

# Waste Wisdoms

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**Welcome! In this edition, we focus on RECYCLING, the fourth tier on the Waste Hierarchy. We explain its role and challenges, and point out where you can recycle items. We also have another free give-away for you, and more.**

## RECYCLE RIGHT

***Recycling is the process of collecting and processing certain materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and converting them to new products.***

From creating new jobs to reducing the need for new raw materials and lowering the number of things we send to landfill, recycling has many benefits both for our community and the environment.

Victorian councils collected 580,000 tonnes of recyclables from households in 2017-18, equivalent to 230 kilograms per household.

However, recycling is not without its challenges. Contamination is one of the main challenges of mixed recycling. When the wrong items (such as plastic bags or clothing) are placed in the recycling bins, this results in contamination. Recycling facilities cannot separate certain items, and this can mean a whole load of recycling may be sent to landfill. In Victoria, the contamination rate is an average of 10.4%.

We all have a responsibility to recycle right, by putting the correct items in the correct bin.

To help our Kensington Estate community, Unison has partnered with the City of Melbourne to install new signage in bin rooms across the Estate. The posters show what can and can't go into the yellow recycling bins. There is also a Recycle Right FAQ available if you want to learn more and help reduce contamination in recycling. Please contact the Unison office.

Remember recycling is only fourth on the waste hierarchy, so it's best to actively REFUSE, REDUCE AND REUSE before RECYCLING.

***While recycling is a good endeavour, it is better to prevent waste in the first place.***



## GIVEAWAY: FREE REUSABLE BAGS

Come and see us at the Unison office to get a free Boomerang Bag!

Sewn locally by volunteers, Boomerang Bags are handmade, one-of-a-kind fabric bags that are made from recycled material. Take them with you when you go shopping and ditch the plastic bag.

Stocks are limited and availability is on a first in, first served basis.



## 6 THINGS THAT YOU CAN RECYCLE, BUT NOT IN YOUR YELLOW BIN!

- 1 Soft plastics (like bread bags, bubble wrap, cling wrap, rice and pasta bags, plastic bags, etc.) can be recycled at Coles and Woolworths.
- 2 Printer cartridges, phones, batteries, computers, laptops and pens can be recycled at Officeworks.
- 3 Electronic waste (E-Waste) including light bulbs can be recycled at Citywide (437 Dynon Road) and smaller items at the Kensington Town Hall.
- 4 Bread bag tags and plastic lids can be recycled at the Kensington Neighbourhood House.
- 5 Glasses can be recycled at Specsavers.
- 6 Medicines can be recycled at any pharmacy.

## MAKE FINGERLESS GLOVES BY RECYCLING AN OLD JUMPER

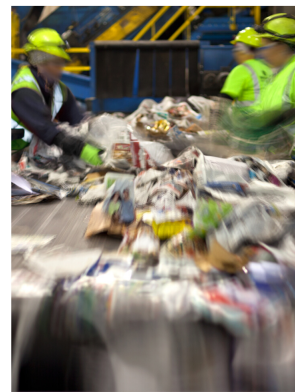
- Lay your jumper on a flat surface, measure 20cm wide and 30cm long, cut both layers out together. Take one piece, fold in half inside out, use your hand to determine where the thumb holes should be. Pin the seam together leaving 2cm for the thumb hole.
- Use a needle and thread and sew a straight stitch up the side. When you get to the thumb hole, backstitch for extra strength, sew one side of the thumb hole then backstitch a couple of stitches, continue sewing to the top, do a couple of more backstitches.
- Stitch the other side of the thumb hole and the top of the glove. Repeat for the second glove.



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## RECYCLING: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

For most of us, recycling is about what we can recycle from our waste. Less is known about what happens to recycled waste once collected and sorted. As this part is run mostly by private business, sorted recycling isn't remanufactured until a buyer is found for those materials.



Until 2018, a major buyer was China when it stopped taking nearly half the world's recycling for its growing manufacturing base. China imposed an import ban because supplies did not meet new standards with nearly a third of unusable stock ending up in landfills or the ocean.

Further, as the world struggled to find new markets recycled materials locally were stockpiled, burnt or again sent to landfill. In Victoria, local councils also increased costs for kerbside recycling by nearly 50%.

Recycling whilst important in the waste hierarchy needs more attention. It needs better technologies for sorting and recovering materials, more products incorporating these resources and new markets driving demand. Remanufacturing of recyclables will only happen if it is profitable otherwise it becomes another form of waste.

### REPAIR TO REUSE

The next repair pop up is coming to Kensington Town Hall for jewelry, clothing, small wooden, miscellaneous items and bike repairs, on Sunday 27 June, 11am to 3pm. Put the date in your diary and bring items to repair and reuse!



We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work and deliver our services.

