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Food waste has a bigger impact on the environment than many people realise.

Every year, 7.6 million tonnes of food is wasted across the Australian food system. Food waste emits approximately 3% of Australia's national greenhouse gas emissions and depletes valuable resources like water, land, and energy. It's also costing the Australian economy \$36.6 billion dollars annually.

September 29 is the United Nations International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. It's a timely reminder that government, industry, business, community organisations and households all have an important role in [turning food waste around](#).

To help tackle food waste, the Queensland Government is supporting:

- Farm to table initiatives that reduce food loss in supply chains.
- Education campaigns to help households avoid food waste and save money.
- Research and innovation in food preservation, packaging, and waste reduction.

By making small everyday changes in our habits or operations to reduce the amount of food we throw away; together we can divert more waste from landfill and reduce the impact food waste has on Queensland's environment and natural resources.

5 ways to reduce food waste at home and save money

Without meaning to, we're wasting more food than we think. According to [The Great Unwaste](#), the average Australian household throws out 265kgs of food waste in the bin each year. More than half of the food wasted in homes is edible. This is costing the average household more than \$2500 per year.



Here's 5 ways you can reduce the amount of food you throw away, and save money.

1. Create flexible meal plans and stick to your shopping list to avoid overbuying and save money.
2. Where possible, buy fruit and veg loose so you get only what you need.
3. Create a designated area in the fridge or pantry for foods that need to be eaten soon.
4. Freeze surplus food and leftovers in airtight containers to keep it fresh for longer.
5. Make 'leftovers night' a regular ritual or get creative and transform leftovers into delicious new meals.

[The Great Unwaste](#) and [Love Food Hate Waste](#) provide practical tips and guidance to help Queenslanders reduce food waste at home, and save money.

Let's do our bit to reduce food waste in Queensland, one meal at a time.

Understanding how trading practices affect food waste

The Queensland Government and End Food Waste CRC co-funded research led by a team of researchers from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to investigate how trading practices impact on food loss and waste in Australia.

The project, which received in-kind support from End Food Waste Australia, aimed to help industry stakeholders overcome barriers to reducing food loss and waste through exploration of how and why trading practices are impacting food loss and waste, and identifying who has the power to affect change to these trading practices.

Queensland Councils to share in \$130 million for resource recovery projects

The [Resource Recovery Boost Fund](#) is a \$130 million program providing grants to Queensland councils to undertake projects that address local and regional resource recovery priorities, increase recycling rates, and contribute to reducing the amount of waste Queensland sends to landfill each year.

Program guidelines are now available for the first funding round,



which will see \$60 million made available to Queensland Councils across two funding streams (small projects and major projects). **Applications for funding open on Monday 13 October 2025.**

The Resource Recovery Boost Fund will complement other funding programs, such as the [Growing the Recovery of Organic Waste via Food Organic and Garden Organics \(GROW FOGO\) fund](#) which to date has funded almost half a million new green bins and diverted more than 100,000 tonnes of organic waste from landfill.

Recycle Mate partnership extended

The Queensland Government is investing \$2.4 million to extend a partnership with [Recycle Mate](#) – a free app which gives users quick advice on how to correctly dispose of and recycle used household items.

The three-year extension allows participating Queensland councils to provide their local communities with reliable information on local and safe disposal opportunities for all types of waste, helping to drive better behaviours to reduce waste and boost recycling. The data collected through Recycle Mate throughout Queensland also helps identify where there are gaps in recycling options for different waste types, helping inform future investment in new recycling infrastructure and services.

Recycle Mate was established by the [Australian Council of Recycling \(ACOR\)](#) – the peak body representing Australia’s resource, recovery, remanufacturing and recycling sector– and is delivered by Adaptation Environmental.

Download the free Recycle Mate app to learn how to recycle or dispose of any item.

Reducing the impact of littering on Queensland's waterways

Sixteen community groups from across Queensland will share in more than \$460,000 in funding to ramp up their efforts to protect waterways and local ecosystems via the [Community Sustainability Action Grants for Litter and Marine Debris Clean-up and Prevention program](#).

The successful projects include on-the-ground clean-up activities in parks, reserves and coastal areas, as well as innovative local solutions to stop waste at the source.

This is on top of the Queensland Government’s \$35 million Zero Litter to the Bay initiative

to install specialised stormwater filtration devices to high-litter areas across Moreton Bay.

National Garage Sale Trail

As part of its commitment to boosting Queensland's recycling rates, the Queensland Government proudly supports the 2025 National Garage Sale Trail.

Queenslanders are encouraged to take part in this year's Garage Sale Trail – held over two weekends on 8-9 November and 15-16 November.



It's free and open to everyone - homes, units, community groups, whole streets, schools and local businesses.

Visit the [Garage Sale Trail website](https://garagesaletrail.com.au) to become a seller.

By taking part, Queenslanders will be giving unwanted household items a second life and keeping it out of landfill.

In 2024, more than 57,000 Queenslanders shopped or sold second hand. More than 173,000 household items were sold and reused - 38% of which would otherwise have gone to landfill. This generated more than \$890,000 for the local economy and earned household sellers an average of \$457.

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