

Waste Wisdoms

Second edition

JULY 2023 - ISSUE 1

Welcome to a new round of Waste Wisdoms Newsletters for the Kensington Estate (borders Derby St, Ormond Rd, Altona St, Kensington Rd) and surrounds.

Our focus is the Circular Economy starting with **ELIMINATING WASTE and POLLUTION**. We have useful tips on reducing waste and a free giveaway.

MOVING FROM THE WASTE HIERARCHY TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Globally, countries are evolving their waste and resource recovery efforts from using the Waste Hierarchy to guide their policies and funding, to the *Circular Economy* approach.

Our global economy has created many products and services to satisfy our desires and needs at a cost to our planet and people. We have taken materials from the Earth to make products, which are then thrown out after they are finished with. This is a linear process known as 'take-make-waste', extracting resources to make 'things' then burying or burning them, polluting nature, and us.

The Circular Economy's approach is different. Rather than valuable materials going to waste and natural systems being degraded, three principles are applied.

- 🌱 Eliminate waste and pollution – through redesign of materials, products, systems, and related business model
- 🌱 Circulate products and materials – maintain, share, reuse, repair, repurpose and as a last resort, recycle
- 🌱 Regenerate nature – give nature a chance to revive, regenerate and thrive.

"Waste or pollution is an output of any "system" component that is not being used by any other component of the system."

Bill Mollison,
Founder of Permaculture

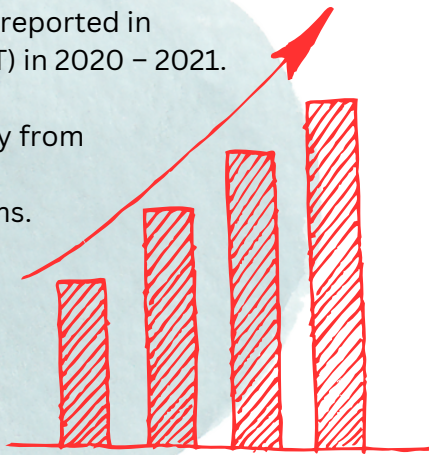
Bill Mollison encourages us to look at our own systems to reduce pollution and waste, be aware about what we bring into our homes and workplaces, design out waste and change our behaviour by thinking what the end of a product's life looks like.



OUR WASTE IS INCREASING

Australia's waste has increased from 66 million tonnes (MT) reported in 2014-2015 to 75.8 (MT) in 2020 – 2021.

This increase is mostly from Commercial and Industrial (C&I) streams.

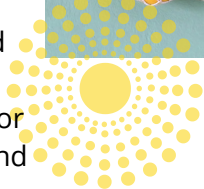


WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ELIMINATING WASTE AND POLLUTION?

In a nutshell - everyone!

Governments can activate policies and funding to assist the transition to a Circular Economy. Businesses can design out waste from supply chains, can re-examine materials they use, and be as efficient with valuable resources as possible.

We at home can manage our 'systems' by questioning our reasons for buying something and our behaviours around disposing of 'stuff'. **Try it!** Go without, share, refuse, buy second hand, look for items made from recycled materials and rent rather than buy. Buy unpackaged groceries and bulk foods. Compost using local compost hubs, rather than putting food waste in bins.



Be inspired!

The Circular Economy Show explores, investigates and showcases the latest circular design, policies and business innovation

<https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy-show/overview>

TIPS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Shop sustainably

Sustainability Victoria offers tips on how to avoid waste and shop sustainably.

<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/recycling-and-reducing-waste/at-home/avoid-waste/shop-sustainably>

Buy unpackaged groceries and bulk foods

Visit <https://by-me.com.au/australias-favourite-bulk-refill-stores/>

Refuse packaging and use refills

More and more businesses offer refills.

<https://www.rovingrefills.com.au/> is one example of a local Melbourne business offering the delivery of high-quality eco-friendly products and personal use products.

Zero waste living has a list of bulk refill stores <https://by-me.com.au/australias-favourite-bulk-refill-stores/>

Milk on tap

Since introducing *Milk in glass* three years ago, Schultz Organic Dairy has diverted approximately 26.9 tonnes of plastic from landfill. They now offer *Milk on Tap* across Melbourne through various stores.

<https://schulzorganicdairy.com.au/milk-on-tap>



Giveaway: FREE reusable bags

Visit the Unison office for a FREE Boomerang Bag, handmade by local volunteers from recycled materials to last. Take it with you when you go shopping and ditch the plastic bag. Stocks are limited. Availability is on a first-in-first-served basis.

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We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung peoples on whose land we work and deliver our services.