

What's happening around Campbelltown

Kitchen caddy roll out

The roll out of the kitchen caddies is complete!



This project aims to get all our food waste out of the blue bin and stop it going to landfill which has enormous benefits for our environment. Sending this material to be composted contributes to carbon storage in our soils while making those soils far more biologically active and productive.

Food that goes to landfill not only shortens the lifespan of the landfill by filling it faster, it also creates methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times as potent as carbon dioxide, and can contribute to the development of toxic leachates that can contaminate soils and groundwater.

Sending all our food waste to be composted also saves large amounts of money. It costs at least five times as much to dispose of general waste compared to sending organic material to be composted.

Some people get concerned about placing food in their green bin, because it only gets collected fortnightly, and they are worried about smells and attracting vermin but there are many things you can do to minimise that risk.

Lining the bin with newspaper and/or adding shredded paper helps absorb any moisture. Using the compostable liners also helps with containing and minimising odours, and placing other organic waste, such as leaves, prunings or lawn clippings, on top of the food will assist as well.

The new caddies are made from 100% recycled material and come with a roll of 150 compostable liners. Make sure you put your sticker with the month of your delivery on your caddy to remind you when you are due to pick up your annual free roll.

The caddies were delivered by community volunteers and contractors during August, September and October as part of our "Give an Hour" project which is aimed at people who would like to volunteer but have limited time to commit.

Any questions please contact Council at: mail@campbelltown.sa.gov.au or on 8366 9222.



E-waste drop-off

Did you know that Campbelltown's free e-waste drop-off facility only accepts particular items?

They are:

- * Televisions
- * Computers, notebooks, tablets
- * Printers, multi-function devices
- * Associated equipment (keyboards, mice, hard drives, cables)



Electronic and electrical items that are not accepted at the works depot are able to be taken to the following free drop-off points:

- **Unplug'n'Drop** - anything electrical as well as printer and toner cartridges

Closest location - Bunnings at Windsor Gardens or others can be found at:

www.electronicrecyclingaustralia.com.au/unplug-n-drop/where/

- **Mobile Muster** - mobile phone collection points are at the Campbelltown Library at 171 Montacute Rd, Newton or Council Administration building at 172 Montacute Rd, Rostrevor

- **E-cycle SA**, 12-14 Boulderstone Road, Gepps Cross - accepts microwaves, vacuum cleaners, hairdryers, toasters, irons, kettles, stereos, game consoles and cords.

Have a computer still in working order that is now excess to requirements? ITShare SA Inc. refurbishes discarded or donated computers, parts and peripherals to provide at low cost to those who can't afford new. Their team of volunteers accept donations of computers from businesses, institutions and individuals. They can be contacted on Mondays and Tuesdays on 8339 3116.

For further information on anything waste related visit:

www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/services/waste or call Customer Service on 8366 9222

And further afield

#SeaToSource helps locals clean up River Torrens

South Australia's magnificent Torrens River, stretching over 85kms, is the focus of #SeaToSource, Conservation Volunteers Australia's (CVA) latest project in the region. As part of #SeaToSource, CVA is showcasing eight rivers and urban waterways around Australia and sharing stories about their importance to the local environment and threats the rivers are facing from plastic litter.

#SeaToSource aims to involve communities around Australia in tackling litter at its source before it reaches our waterways, and ultimately to protect the Great Southern Reef which stretches from Western Australia to Queensland.

Like many other organisations this year, CVA has moved to use online platforms to enable people to take action for nature, to complement the hands-on volunteering they're known for in the region. CVA Campfire, their new digital community platform, allows people to share their personal experiences and stories about the Torrens River, and encourages locals to initiate their own clean-up using an app called 'Litter Stopper'. Each individual story and litter survey can be shared on the Campfire as a virtual community river clean.



Plastic can be up to 95% of the litter found in our waterways and oceans and causes a wide range of issues in these environments. A significant source of litter is from urban footpaths and parks, which drain into storm water systems that flow into rivers and creeks. By cleaning up litter before it enters rivers and oceans, we can all be involved in taking action for nature.

CVA is inviting everyone who cares about tackling plastic litter to get on board and share their stories about their time spent on the Torrens River.

For anyone keen to take part, you can find out more here:

campfire.cva.org.au/seatosource/river-torrens

The Festive Season is on the way – make it environmentally friendly!

It's that time of year again for taking time with friends, family and loved ones to enjoy a well-deserved break. It's a time for sharing happiness and celebrating together with food, decorations and fun. But there's no reason that all that celebrating has to come at the cost of the environment! Here are some eco-friendly tips that can help you get the most out of the holidays while saving energy and avoiding waste.

Food

7 Ways To Minimize Christmas Food Waste

1. Plan a simple menu

A simple menu means there will be less types of food. Which means less for the cook to juggle, making it easier to cook the dishes you are serving to perfection.

And easier to get your quantities right.



2. Edit your plan

Scrutinise how much is in your plan and ask yourself 'what can I remove?'

Cross at least one dish off your list. Or more!

3. Don't make extra for leftovers

If you have tendency to over cater, resist the urge to make extra to have as leftovers.

Trust that there will naturally be leftovers.

4. Share

If you have loads of leftover turkey, pudding or cake, pack up a little gift bundle for your guests to take home. Then you're not left with masses of unhealthy options and your guests go home happy.

5. Refrigerate leftovers ASAP

Once you've cooked all this amazing food, you want to make sure it is going to last to give yourself a comfortable window to eat it in.

The sooner you refrigerate or freeze your leftovers, the sooner bacteria growth will be slowed and the longer your leftovers will last. Simple.

Even if you're not ready to tackle cleaning the whole kitchen, always refrigerate any leftovers as soon as you leave the table.

6. Cover food well

Another strategy for maximizing the life of your leftovers.

Food exposed to the air in your fridge or freezer will dry out surprisingly quickly. This isn't a food safety issue but it does make leftovers less appealing.

Always transfer leftovers into containers with airtight lids whether you are refrigerating or freezing. Zip lock bags are also great to prevent freezer burn.

7. DON'T throw away perfectly good food

Just because food has passed some arbitrary guideline of being in the fridge for 'X' days, you don't need to toss it automatically.

If you know it's been handled carefully and refrigerated promptly and it looks and smells fine, then in all likelihood it will be safe.

Decorations

When it comes to decorations think natural, look outside for materials and avoid plastic. You can create some amazing eco-friendly decorations that not only look great but don't break the bank.

1. What's it made out of?

If it's plastic, polystyrene or easily broken glass – it's best to put it back and go for natural, organic materials. Sticking to recyclable or compostable materials means if you don't want to keep decorations year after year, you won't be making a big eco foot print each Christmas.



2. How long will it last?

If your material is compostable this is a great way to use new decorations each year – things like dried garlands, leaves, and organic materials are all great choices. If you do see something you love in durable glass, porcelain or ceramic make sure you'll want to keep it year after year to save on waste. The big ones

to avoid? Plastic and polystyrene – the less of these we can use the better!

3. Can I up-cycle my old decorations into new ones?

Often those old Christmas baubles don't need anything more than a coat of paint or a clever approach to make the old new again! Have a look at old wine bottles, mason jars, last year's wreaths and things lying round the home to see if they are a DIY afternoon away from an amazing Christmas decorating idea.

4. Think LED

Use LED lighting in your Christmas lights this year to reduce your eco footprint and save your power bill! Make sure to only turn on the lights when in use and switch off at other times.

Outdoor lights can be a big drain on energy so try not to keep them running all night long! Make a cut off hour and only keep them on for an hour or two each night to save power and reduce your carbon footprint.

5. Recycle

Make sure when Christmas comes to an end that you recycle your decorations made from paper, glass or some types of plastic and if you have a real Christmas tree make sure it finds its way to a compostable end.

Gifts

When it comes to gifts, think less "stuff" more fun!



1. Subscriptions – if they are online it reduces the clutter all together! Find a website on one of the recipients interests that is full of great content and sign them up, or try one of the streaming services for movies or music.

2. Event Tickets – concert, theatre or sport.

3. Passes – local pool, golf club, play centres, indoor rock climbing or trampolining.

4. Memberships – zoo, museum, art gallery. Membership can give you access to loads of experiences that aren't available to the general visitor.

5. Classes or lessons - cooking, art, craft, music, dance, woodwork, surf school, gymnastics.

6. Experiences - guided bush walk, high tea, ghost tour, train ride, open garden, river cruise, wine tasting, sunset kayak or get up close and personal with some of the animals at the zoo.

7. Your time – help around the home, cooking the family a meal or simply booking in a regular coffee catch up.

8. Services - massage, facial, manicure, car washing and detailing, house cleaning.

9. Activities – mini golf, ten pin bowling, skating, horse riding, fruit picking or a farm visit.

10. A meal out – invite them over or take them out somewhere a bit posh!

Some other great ideas for an eco-friendly Christmas

- Avoid using plastic disposable cutlery and napkins – use cloth and washable plates
- Hang onto Christmas paper for crafts and up cycling into decorations – you can also wrap gifts with cloth or tea towels to avoid using paper
- When it comes to food, buy seasonal, local and organic where possible. Less distance to travel to the store and less chemicals in production means a more earth friendly Christmas lunch.

Whatever you are doing over the New Year's break I hope you have a safe and happy time and look forward to joining with you in more environmentally friendly activities in 2021!



As always if you have any questions or suggestions please contact me at

sgraham@campbelltown.sa.gov.au