

GUIDE TO ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FOR PRODUCE VENDORS

This guide is to assist produce vendors to transition away from single-use plastic. The main items we are looking to eliminate are plastic bags, soft plastic wrapping, plastic containers and produce netting.

Note that it is always better to choose **REUSABLE** alternatives wherever possible. Of course this is not always feasible, so we recommend using 100% certified compostable products for take away where needed.

When sourcing these, be wary of products labelled only as 'biodegradable' or 'degradable'. This does **NOT** mean the same thing as compostable, and may be a plastic product. Always ensure you are purchasing 100% certified compostable. Where there is the option to do so, try to choose natural products (such as paper, bagasse, cardboard, wood, palm or bamboo). You can find information and catalogues to help you at www.plasticfreenoosa.org/suppliers.

plastic carry bags



Reusable Options

- Don't provide plastic bags, instead sell reusable cloth bags (these can be branded).
- Offer a borrow / return cloth bag service for regulars who forget their bags (for markets).

Disposable Options

Ask if customers really need a bag, many will have their own bag they can use. If a takeaway option is needed, provide sustainably sourced paper bags (can be branded) or recycled cardboard boxes.

soft plastic wrapping (including barrier bags)

This is any kind of plastic that you can scrunch, commonly used in the form of barrier bags to store produce (sometimes with a plastic tape at the top) and as a clear wrapping for consumables.



Reusable Options

Sell reusable mesh or cotton bags and encourage your customers to reuse them. These can be branded. You could offer regular customers a small discount when they bring back to reuse.

Disposable Options

Use home compostable barrier bags (good), or paper bags (better). Ensure compostable bags are certified to **Australian HOME compostable standard AS5810** (this is the only acceptable standard for barrier bags). Ensure plastic tape is not used around the top of the bags.



If any of your soft plastic is pre-packed before you receive it and you do not have control over the packaging, we recommend talking to your supplier and see if they can provide you with returnable or compostable packaging.

If you think your soft plastic is unavoidable, please talk to your event/market organiser about your situation. They may ask you to instead provide signage informing customers on how to recycle soft plastic.



takeaway containers

There are many containers that can take the place of plastic wrapping. If you prefer, you could keep plastic in your display but simply pack the actual bought goods in compostable packaging.

If you are in a situation where your takeaway containers are pre-packed (e.g. strawberries) have a word to your supplier and see if you can get them in larger reusable or cardboard trays/boxes, and display them in bulk, only packing them in compostable options below. If this is not possible, please talk to your event/ market organiser about your situation.



Reusable Options

Have a collection of containers and allow customers to borrow and bring back (for markets).

Disposable Options

Provide wooden/paper/cane or other 100% compostable containers that meet home compost standard. Products made from bagasse (sugarcane) are a good option as they are strong and leak-proof. Consider using paper bags as well, these are cheaper and may suit some items. Try to source sustainable products.



net produce bags

This is the orange plastic netting that is often used to store larger or bulk items.



Reusable Options

Consider using hessian bags for bulk items, these look great on display as well. You can also use the customer's own bag.

Sell reusable cloth/hessian/string bags (these can be branded). Alternatively, offer a borrow / return bag service for regulars who forget their bags (for markets).

Disposable Options

Provide cardboard boxes. Many vendors use these and dispose of them, so if you don't have access to boxes speak to your market/ event organiser who may be able to arrange something. For smaller items, consider paper bags



Get in touch

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