BE BIN SMART ROLLOUT

TOOLKIT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Campus Environment Division

Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026-2030

Version: 13 August 2026

Australian National University

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CRICOS PROVIDER CODE: 00120C

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 Sustainability Plan 2026-30
3. Opportunities to increase our resource recovery
4. Resource Recovery and Waste Streams
5. Signage
6. Communications - Characters
7. Actions and helpful resources

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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.

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2. Our goals for a more sustainable campus

Divert 50% of waste across both non-residential areas and student residences from landfill by 2030.

We want half 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 emissions from waste to landfill by 55% by 2030 (2024 base year).

We are aiming to more than half the emissions from waste we send to landfill.

Every small action helps reduce our environmental footprint.

These targets are part of our Environmental Management Plan 2026-2030.

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3. OPPORTUNITIES TO DO IT BETTER

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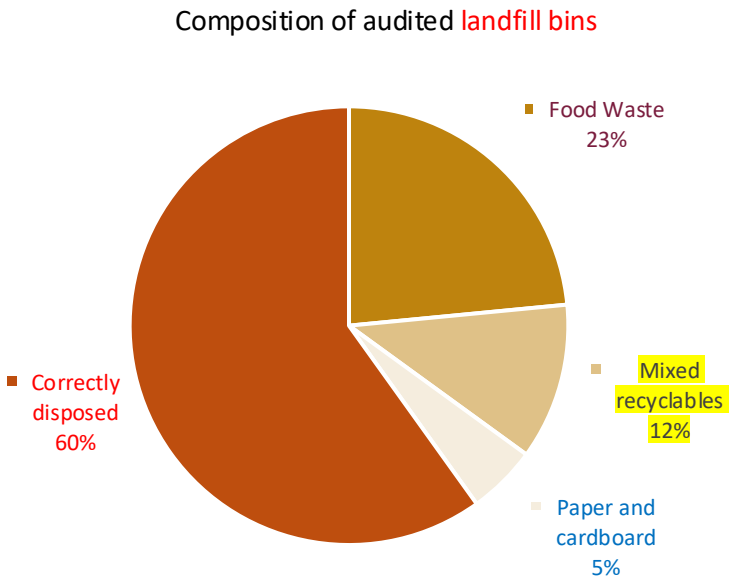
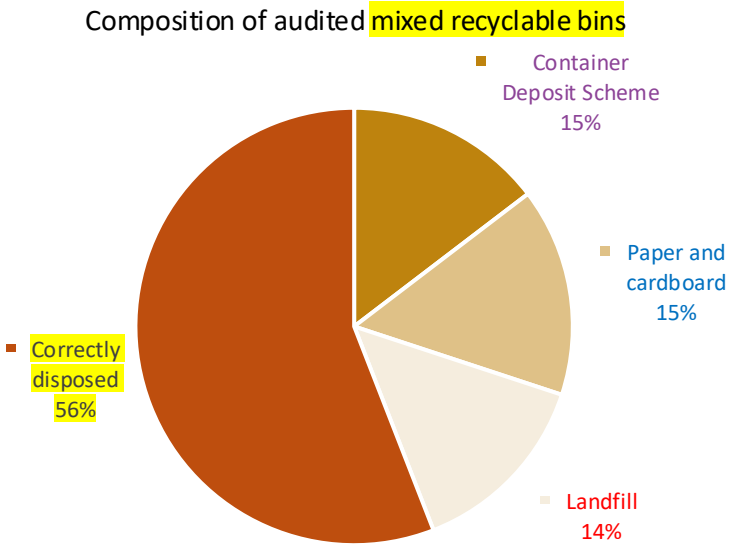
Opportunities to increase our resource recovery

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:



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



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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

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Opportunities to do it better

Activities led by your area/local area

- 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 support each other to reduce contamination of streams and improve our diversion rates.

Photo: Adobe Stock

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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 disposing
- Engage with our campaigns and events
- 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

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4. RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE STREAMS

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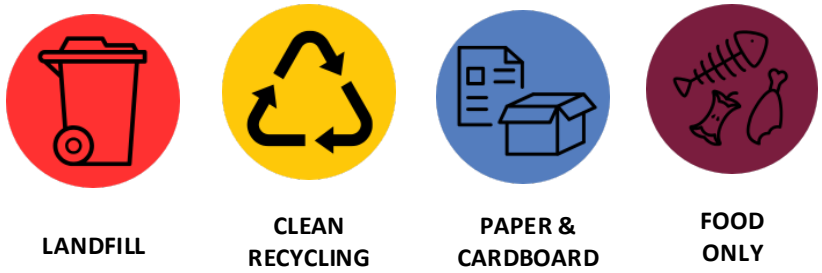
The future of resource recovery and waste at ANU

In 2025, ANU commenced 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.

Most areas will receive the new system with four distinct bins and updated signage to increase knowledge and confidence in our community about where to dispose of their items.

You may still see some duo red/yellow setups with around Campus.



LANDFILL | **CLEAN RECYCLING** | **PAPER & CARDBOARD** | **FOOD ONLY**

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What goes in each bin?

Current setup	**New setup**
Yellow Co-mingle recycling	Clean recycling – white lid 90L bins
	Paper & Cardboard* – blue lid 90L bins
Red General Waste	Landfill – red lid 90L bins
	Food Only* – burgundy bins (90L or caddies)
Generic bins	To be removed, all waste to be disposed of in the new bins
Licensed waste	Out of scope for these changes

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5. SIGNAGE

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Clean Recycling

Items for mixed recycling 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.

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Food Only

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

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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**.

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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

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6. COMMUNICATIONS

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Email

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

Hi [add local area team],

ANU is rolling out a new 4-bin waste system across campus. This is a key action in the Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026-2030, aimed to divert 50% of waste from landfill and reduce emissions from waste to landfill by 55%, by 2030.

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

- **Landfill (Red lid bin),**
- **Food Only (Burgundy lid bin),**
- **Mixed Recycling (yellow 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]

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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, 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.

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Meet the characters

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

NO!

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

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

"I'M NOT ANGRY. JUST DISAPPOINTED. AND FULL."

RUNS ENTIRELY ON RAGE AND THE TEARS OF SUSTAINABLE DREAMERS.

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 fending 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

"MY BIN IS A TEMPLE. IF IT'S NOT FOOD, IT'S NOT GOING IN."

NOT A TIP! I ONLY ACCEPT FOOD. REAL FOOD.

BE BIN SMART ⊛ FOOD ONLY ⊛ ANU GREEN

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Meet the characters

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 bin fluencer. Obsessed with emptiness (my containers, not my soul). I keep it clean(ish), 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!")

NO!

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 ✱ OTHER RECYCLING ✱ ANU GREEN

MEET THE ARTIST

About Me

BIN APPÉTIT

PAIGE SHEETZ

ABOUT ME

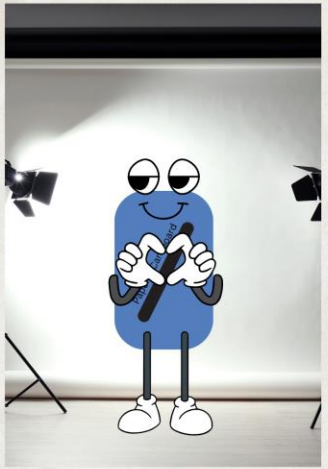
Calm, minimalist, always seeking balance. Zen master of decluttering. I live by the three-fold path: Flat, Dry, Recyclable. I levitate in disappointment. Ring a tiny meditation bell and whisper "Incorrect sorting disrupts the flow." Performs a perfect Marie Kondo fold on a rogue newspaper.

BIO

Diet
Fiber, lots of paper fibre.

Colour
Blue

Favourite Food
Dry, clean, uncoated paper & cardboard.



LOVES

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.

ALLERGIC TO

Paper towels and tissues

Soiled or oily cardboard ("Grease is emotional clutter.")

NO!

People who shove in whole boxes ("Respect the fold.")

"FLATTEN YOUR CHAOS. THEN PLACE IT GENTLY."

"LET GO OF THE GREASE. EMBRACE THE FOLD."

BE BIN SMART ✱ PAPER & CARDBOARD ✱ ANU GREEN

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Meet the characters

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Bin Appetit Exhibit at Marie Reay Teaching Centre, July 2025

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7. ACTIONS AND RESOURCES

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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

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GET IN TOUCH

E: anugreen@anu.edu.au

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