft plastics was revealed to the public.

The uproar surrounding the storage of soft plastics has contributed to a growing critical perspective of recycling. Many in the community are justifiably disappointed by REDcycle's lack of transparency and along with a plenitude of supporting media publications that create negativity around recycling, ensures that asking residents to 'buy-in' to recycling in the future becomes even more difficult.

The noble venture of REDcycle cannot be diminished but the challenges that face Australia are only highlighted by REDcycle's fall. Minderoo's Plastic Waste Index makes it clear that plastic use, and its associated climate issues, are increasing year on year. We require robust policy around types of plastics that can be used and an expansion of a container for deposit-like scheme to include all packaging. Consumer behaviour needs to be addressed through consistent messaging of how it important it is to 'recycle' BUT ALSO the need to 'reduce' and 'reuse'.

It is imperative that community sentiment towards recycling is repaired through media sharing and distribution of the recycling industry's good practice. We need to televise the success of the industry and NGOs like @plasticfreejuly.

REDcycle's creation was one of necessity. Australia needed to address its plastic addiction. Perhaps REDcycle's wind-up order can catalyse policy change, be a platform to engage the public, increase positive sentiment around recycling and highlight to Australians that we cannot keep consuming plastic at the rate that we are.

A road map is expected to be released detailing the resumption of soft plastics recovery in Australia. Let's hope its destination does not see us arrive at the same point that we are at now- consuming record amounts of plastic and hoping something will be made from it.



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## SUSTAINABILITY IN SCHOOLS

Reece Sighcal, Recycle Right's adorable mascot, is now on a trial run at a local school. He is appearing on their screens in a digital lesson to teach our children about FOGO and how to minimise contamination.

More lessons are being formulated so that students can learn about waste and sustainability in an engaging manner. Keep abreast of Reece and his educational ways on our YouTube channel!



## 40% GENERAL WASTE REDUCTION!



Cottesloe's recent uptake of the FOGO three-bin system has seen a massive reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill. By going FOGO, Cottesloe are now recycling their kitchen waste with their garden and organic waste. This has seen a 40 percent reduction in their general waste. That is right, 40 percent of Cottesloe's waste, that was previously going to landfill, is now being composted and returned to our soil!

The team at Western Metro Regional Council and the residents of the Town of Cottesloe have showcased to the rest of the State the benefits of FOGO and how moving to the three-bin system reduces waste, prepares us for net-zero 2050 and returns vital nutrients to our soil! Let's hope more Councils jump on the FOGO hype train.

[Watch the video here](#)

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