

#RecycleRight



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the changes to recycling in the Northern Rivers?

Northern Rivers council's have launched a new

campaign called Recycle Right, which aims to

re-educate and inform our communities about

some important changes to kerbside recycling.

Please follow the below so that we can all recycle

plastic bottles and containers and Resource

2. Keep out soft plastics: This includes all plastic

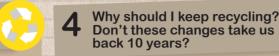
bags, even if they have a recycling symbol, are

degradable or compostable, and other soft plastics

including cling wrap, chip packets, bread bags etc.

1. Keep it simple: Only recycle paper and cardboard,

steel and aluminium cans, glass bottles and jars,







We understand some of these changes might be disappointing, they are for us too. Northern Rivers councils understand this is an important community issue and we are working hard to recycle as much as

We would rather have all of the items in our recycling bins recycled effectively, rather than sending them to

We understand recycling can get a bit confusing, so we've simplified the message to improve our recycling

We all need to do our bit and think about our own waste generation. We can begin by being responsible for waste disposal, purchasing products that include recycled content and are recyclable, and of course avoid waste where we can.

smaller than a credit card in the recycling bin?

Why can't I put items

Small items such as bottle and jar lids will often fall off during transportation or in the sorting process at the MRF. This can cause problems by jamming machinery.

Why do I have to wash containers?



Keeping recyclables clean is our main goal. Rinse out food and drink from containers before placing them in the recycling bin.

Help save water by adding empty containers to your dishwashing pile.

Why can't I put recyclables

in a paper bag or cardboard

box and put into my recycling

3. Keep out meat and biscuit trays

4. Keep out takeaway coffee cups

Recovery Collection Satchels.

- 5. Keep out small items: Any items smaller than a credit card. All lids now need to be removed from bottles and anything smaller than a credit card should be put in your landfill bin.
- 6. Keep it Safe: Keep out strapping, rope, hose, netting, wires, building materials and other hazardous materials.
- 7. Keep it Clean: Rinse or wipe out containers.
- Keep it Loose: Don't bag or box recyclables when putting them in your kerbside bin.

Why can't I put bagged soft plastics in the recycling bin anymore?



- 1. There is currently limited markets for soft plastic
- 2. They often come loose in the truck and get caught up in the other recycling streams, causing as possible, otherwise it will be rejected by the recycling markets.
- 3. They get tangled in the machines, which slows or

Our MRF machinery and staff cannot easily sort recyclable items that are boxed or bagged.

Please keep items loose in your kerbside bin to keep the system working well.

Why are these changes being made?



In recent years, most of our recycling (paper and cardboard, plastic and metal products) was sent to China for manufacturing.

In 2017, China implemented their National Sword Policy which has placed much tighter restrictions on unsorted and contaminated (incorrect/dirty) items in

The impacts of this policy have been felt worldwide and forced significant changes in the recycling market, including reduced demand and lower commodity prices for some materials.

While we are now faced with the challenge of adapting to these changes in the market, there are also many opportunities.

We are hopeful these challenges will create support for new industry, technology and innovation within Australia, along with better recycling practices.

We all need to think about the products we purchase, how much household waste we generate and how we can avoid creating waste.

There are a few reasons:

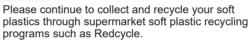
- contamination. We need our recycling to be as clean
- potentially stops the sorting process.

Is my recycling going to landfill?



No. Councils in the Northern Rivers aren't sending your recycling to landfill. Our kerbside recycling continues to go to Lismore City Council's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where it is sorted, bailed and transported to various local and international markets for recycling.

What can I do with my soft plastics now I can't put them in my yellow recycling bin?



Collection bins are located at Coles and Woolworths stores in Ballina and Alstonville.

Can I still use my resource recovery satchel in the kerbside recycling bin?



Yes. Residents can still recycle household batteries, reading glasses, corks, CDs and DVDs, X-rays, mobile phones and accessories, small electronics (eg. cameras, iPods and calculators) and printer cartridges using their Resource Recovery satchel. Satchels are available at shire libraries, council offices and the

Why can't I recycle takeaway coffee cups anymore?



The linings in some takeaway coffee cups are plastic which makes them difficult to recycle.

Our recyclers no longer accept them in the paper and cardboard stream, and now that our recyclables need to be clean they are considered to be contaminated.

We encourage residents to use reusable coffee cups or alternatively enjoy your beverage relaxing in your favourite café using their washable cups.

Can I recycle all items with a recycling symbol?

Waste Management Centre.



No. Not every item with a recycling symbol can be recycled in the Northern Rivers. Food, drink or other containers are imported and exported around the world and there isn't a global recycling symbol.

Planet Ark has developed an Australian recycling label that you will notice on products (https://planetark.org/ recyclinglabel/) but this is still not foolproof as different council areas can recycle different things.

The best thing you can do is to follow the #RecycleRight recycling routines and you can't go wrong!

Why is it important that my recycling is 'safe'?



When incorrect items are placed in the recycling bin, they can reduce the capacity of our region to recycle adequately and place a strain on the sustainability of the recycling industry.

Items like hosing, netting and strapping can jam machinery. Apart from co. ntaminati stream, they also place our Materials Recovery Facility staff at risk as they attempt to unjam machinery.

Why can't I recycle my meat and biscuit trays anymore?



Meat and biscuit trays are made from a mixed plastic and cannot be separated for recycling.

For more information

visit the Ballina Shire Council website at www.ballina.nsw.gov.au or phone Customer Service on 1300 864 444

