



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 November 2022

Soft plastics aren't being recycled – now what?

We have heard the devastating news that soft plastics were being stockpiled, not recycled. And now there is a pause on the collection of them. Which means that soft plastics are now destined for landfill. There are several issues behind the soft plastic problem.

- When there isn't demand from industries who can remanufacture soft plastic into something useful, then there is no choice but to send plastic bags and packaging to landfill (or stockpile in hope of future change – which of course isn't sustainable)
- Simply, supply of this waste material far exceeds demand for it
- Some single-use plastic waste doesn't need to be created or used in the first place
- Alternate materials or less layers could be used in packaging – manufacturers should consider this
- We urgently need to change the way products are manufactured to ensure that avoidable waste is not created in the first place.

Zero Waste Victoria President Kirsty Bishop-Fox said: “There is disappointment and frustration in the community over single-use plastic not being recycled as people felt good about using it, collecting it, dropping it off and thinking it wasn't going to be part of the waste problem. However, as this isn't an option now, if we look to avoid these plastics, wherever practical, then we can be part of the solution.”

We advocate and educate to ensure consumers can reduce their soft plastics by avoiding them whenever possible.

- We're pretty good at taking reusable shopping bags – but can we be more diligent and ALWAYS remember them – or if we forget, grab an empty box from the store instead
- Produce bags – reuse them or switch to reusable bags (a single-use switch which can save a dozen or so bags with weekly shops)
- Avoid pre-packed produce eg buy carrots, apples etc. which are loose to avoid plastic
- Bread bags – if you use a bakery use reusable bags instead of plastic

- Delis and butchers – you can take containers to avoid plastic bags – and the bonus is your food stores better this way.
- Let retailers and manufacturers know they need to rethink their plastic usage and be part of the solution by bringing your own containers to refill.

Media Contact: Kirsty Bishop Fox
President - [Zero Waste Victoria](#).
Sustainability consultant and educator
kirsty@zerowastevictoria.org.au
ZeroWasteVictoria.org.au
0438 666 638

Zero Waste Victoria is a community group with a mission to empower Victorians to downsize their waste through everyday choices, while advocating for meaningful change. We shift mindsets, facilitate action and spotlight solutions to reduce waste. Our impact is to amplify the community voice and connect people, inspiring and enabling them to reach their zero waste goals.