

UNSW General Waste System (From April 2025)

(Kensington, Paddington, Randwick campuses)

Bin content	Location	Where does it go?
<p><u>White Smart bin – Drink containers</u> This bin only accepts uncrushed and labelled drink containers eligible under the Return & Earn Container Deposit Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Plastic bottles (lids on) ✓ Small glass bottles (lids on) ✓ Aluminium and steel cans ✓ Juice boxes 	<p>Outdoor</p>	<p>The items placed in office yellow bins are recycled in Smithfield by <u>Visy</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass is sorted by colour and recycled into new glass bottles and other compatible glass products. • Metals (steel and aluminum) are recycled into new metal products after a smelting process. • Hard plastic is chipped and cleaned before being recycled as rPET or rHDPE plastics, use to manufacture new bottles.

Bin content	Location	Where does it go?
<p>Red bin – General waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Takeaway food containers (including compostable ones made with paper fibre or bamboo) and lids ✓ Takeaway hot and cold drink cups and lids (including Biopak) ✓ Cutlery, chopsticks and straws (including those made from plastic or bamboo) ✓ Paper towels, serviettes and tissues ✓ Soft plastics (plastic packets, bags, wrap, and wrappers) ✓ Broken glass and crockery ✓ Food waste (if no green bin available) 	<p>Outdoor/Indoor (office and corridors or classrooms)</p>	<p>The contents of general waste bins are collected and processed by Doyle Bros at a material recovery facility in Fairfield East. Here, the waste is crushed into small pieces and mechanically sorted into five main streams to maximise resource recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper and cardboard: Recycled by Opal into new paper pulp and packaging. • Recyclable hard plastics: Repurposed by Astron Plastics (PACT Group) into pellets for new plastic items. • Metals: Recycled by Sell & Parker and Sims Metals to create new equipment. • Processed Engineered Fuel (PEF): Used in industrial operations as a fossil fuel replacement. • Landfill: Only non-recyclable materials (such as crushed glass, food organics, soft plastics, and construction waste) are sent to landfill. <p>Using this process, UNSW is getting closer to our goal of diverting 85% of general waste from landfills. The below shows the weight percentages of waste diversion achieved in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35% of paper and cardboard • 4% of metals • 3% of plastic • 42% recovered as PEF • Only 16% of the general bin total weight was sent to landfills.

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<p><u>Yellow bin – Glass, metals and plastic containers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Steel and aluminium cans ✓ Glass bottles and jars (lids on) ✓ Plastic bottles: soft drinks, water, juice or milk (lids on) ✓ Plastic containers for cleaning products ✓ Clean aluminium foil (scrunch into a fist sized ball) and trays ✓ Aerosol cans <p>DO NOT use the yellow bin for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Food waste (use the green bin) × Paper and cardboard (use the blue bin) × Soft plastics: plastic packets, bags, wrap, and wrappers (use the red bin. Find clear soft plastic drop off points on the Sustainability Map) × Takeaway hot and cold drink cups and lids (use the red bin) × Compostable and bioplastic (Biopak) packaging (use the red bin) ✓ Paper towels, serviettes and tissues (use the red bin) 	<p>Indoor office</p>	<p>The items placed in office yellow bins are recycled in Smithfield by Visy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass is sorted by colour and recycled into new glass bottles and other compatible glass products. • Metals (steel and aluminum) are recycled into new metal products after a smelting process. • Hard plastic is chipped and cleaned before being recycled as rPET or rHDPE plastics, use to manufacture new bottles.

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<p>Blue bin – Paper & cardboard</p> <p>Most paper and cardboard is recyclable as long as it's <u>clean</u> and <u>dry</u>.</p> <p>Use the blue bin for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Office paper ✓ Newspapers, magazines and advertising material (remove plastic wrapping) ✓ Cardboard ✓ 100% paper gift / wrapping paper (i.e. no foil, glitter finishes) <p>DO NOT use the blue bin for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Takeaway hot and cold drink cups and lids × Foiled lined or plastic-coated cartons × Milk or juice cartons × Fibre food containers × Paper towels, serviettes and tissues 	<p>Indoor office and classrooms</p>	<p>Paper and cardboard collected in office and classroom goes to a paper mill in Botany for recycling into new paper pulp and packaging.</p>

Bin content	Location	Where does it go?
<p><u>Green bin – Food organics</u></p> <p>Use the green bin for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fruit and vegetable scraps ✓ Food leftovers (place the packaging in the red bin) ✓ Coffee grounds ✓ Meat & dairy leftovers <p>DO NOT use the green bin for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Food packaging, cutlery and chopsticks, including compostable and bioplastic packaging × Takeaway hot and cold drink cups and lids × Tea bags × Soft plastic × Paper towels, serviettes and tissues 	<p>Indoor office and wash/food reheat stations</p>	<p>Food organics collected from office spaces and back-of-house operations are sent to the EarthPower plant in Western Sydney. This facility uses an anaerobic digestion process to convert food waste into digester gas, which generates electricity to power the plant and supply energy for up to 4,000 homes. The process also produces a nutrient-rich sludge, which is dried and granulated into a soil improver suitable for commercial agricultural and horticultural use.</p>