



Eliminating Single Use



PLASTIC STRAWS

In most cases plastic straws are an unnecessary addition to our drinks and there are several alternatives that businesses can use. As a first step, keep straws behind the counter and only provide them to your customers on request. Celebrate your commitment to eliminating single use by advertising that you are straw free.

The ABC's War on Waste told us that in Australia we use 10 million straws every day. Straws are also the 12th most common litter item reported by Clean Up Australia.

Reusable alternatives

For drinks served to sit-down customers there are a range of reusable alternatives you can provide to your customers.

- Stainless steel – long lifetime, extreme durability, washable and recyclable at the end of life, but they have a higher initial cost.
- Glass straws – durable, washable, but higher cost than alternatives and difficult to recycle at end of life.
- Bamboo – less durable, but derived from natural product and compostable at end of life.

Recoverable single use alternatives

Some customers will still need a straw for various reasons. Recoverable single use straws are also the most cost effective for many businesses. When a reusable alternative is not available, make sure you're offering an alternative with the least environmental impact.

This will depend on the recycling stream available to your customers.

The table over the page can help you identify the best material for the recycling stream you have available.

Recycling Stream	Materials	Pros	Cons
Organics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compostable plastic (PLA) • Bamboo • Other natural fibres (wheat) • Non-lined paper straws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Fully recoverable when an organics bin is provided + Made from renewable natural materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher cost than single use plastic straws - If organics bin is not available, it goes to landfill.
Co-mingled	There are currently no single use straw options available that can be recovered through the co-mingled recycling stream		
Paper & Cardboard	There are currently no single use straw options available that can be recovered through the Paper & Cardboard recycling stream		



Suppliers

Compostable products

Biopack

<https://www.biopak.com.au/>

Vegware

<http://www.vegware.com.au/>

Pac Trading

<https://www.pactrading.com.au/>

Composting and recycling services

Check with your current waste service provider if organics composting services are available.

Or check out:

Soilco

<https://www.soilco.com.au/>

Organic Recycling Group

<http://org.com.au/>