

SUSTAINABILITY AT RETAIL SNAPSHOT

CARDBOARD RECYCLING

WHAT?

When paper or cardboard is disposed of in landfill rather than recycled, it creates methane as it breaks down. Methane is a major greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming with a lifespan 21 times longer than carbon dioxide.

- 0.63t of Co2 saved if recycled
- 80% cost reduction vs general waste



Best Practice Guidelines

- ☐ Remove contaminants such as staples & glue
- ☐ Flatten & pack down cardboard boxes. This helps cardboard move through sorting stations & also saves you space when storing it!
- ☐ Look at the viability of a cardboard bailer to reduce mass
- ☐ Send cardboard to your local recycling centre

LEARN MORE

- https://www.bikeoz.org/sustainabilityresources
- https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/
- https://www.savemoneycutcarbon.com/learn-save/5-reasons-why-recycling-cardboard-is-important/

TAKE ACTION!

- Recycling Near You
- Sustainability Victoria
- NSW Community Recycling Centres

Click for a full list of resources!



CASE STUDY

99 BIKES

99 Bikes started cardboard recycling in its stores many years ago to divert one of their main waste streams from landfills. They now have a good recycling rhythm, and in 2023 ~60% of the waste produced in stores was cardboard with over 1,000 tonnes being sent for recycling. The main challenge faced by 99 Bikes is the space in store, so finding a good bin size & pick-up schedule was crucial. Staff engagement and training was an initial hurdle that took time and repetition to overcome. The other benefit of cardboard recycling is that it is also a cost-savings. On average cardboard recycling is over 80% cheaper per m/3 of recycling than the cost of general waste.