



ECU Phasing out Single Use Plastic Still Water Bottles FAQ

SINGLE USE PLASTIC? NOT WELCOME HERE

Join ECU's on campus campaign against single use plastic bottles and straws.

When is the phasing out happening?

This initiative commenced during Semester 2, 2018. ECU is working on a number of options to restrict the use of single use plastic still water bottles across all three campuses. Full implementation of restricted use of single use plastic still water bottles should be complete in Semester 1, 2019.

Why is ECU phasing out single use plastic water bottles?

This initiative originated as an idea by ECU students and is being supported by the ECU Student Guild and the Vice-Chancellor.

Environmental impact

- In production: Most bottled water is packaged in PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles which are derived from crude oil. It can take up to 3L of water to produce 1L of water.
- In transportation: Transportation of bottled water around the world requires burning of fossil fuels (water is moved by truck, train or air freight).
- In landfill and the litter stream: Although plastic bottles are recyclable, many end up in landfill and take up to 1000 years to break down. When littered they can often end up in the sea where they may break up in small pieces, and kill marine life that mistake them for food. (Clean Up Australia, 2017)

Over 90% of the cost of a plastic water bottle can be traced back to the bottle, lid and label.

Health impact

- Western Australia water is high quality and available for drinking. More information can be found at: http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Drinking-water-in-Western-Australia .
- Tap water is subjected to more stringent conditions than bottled water, it is regulated by the Department of health (WA). The water is fluorinated at the optimum level to protect teeth against decay (<http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/>).
- Hydration is very important to health and wellbeing. Initiatives outlined in this paper include free water refilling stations to encourage you to keep hydrated. Bring your own reusable water bottle and you never need to pay for still water on campus. The following link will provide information on how much water should you drink per day. Aim for at least 2 litres per day and you'll be doing well. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2017-10-18/how-much-water-do-we-need-to-drink-a-day/8996668>

What is in and what is out?

The restriction on single use water bottles applies to plain/still water bottles only at this stage. You can still purchase sparkling, flavoured, smart and sports water at the outlets around campus in plastic bottles due to the limitation on environmentally friendly products being available from suppliers. As manufacturing environmentally friendly products improves, further restrictions can be encouraged.

Why is ECU only focussing on still water bottles at this stage?

In an advanced economy, water from the tap should be free and available. WA tap water is safe to drink and is available for free across our campuses.

Single use plastic still water bottle sales results in the greatest volume of single use plastic bottles discarded compared with other drinks available on campus.

What will you see at ECU events?

ECU events will not supply single use plastic water bottles. All events should have a water filling option and provide a reusable or biodegradable option to drink from.

How can you contribute to this initiative?

Bring your reusable water bottle with you to campus.

In January 2019, ECU will install 6 additional external water refilling stations across the campuses as well as replace 20 of the internal water stations. New signage will help you locate the water stations. Look for the beautiful blue and purple signs.

If you need to buy water, the outlets and vending machines will be stocking alternatives to single use plastic still water bottles, including glass bottles and cartons.

Reusable water bottles can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop, café outlets around campus and some of the vending machines.

A water hub has been set up outside Building 31, Level 2 on Joondalup campus as well as next to the ATM, outside Building 5 on Mount Lawley campus. Reusable water bottles, carton water and a spring water refill station are located at each water hub.

Where do I find the external water refilling stations?

These are marked on ECU campus maps (<http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/staff/supplemental/campus-maps>).

Joondalup Campus - Outside Building 18, 19, 22, 31 and Campus West

Mt Lawley Campus - Outside Building 1, 7, 16 and Student Housing

South West Campus - Outside Building 4

What you can do about your single use plastic water bottles?

If you have a single use plastic water bottle please dispose of them in the recycling bins provided around the university.

What are some of the other single use plastic initiatives happening at ECU?

Plastic Straws

ECU is also working on phasing out single use plastic straws where possible. You will notice that around campus the cafés are reducing the visibility of plastic straws and switching to alternative options. We encourage you not to use a single use plastic straw unless you need to.

Coffee Cups

Café outlets and the Co-op Bookshop are offering reusable mugs and 'Keep Cups' available for purchase. The cost of a coffee is reduced at campus cafes if you supply your own mug. What a great way to save!

Plastic Bags

ECU supports the Government's light weight plastic ban across all campuses.

