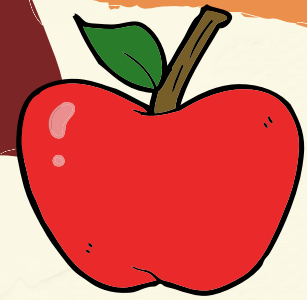


Z is for Zero Waste

A-Z fun practical pointers for churches



A is for Apple

Where do the apple cores and other compostable stuff go? Where would a green food waste bin be helpful? How will you keep these out of the landfill bins and return them to the earth so that they can feed new life?



B is for Biscuits

One of the biggest sources of non-recyclable packaging is biscuits. To reduce non-recyclable packaging:

- Write to biscuit producers and ask them to package their biscuits in compostable or recyclable containers.
- Buy bulk-bin biscuits (just take your jars and fill them up directly).
- Calculate your weekly spend on biscuits and contract a church member to provide home baked biscuits for the same budget (that would be so much yummiier!).



C is also for Batteries

What happens to your used batteries? Where is your nearest used battery collection drop-off? Your church could have a Battery Collection Box as a community service for your neighbourhood.



D is for Do the Right Thing

It's all about making it easy for people to do the right thing with whatever is in their hand. This means having the right bins and signage available in all facilities and colour-coded for convenience. It also means getting people thinking about what is the Right Thing and why.

Z is for Zero Waste

A-Z fun practical pointers for churches



E

is for Events

Community events can create a heap of waste. Three basic principles work when it comes to big events.

- Don't give or sell people stuff which is not compostable.
- Have bins and signage to separate rubbish.
- Have a team of friendly volunteers to stand by each set of bins to help people use the right bins.

Encourage those who hire church facilities to cut back on plastic waste. This means no single use plastic such as cups and cutlery, or decorations such as sparkly sprinkles and plastic flowers.

F

is for Funerals

Find out where your nearest natural burial cemetery is and which funeral directors offer eco funerals. Get information for your church on planning for an enviro friendly legacy.

is also for Fabric... and Flooring

Plastic-based fibres are becoming a huge problem for the world. Your church could stop adding to this:

- Encourage craft groups to only buy natural fabrics.
- Discuss clothing manufacture as a social justice and global mission issue.
- When you have choices about carpet, choose natural fibres or non-laminate wood flooring.

G

is for Gardening

Where are your local community gardens? Could you grow a vege garden on your church land? Gardening workshops can be an excellent outreach

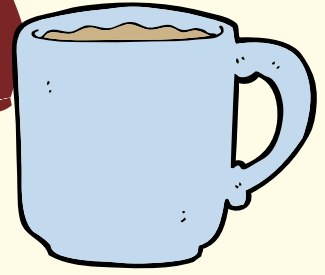
H

is for Happy!

Keep zero waste positive! Find creative ways to make it fun.

Z is for Zero Waste

A-Z fun practical pointers for churches



I

is for Integrity

One church leader and zero waste champion puts it this way: “It’s a really good feeling when you know that we’re not destroying people’s lives and the environment. It’s really satisfying.” Reducing the waste we produce “aligns what we’re doing and what we’re believing and it makes you feel good, knowing that we’re doing the right thing.”

J

is for Justice

As you share with your church why zero waste matters as an expression of your faith and mission, link this with God’s justice and love for the poor. Christian mission agencies like World Vision and Tearfund have great resources on the impact of global waste on poor communities.

K

is for Kids

Sadly, some of the least enviro-friendly places in our churches are the kids rooms, full of sparkly colourful plastic. Toys designed to break go in the bin. Glitter makes its way into the sea. Why do we surround our children with cheap junk? God’s heart is to give good gifts to his children, as Jesus said in Matthew 7:11. Work with the children’s leaders and parents on ways to make your children’s programmes healthier for the kids and for God’s planet.

L

is for Laminating

Stop it! Stop buying laminator pockets. What other plastic are you buying?

M

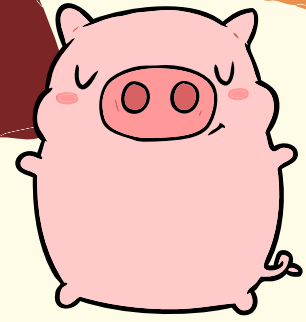
is for Mugs

How will you get rid of disposable coffee cups? Some strategies are:

- Encourage people to bring their own mug to church
- Have an ‘Ugly Mug’ box of ‘op shop’ mugs for people to take away and swap with another one later.

Z is for Zero Waste

A-Z fun practical pointers for churches



N

is for Nappies

Disposable nappies are a significant part of landfill. What enviro friendly options are your young families using? Profile and celebrate these. If cost is a problem why not gift whanau with a starter pack of cloth nappies when a new baby is born?

O

is for Over and Over

Don't expect behaviour to change overnight. You need to keep on reminding people of your goals and strategies. Zero waste is a journey rather than a destination, a long-term calling which runs counter to the options of 'quick and easy' which our plastic disposable consumer culture offers.

P

is for Printing

Do you end up wasting paper off the photocopier? Work with office staff and all those who need printing to reduce waste and ensure that any scrap paper gets recycled. Review your finance and admin systems to get more done paperless.

is also for Pigs

A great way to use food scraps! Ask around, you might find someone with a hungry pig who'd love to take your food scraps away.

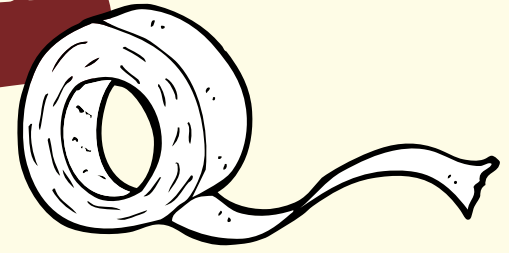
Q

is for Quick

Make it quick and easy for people to separate waste and use the right bin.

Z is for Zero Waste

A-Z fun practical pointers for churches



A large, stylized, green letter 'R' with a thick black outline and a slight 3D effect.

R is for Refill

A good way to save money and save the planet is to:

- ensure that all food and cleaning products are in good quality refillable containers
- buy in bulk without the need for packaging
- take refill containers to bulk-buy outlets (or local roasters for extra good coffee!)

A large, stylized, blue letter 'S' with a thick black outline and a slight 3D effect.

S is for Signage

How will a visitor to your church know where to put their rubbish? Clear, colour-coded, cheerful signage is vital. Keep it friendly in tone.

A large, stylized, purple letter 'T' with a thick black outline and a slight 3D effect.

T is for (Paper) Towels, Tissues and Serviettes

These are organic waste and can go into the Green bin. This might mean having two bins in the bathroom, one just for paper towels and tissues (a green bin). But don't wrap the paper towels in a plastic bag!

A large, stylized, pink letter 'U' with a thick black outline and a slight 3D effect.

U is for (Church) Users

Discuss your zero waste goals with all groups who use your facilities. Write agreements about rubbish into your hiring contracts.

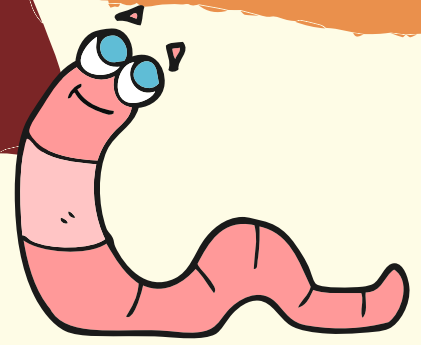
A large, stylized, red letter 'V' with a thick black outline and a slight 3D effect.

V is for Vacant Lots

Are there public spaces near your church where rubbish piles up? As an act of loving service, tidy up, make your community a better place and reduce pollution.

Z is for Zero Waste

A-Z fun practical pointers for churches

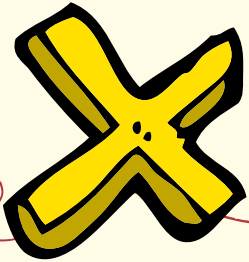


W is for Worms

Make it quick and easy for people to separate waste and use the right bin.

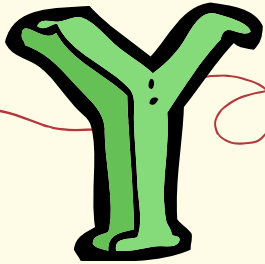
W is also for Weddings

Eco Weddings show love for creation. Celebrate true beauty with real and dried flowers instead of plastic ones, natural decorations instead of plastic sparkles, enviro-friendly fabrics and wrappings.



X is for Xtreme Challenge

Inspire the congregation with a challenge... like, Plastic Free July. Or a different little practical tip in the newsletter each week.



Y is for You-bring-in-you-take-it-away

Telling people "Package in, package out" doesn't necessarily reduce waste in total but it does give people the message that they need to take responsibility for their own waste. Don't give your rubbish to us, thanks.



Z is for the Zero Waste movement!

Look for partnerships. Promote Zero Waste websites.
Be part of a global movement!