

BE BIN SMART ROLLOUT TOOLKIT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Campus Environment Division

Environmental Management Plan 2022-25



Australian
National
University



What's in this toolkit?

This toolkit has been designed to support the rollout of the new bin setup being gradually implemented across ANU from 2025.

Building managers and custodians will find information about what is changing in terms of infrastructure and accompanying signage.

Staff and students can find clear information on how to sort waste correctly on campus, contributing to ANU's sustainability goals.

It includes practical tips and downloadable resources to reduce waste and improve recycling outcomes.

1. Why this matters

2. Our goals - Environmental Management Plan
2022-25

3. Opportunities to increase our resource
recovery

4. Resource Recovery and Waste Streams

5. Signage

6. Communications - Characters

7. Actions and helpful resources



1. Why it is important to rethink what we're doing

Smart resource recovery and waste management are essential to addressing global challenges such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. They are a strategic responsibility we share across the University.

This means keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible through reuse, repair, recycling and composting. It's not just about managing waste at the end of its life; it's about embedding circular thinking, maintaining material value, and slowing the loop across all operations.

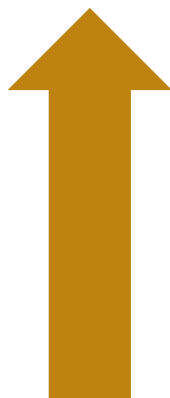
At ANU, we believe we can and must do our best to reduce our environmental impact across our operations to research and teaching.

Sustainability speaks to our mission and our values:

We are committed to better outcomes for our society, the environment, our nation and the world.



2. Our goals for a more sustainable campus



Increase resource recovery from landfill to 65%

We want nearly two-thirds of our waste to be recycled, reused or composted, not sent to landfill.

Less waste = less raw materials needed, more materials and items recirculated, gained efficiency, less pollution, better outcomes for people, nature and climate



Reduce landfill waste per person by 45% to 30kg per person

We are aiming to nearly halve how much waste each person at ANU sends to landfill.

Every small action helps reduce our environmental footprint.

*These targets are part of Dhaagun, our [Environmental Management Plan \(2022-2025\)](#).
'Dhaagun' refers to the earth and environment in the local Walgalu (Ngambri) and Wiradjuri languages.*



3.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DO IT BETTER

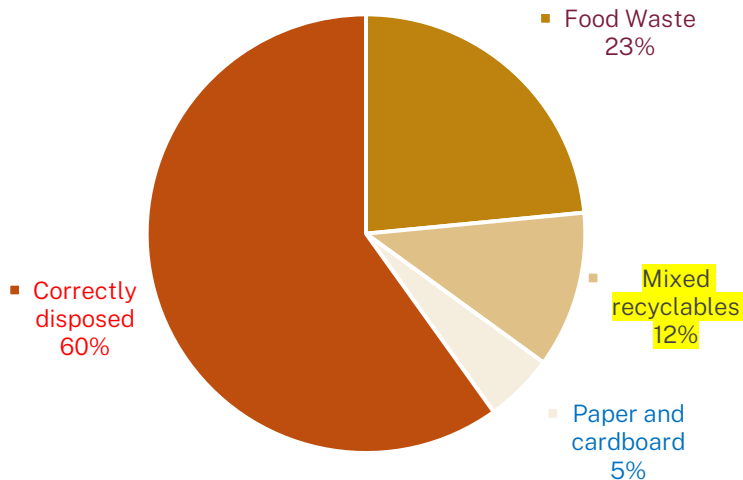


Opportunities to increase our resource recovery

Each year ANU Green hosts waste audits with our waste management company. In 2024, four buildings were targeted, and waste from a 24-hour period was sorted and composition analysed.

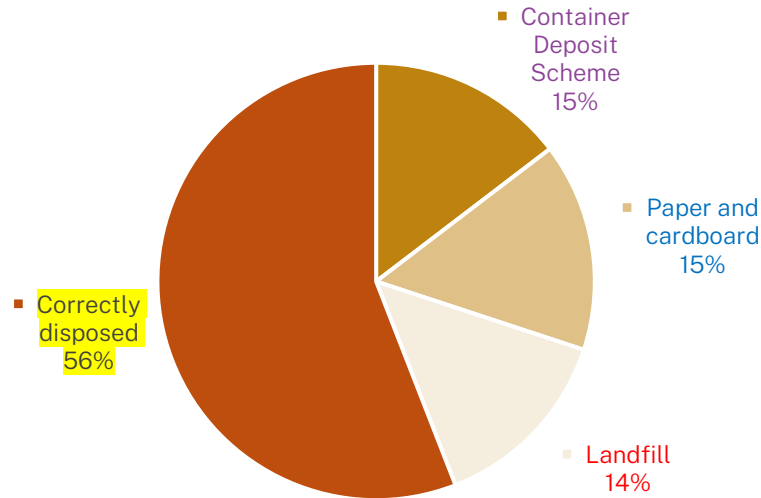
The audit found large amounts of food waste and mixed recyclable in landfill:

Composition of audited landfill bins



The audit found landfill items in the mixed recycling bin exceeding the 5% contamination threshold.

Composition of audited mixed recyclable bins

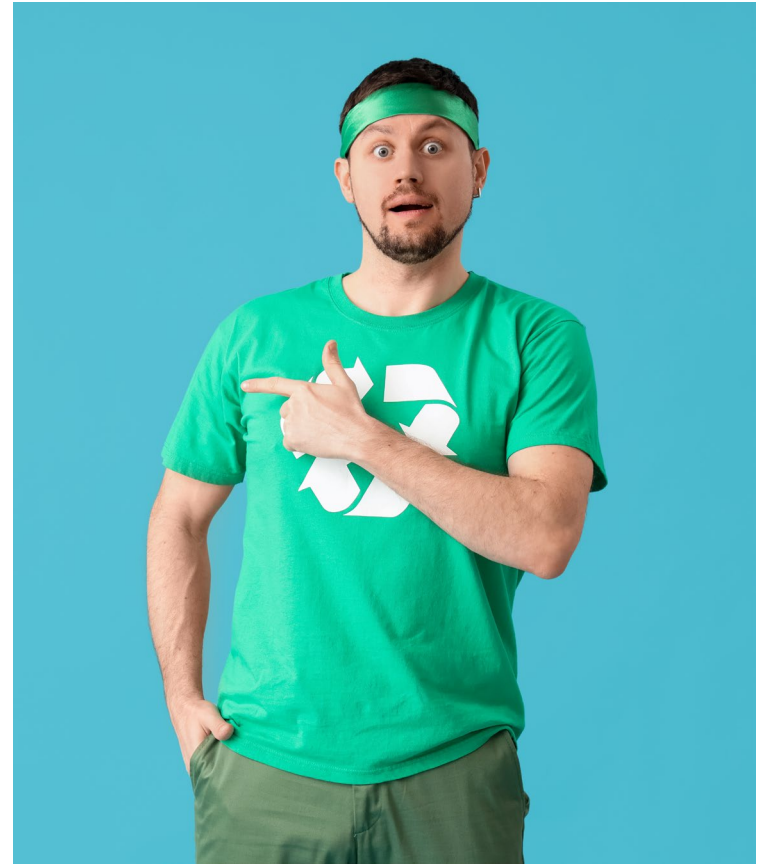


Opportunities to do it better

Campus Environment Division led activities

- Update infrastructure with new bins setup
- Update signage to reduce confusion about what goes into each bin
- Educational activities accompanying rollout and during key periods (e.g. start of semester)
- Ongoing engagement with area managers, building custodians and our community
- Track changes: transparency of recovery and diversion data to create shared understanding and responsibility
- Progress towards our goals reported annually in our Environmental Sustainability Reports.

Photo: Adobe Stock



Opportunities to do it better

Activities led by your area/local area

- Engage with Campus Environment on phases 1 to 3 of the rollout
- Plan how you are going to use your own communication channels to let your community be ready for the new bins. (Comms pack provided by Campus Environment)
- Monitor and liaise with Campus Environment after rollout bringing feedback and questions from your community that can help us improve the program.
- Lead by example and familiarise yourself with what goes in each bin
- Track progress towards increasing resource recovery and diversion from landfill and plan periodic activities to refresh knowledge and motivation.
- Encourage your community to participate in One Small Step for sustainability action challenges.

Photo: Adobe Stock



Opportunities to do it better

As individuals

- Reduce waste whenever you can by using your own reusable cup, cutlery and containers
- Always check the posters before chucking
- Engage with our campaigns and events
- Participate in sustainable action by joining One Small Step challenges individually or in teams
- Help out when you see someone confused about where to dispose something
- Call out when you see someone consistently chucking things in the wrong bin
- Join your neighbourhood or ANU Buy Nothing Group
- Join the ANU Green Network for second life office furniture
- Start conversations about how you can reuse, reduce and recycle better with your team and local area.

Photo: Adobe Stock



4.

RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE STREAMS



The future of resource recovery and waste at ANU



In 2025, ANU is starting a staged rollout of new bin setups to help us recover what has reuse and recycling value, diverting them from landfill.

A pilot program was completed in the Marie Reay Teaching Centre in the first half of 2025 and learnings have been incorporated into our work.

The new system has five distinct bins and updated signage to increase knowledge and confidence in our community about where to dispose of their items.

With our staged rollout, you may still see some of the red/yellow bins around Campus for a while.



10c
REFUNDABLE



LANDFILL



FOOD
ONLY



OTHER
RECYCLING



PAPER &
CARDBOARD

What goes in each bin?

Current setup	New setup – For community	New setup - For cleaners
Yellow Co-mingle recycling 	10c – Return-It containers – purple lid 90L bin 	Purple wheelie bins (To be provided) Yellow skip bins in the interim
	Mixed recycling – white lid 90L bins 	Yellow skip bins
	Paper & Cardboard* – blue lid 90L bins 	Blue skip bins
Red General Waste 	Landfill – red lid 90L bins 	Red skip bins
	Food Only* – burgundy bins (90L or caddies) 	Burgundy wheelie bins
Generic bins	To be removed, all waste to be disposed of in the new bins	
Licensed waste	Out of scope for these changes 	



5.

SIGNAGE



10c Refundable

Items for 10c Refundable containers:

- Cans (aluminium or steel)
- Cartons (flavoured milk and juice boxes)
- Glass and plastic bottles – take the lids off.

Remember:

- Always check if the container has the 10c marking before putting it in this bin.
- Ensure the container is empty before depositing.
- Proceeds from your deposits at the ANU CDS machine at MRTC are donated to charity.



10c RETURN IT

10c 返金可能な容器 10c Envases Reembolsables
10c वापास 10c 可退还容器 Wadah Refundable 10c

Look for the 10c refund mark. ✓

Cartons
Cans
Bottles

10c

Proceeds from your deposits fund environmental projects. Or you can go to any ACT CDS return points to keep the refund.

Scan for more info on eligible containers:

ANU Green 2003



Other Recycling

Items for Non-refundable containers:

- Foil and plastic containers – remove food solids and sauce/oil first.
- Plastic or glass bottles or jars like milk and juice containers (check the item can't go in the 10c refundable bins first).
- Canned food containers – remove all food solids and juice/oil first.
- All other recycling.

MIXED RECYCLING मिश्रित पुनर्चक्रण 其他のリサイクル 其他可回收容器 Otros reciclables Wadah daur ulang lainnya

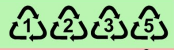
Hard plastics 

Glass and cartons 

Foil and tins/cans 

NO Coffee cups, lids or brown food containers 

Is it plastic? Did you know not all plastic can be recycled? Check the numbers on the container:

Yes!  No! 

Empty containers to reduce contamination.
If in doubt, put it in the **Red Landfill** bin.

Find out more about recycling at ANU 

ANU Green 3/2023



Food Organics

Items for Food organics:

- Food scraps and leftovers
- Fruit scraps and peels (citrus and onion is okay to include at ANU!)
- Loose tea leaves (NO tea bags)
- Coffee grounds
- NO tea bags
- NO serviettes, tissues, paper towels or paper packaging
- NO wooden and bamboo cutlery
 - These fibre-based materials are not composted in our partner facility

FOOD ONLY

Limbah Makanan 食品廃棄物 厨余垃圾
Basura Orgánica भोजन का कचरा

Only what you eat goes in here.

NO teabags, serviettes, tissues, wooden cutlery or food containers.

Put them in the **landfill bin**.

Find out more about recycling at ANU

ANU Green 1001



Landfill

Items for landfill:

- Dirty food packs and blister packs
- Coffee cups (no lids)
- Tea bags
- Wooden and bamboo cutlery, paper towel and tissues
- Plastic bags and soft plastics
- Broken glass and crockery

No Food scraps, coffee grounds or loose tea leaves – these should go in the maroon food organics bin.

LANDFILL

If in doubt, throw it out here.

Tempat Pembuangan Akhir
Relleno Sanitario 埋立地
अन्य कचरा 填埋垃圾



Coffee cups, lids and teabags



Wooden cutlery, paper tissues and serviettes



Soft plastics, food and blister packs and broken glass



Food? Put it in the **FOOD ONLY** bin to turn it into compost! Look for the one closest to you.

Find out more about recycling at ANU





Paper & Cardboard

Items for Paper and cardboard:

- Clean food packaging
 - Coffee trays
 - Paper boxes plates and bowls
 - Clean cardboard: boxes, files, packages
 - Office paper, paper envelopes
 - Newspaper and magazines
- NO greasy pizza box or stained brown bag**

PAPER & CARDBOARD

कागज और कार्डबोर्ड 紙と段ボール
Kertas dan Karton 纸张和纸板 Papel y Cartón

Clean papers and cardboard packaging ✓

NO tissues or serviettes
NO coffee cups or brown food containers

If your item is **dirty or oily**, put it in the **Red Landfill** bin.

Find out more about recycling at ANU



6. COMMUNICATIONS



Email

To be sent to building occupants once confirmation of scheduling is received

Hi [add local area team],

ANU is rolling out a new 5-bin waste system across campus. This is a key action in the Environmental Management Plan 2022-2025, aimed to increase resource recovery by 65% and reduce landfill waste per person by 45%.

From XX [add date and Month] you'll notice the new bin setup in our building. The system includes **five clearly labelled bins and signage** to help everyone sort waste correctly:

- 10c Refundables (Purple lid bin),
- Landfill (Red lid bin),
- Food Only (Burgundy lid bin),
- Other Recycling (White lid bin) and
- Paper & Cardboard (Blue lid bin).

To support the change, we've developed a **Be Bin Smart Toolkit** with:

- What's changing and why it matters
- Bin signage and sorting guides
- Simple actions you can take
- Communication resources for your area

The toolkit is attached to this email. [attach this toolkit to email]

If you have questions, or if you're interested in scheduling a rollout in your building, please contact **ANU Green** at anugreen@anu.edu.au.

Thanks for helping us reduce waste and improving our environmental impact.

Regards,

[Add your name and signature]



Bin Appetit Exhibit

Bin Appétit is a waste education exhibition that brings our bins to life with their big personalities and strict dietary restrictions.

Each bin is personified as a character with a distinct identity and a very particular "diet". They do not take kindly to contamination.

Meet a cast of quirky characters, from left to right: Barry Stahr, Ten Cent, Lanny Fillmore, Chef Scrappe, Flex Gainnes and Paige Sheetz.

The exhibit is part of the rollout and is to be set in the foyers of the buildings receiving the new bins for engagement activities during implementation week.

If you want to use the characters in your comms, reach out to ANU Green.



MEET THE ARTIST

About Me

BIN APPÉTIT

TEN CENT

ABOUT ME

S'up, I'm 10 Cent, not that rapper, I got better flow and a refund swaggar. I get paid for bottles, that's facts, not flex. Street smart. Bin wise. Circular certified, no lies. If I don't say 10c, then keep it movin', I only roll with the marked and proven. Keep your scraps, your cups, your guilt-trip truck, I'm here for the shine, and the pay-back stack.

BIO

Diet
10centarian.
Anything with 10c in the package.

Colour
Purple

Favourite Food
Cans, bottles, juice boxes

LOVES

I've got mad love for crisp aluminium beats and clean bottle drops, none of that sticky drama. Give me a can that sings when it hits the bin, and I'll give you respect.

I live for that ka-ching sound of redemption, and nothing gets me going like a label that says "10c refund", that's real currency, mate.

ALLERGIC TO

Anything without the 10c mark

Coffee cups. (I know my value.)

NOI

Bottles that still got pulp "Just finish it mate."

”

I'M A CLEAN, MEAN, TEN-CENT MACHINE.

Ⓢ

FROM BIN TO BLING

BE BIN SMART

10C REFUNDABLE

ANU GREEN

MEET THE ARTIST

About Me

BIN APPÉTIT

BARRY STAHR

ABOUT ME

Call me Barry Stahr. Barista-built. Purpose-defined. Fitzroy born, Braddon soul. Pour-over heart in a long black robe. Flat white feelings, double-shot mood, I don't do snacks. I don't want food. Not compost. Not cans. Not your late-night regret. Just vessels of caffeine and poetic debt. So sip, sort, drop with flair. Leave your cup, I'll take it from there.

BIO

Diet
Coffee cups and lids only.

Colour
Black

Favourite Food
Any caffeinated cup. But decaf can also go.

LOVES

I don't do rage. I don't do rot. I take your caps, lids too, why not? I live for oat flat whites, indie jazz, and coffee cup drops that land like spoken word. The soft thunk of a latte cup entering my bin? That's poetry, darling. But if it's half full, lukewarm, and still foaming from your existential crisis? I'll still accept it... but I won't make eye contact.

ALLERGIC TO

Other drinks or food

NOI

People who don't drink all of their coffees.

Double-shot drama of complaining being bin smart is hard.

”

I'M MORE THAN A BIN, I'M A CONCEPT.

Ⓢ

POURS COLD BREW OVER YOUR MISTAKES (SYMBOLICALLY)

BE BIN SMART

COFFEE CUPS & LIDS

ANU GREEN



MEET THE ARTIST

About Me

BIN APPÉTIT

LANNY FILLMORE

ABOUT ME

I'm Lanny. I take what no one else will. I'm the endgame. I've seen things... soft plastics, glitter glue, a broken ukulele once.

I'm grumpy, tired, constantly overfed. I dream of a leaner diet. I'm not saying I'm bitter... but I do run on disappointment and stale chip crumbs.

BIO

Diet
The leftovers of waste.

Colour
Red

Favourite Food
Not picky, but gets gassy easily.

LOVES

I love the things no one else can deal with, snack wrappers, glitter bombs, mystery objects from your desk drawer purge. That single sock? Sure. A fork with "biodegradable" vibes but zero commitment? Fine. I'll take it. I mean, why try when you can just throw it at me and walk away?

ALLERGIC TO

Anything recyclable, compostable, or remotely redeemable

People who just yeet stuff into me, just try ok?

People who go "It's fine, right?"

BE BIN SMART

LANDFILL

ANU GREEN

MEET THE ARTIST

About Me

BIN APPÉTIT

CHEF SCRAPPE

ABOUT ME

I'm as passionate as I can be running a Michelin-star kitchen in a bin. I'm a culinary genius, constantly finding off impostor ingredients and emotional garnish. I take food scraps very seriously, everything else, slightly less so. Cling wrap? That's a personal attack. And my bin? Call it Le Compost. Respect it, or kindly remove yourself from my kitchen.

BIO

Diet
Compostarian. Local. Organic

Colour
Burgundy

Favourite Food
Seasonal. Absolutely no plastic garnish.

LOVES

I craft life from scraps. It's called art, darling. Inspiration strikes after the lunch rush, when bins reveal their secrets: a lonely crust, a bruised pear, a perfectly curled carrot peel. Some see waste, I see potential. But a coffee cup? A tea bag with string? Ugh. I shan't compost in these conditions!

ALLERGIC TO

Compostable packaging

Wooden cutlery and paper tissues

Tea bags and plastic wraps

BE BIN SMART

FOOD ONLY

ANU GREEN

23

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT – BE BIN SMART

9-OCT-25

TEQSA PROVIDER ID: PRV12002 (AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY) CRICOS PROVIDER CODE: 00120C

MEET THE ARTIST

About Me

BIN APPÉTIT

FLEX GAINNES

ABOUT ME

Yo, I'm Flex. I sort. I shred. I recycle. My ideal date is rinsing hummus tubs under a cold tap and talking MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) stats. Gym enthusiast turned binfluencer. Obsessed with emptiness (my containers, not my soul). I keep it clean(s), dry, and sorted like my protein drawer.

BIO

Diet
Clean and lean
recyclables.

Colour
White or sometimes yellow

Favourite Food
Rinsed jars, lean plastics, protein shake containers (empty, mate).

LOVES

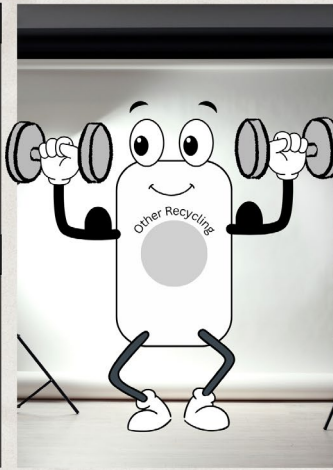
Call me Flex. I like my bins how I like my macros: balanced and mostly empty. You don't need to deep-clean your peanut butter jar, just don't leave me a full spoon's worth and act like we're cool. I'm all about efficient effort, clean form, and gains that don't gum up the system.

ALLERGIC TO


Coffee cups make me spew!


Entire pizza boxes ("No oily bits and scraps!")


People who say "it'll sort itself out"



”

NO DIRTY BULKING.
ONLY CLEAN
RECYCLABLES, MATE!

Ⓢ

WISHCYCLING?
("DON'T JUST YOLO
IT IN HERE, MATE.")

BE BIN SMART

ANU GREEN

MEET THE ARTIST	About Me	BIN APPÉTIT
PAIGE SHEETZ		
ABOUT ME <i>Calm, minimalist, always seeking balance. Zen master of decluttering. I live by the three-fold path: Flat, Dry, Recyclable. I levitate in disappointment. Ring a tiny meditation bell and whisper "Incorrect sorting disrupts the flow." Performs a perfect Marie Kondo fold on a rogue newspaper.</i> BIO Diet <i>Fiber, lots of paper fibre.</i> Colour <i>Blue</i> Favourite Food <i>Dry, clean, uncoated paper & cardboard.</i>		LOVES <i>I love the crisp serenity of flattened cardboard. The quiet dignity of a well-sorted pamphlet. A dry paper scrap, gently folded, not crumpled in panic. I find joy in clean corrugation, symmetry, and the soft whisper of an envelope without plastic windows. Honestly, it's the least you could do and I mean that literally. Less waste. Maximum peace.</i> ALLERGIC TO Paper towels and tissues Soyled or oily cardboard ("Grease is emotional clutter.") NO <i>People who shove in whole boxes ("Respect the fold.")</i>
	” FLATTEN YOUR CHAOS. THEN PLACE IT GENTLY.	Ⓢ LET GO OF THE GREASE. EMBRACE THE FOLD.
BE BIN SMART	* PAPER & CARDBOARD *	ANU GREEN

Bin Appetit Exhibit at Marie Reay Teaching Centre, July 2025



7.

ACTIONS AND RESOURCES



Actions you can take and helpful resources

Before the rollout:

- Area directors, managers or building custodians: Contact the ANU Green and Campus Support teams for rollout scheduling via ANUgreen@anu.edu.au.
- Other staff: If you want these bins to be rolled out in your building, reach out to your area manager or building custodian so that they can contact us for scheduling.
- Familiarise yourself with our [Posters](#)
- Use reusable keep cups, drink bottles, cutlery and containers wherever possible
- Food prep and bring your own food in reusable containers to avoid waste
- Use the [ANU Green Network Second-Life Furniture Channel](#) or [ANU Buy Nothing Facebook Group](#) to give items a second home.
- Use battery disposal towers and [E-waste disposal program](#)

During and after rollout:

- Check out our [Posters](#) in your office, common area or at your next event.
- Start conversations in your building about the new setup and how you can collectively improve resource recovery and maximise your landfill diversion rate.
- Always check before you chuck it.
- Ensure recyclables are free from contamination: ensure cardboard is clean; cans, plastic and glass containers are free from scraps, oils and juices before disposing. If possible, give them a rinse.
- Prioritise reuse wherever you can



GET IN TOUCH

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