

Guide for reducing single-use materials

Single-use materials end up in landfill and increase our greenhouse gas emissions, not to mention the cost of the materials.

Tweed Shire Council's *Towards Zero Waste Strategy* means we don't send anything to landfill that doesn't need to be and we promote circular thinking.

This guide will give you some ideas and alternatives for replacing single use materials.

Item	Avoid	Good	Best
Plates, bowls, platters	Plastic, disposable serving ware – banned in NSW	Home compostable serving ware (but do not dispose in the green-lid organics bin)	Reusable serving ware with wash station or commercial dishwashing facilities/hire
Straws	Plastic straws	Paper or cardboard straws	Don't offer straws unless requested
Bags	Any plastic bag	Reusable bags	Fabric or woven bags, boxes or reusable containers
Cutlery	Plastic cutlery – banned in NSW	Bamboo cutlery	Reusable, washable cutlery
Water	Plastic water bottles	Reusable non-plastic, refillable bottles	BYO water bottles and refill station
Coffee cups	All disposable coffee cups and lids – must go to landfill	Mug library, cup swap system (e.g. Huskee)	BYO reusable coffee cups
Plastic wrap	Avoid plastic wrap	Paper wrap	Beeswax wraps or reusable containers
Promotional items	Avoid plastic and low-value items without that won't be kept	Functional, reusable items made from sustainable materials	Only use promotional items that add value to events
Decorations	Plastic bunting, streamers and plastic or glitter confetti	Paper decoration alternatives that can be recycled	Natural decorations such as 'leaf confetti', fabric bunting
Event accessories	Zip ties and Gaffa tape	String that can be reused	Reusable fastenings
Balloons	Avoid balloons – balloon releases banned in the Tweed	Paper chains Bubbles Crochet water balloons	Kites, seedling giveaway, paper pin wheels
Glow sticks	Single-use glow sticks	Reusable candles	Paper lanterns

These are just ideas to get you started! Create your own reusable and sustainable alternatives.