

# Recycling at ECU

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

ECU is committed to reducing the impact on the environment. As part of this we have targets to reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill and recycling forms an important part of achieving this. Below is a list of FAQ's and answers that may be of use to ECU staff and students in determining how they can best contribute to recycling on campus.

### What can be recycled at ECU?

At ECU the following items can be recycled - batteries, e-waste (electronic waste), mobile phones, co-mingled recycling (plastics, glass, metals), paper, cardboard, toner cartridges, polystyrene, light globes and green waste (lawn clippings and other landscaping materials). We also try to reuse or recycle items from any refurbishment or new build including scrap metal, furniture, and timber pallets.

### What goes in the recycle bins at ECU?

- **Containers for Change Bins:** most aluminium, glass, plastic, steel, and liquid paperboard drink containers that are 150ml to 3L with the "10c" mark.
- **Recyclable Bins:** paper, cardboard, newspapers, aluminium cans, clean plastic bottles, tubs and containers, steel cans, glass bottles and jars without the "10c" mark.

### What goes in the general waste bins at ECU?

Takeaway coffee cups, serviettes, plastic bags, ceramics.

### What goes in the Organic Bins at ECU:

Fruit and vegetable scraps, grains, coffee grounds, dairy, eggs, meat, bones, leftover food

### How do I recycle these items at ECU?

- Recycled (outdoor yellow top bins/waste station) are available across each ECU campus. Waste stations are also available in offices and lecture theatres.
- Recycle stations for batteries, e-waste, and paper are available in the library and the Campus Support Office of each metropolitan campus.
- Paper recycling bins can be found at several location at each campus. ECU staff can recycle other items listed above by emailing your request to [maint@ecu.edu.au](mailto:maint@ecu.edu.au) .

**How can I order waste and recycling bins for an event I am holding at ECU?**

When you complete the form, [Application to Conduct a Function on Campus](#), the Campus Support Officer reviewing your application will ask whether you would like any additional recycling bins.

**Can I recycle coffee cups?**

No, take away coffee cups cannot be recycled. To avoid using a takeaway cup we ask all staff and students to bring your own reusable coffee cup and save 10% at all cafe's.

**But aren't some coffee cups the same as milk or juice cartons?**

Some coffee cups are similar, however the sorting of coffee cups from other recycling streams is more difficult than that of milk or juice cartons.

**Do containers need to be rinsed and cleaned?**

Containers do not need to be rinsed but must be free from any foods and liquids. It is preferred caps are off any bottles, but this is not necessary.

**Can paper towels be recycled?**

No, the composition of paper towels mean they can't be recycled. Often made from recycled material, the fibres are too short. ECU is phasing out the use of paper towels and moving towards using energy efficient hand dryers.

**Can paper plates be recycled?**

No, they are generally coated with grease resistant waxes.

**Can recycling be put in plastic bags and then in the recycle bin?**

No, most sorting equipment at a recycle plant is unable to sort bags.

**Can pizza boxes be recycled?**

No, cardboard pizza boxes have food scraps stuck to them so they cannot be recycled. However, they are compostable and do break down in the environment.