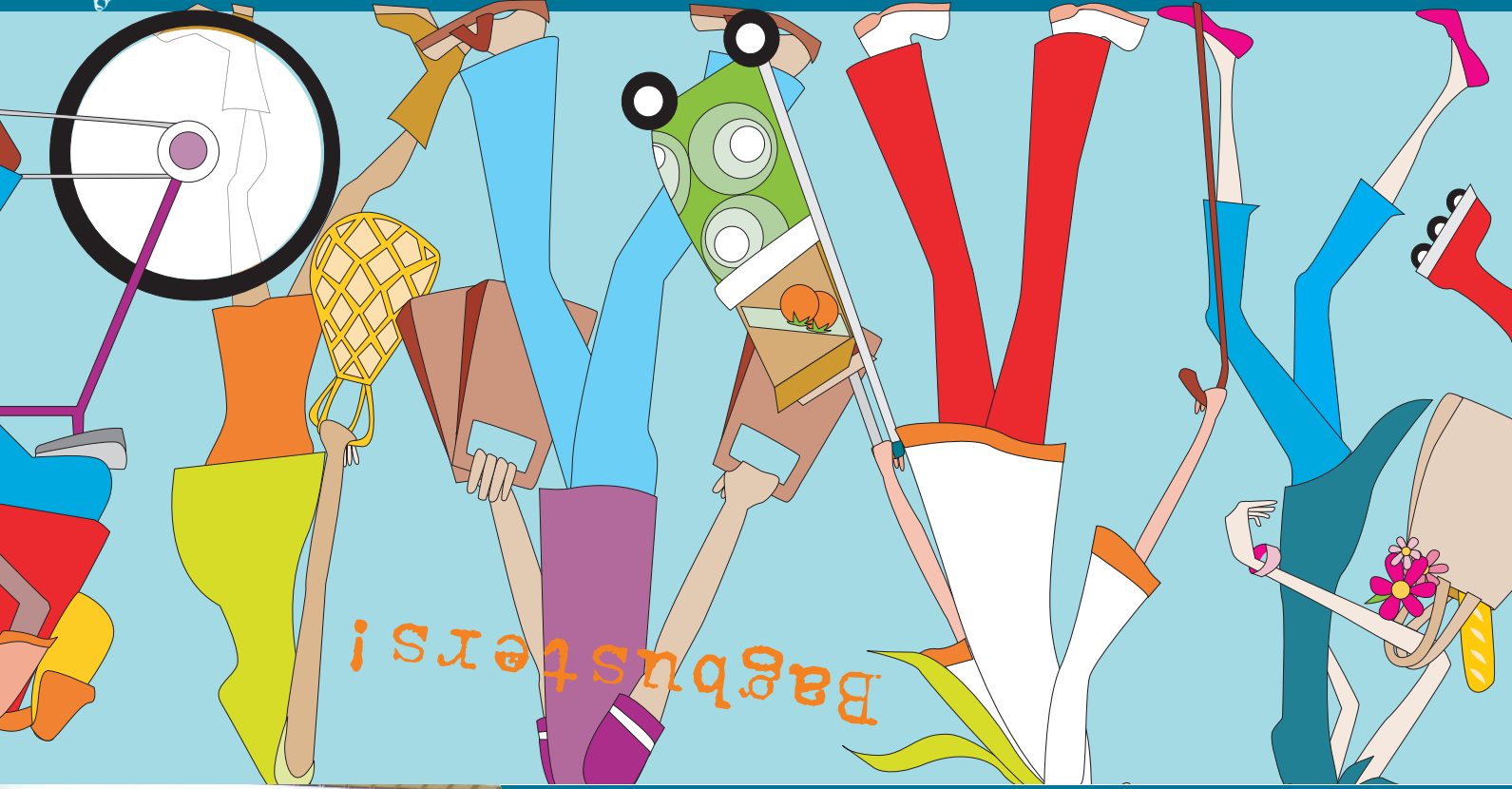


Choose to reuse!

The Watershed  
Supporting Sustainable Environments



Bagbusters!



For more information...

**Marrickville Council:**  
[www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au)

**City of Sydney Council:**  
[www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**Planet Ark:**  
[www.planetark.com](http://www.planetark.com)

**Clean Up Australia:**  
[www.cleanup.com.au](http://www.cleanup.com.au)

**ABC - Issues About Plastic Bags:**  
[www.abc.net.au/science/features/bags/default.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/science/features/bags/default.htm)

**The Watershed**

218 King Street  
Newtown NSW 2042

**Phone:** 95 19 6366

**Fax:** 95 19 7706

**Email:** [watershed@marrickville.nsw.gov.au](mailto:watershed@marrickville.nsw.gov.au)



MARRICKVILLE  
council

**The Watershed**  
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# Did you know?

Australians dump 230,000 recyclable plastic bags in landfills every hour, that's 7 billion/year!

Plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to decompose in the natural environment.

Plastic bags kill hundreds of thousands of birds, fish, turtles and other sea creatures every year.

Plastic bags cost Australian businesses \$173 million/year.



## How do plastic bags pollute Newtown?

A **Bagbusters** survey revealed approximately 200 plastic bags are used by every Newtown shopper each year on average.

Plastic bags that enter the stormwater system in King Street end up in Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay. Plastic bags threaten marine life, cause major pollution and can block drains causing localised flooding.

### The current climate:

- > NSW Premier Bob Carr indicated in March 2004 that the NSW State Government is committed to addressing the plastic bag problem.
- > State and Federal ministers have indicated that the retail industry will be required to halve plastic bag usage by 2005.
- > Marrickville and City of Sydney Councils have committed substantial resources to assisting the community to break the plastic bag habit and move towards a more sustainable society.

# Bag distributor contact list

Business Name	Bag Material	Bag Details				Contact
		Styles	Colours	Handles	Printing Available	
BagWise Community Bags	Polypropylene	Carry bags, bottle bags	Variety of colours	Short handles	Yes	bagwise@bigpond.net.au
Colquhoun's Sydney Bag Co	Calico	3 sizes	Neutral	Short handles or shoulder straps	Yes	9310 2000
DGM International	Polypropylene	Customised or stock bags	7 colours available	Short handles	Yes	9669 1333
DGM International	Calico	3 sizes	Neutral	Short handles or shoulder strap	Yes	9669 1333
Ecocern	Post consumer recycled paper	Flat or gusseted carry bags	Brown	Short cut out or tape handles	Unsure	93372737
EcoSilk Bags	Parachute Silk (100% nylon)	Singlet bags	10 colours available	Short handles	Yes	6689 7408 info@ecosilkbags.com.au
Fresh Green Bag	Calico	Shopping, gusset shopping and shoulder bags	Black and neutral	Short handles, shoulder straps or drawstring		9736 3274
Gispac	Reusable Fabric Bags	Customised or stock bags	Black	Short handles or drawstring	Yes	9906 3366
Green Zucchini	Polypropylene	Gift, boutique, shopper and bottle bags	Over 10 colours available	2 handles	Yes	greenzuc@optusnet.com.au
Paper-Pak	Post consumer recycled paper	Variety of styles	Variety of colours	Short paper twist handles, rope handles	Yes	9648 4388
Planet Ark	Calico		Neutral	Short handles	Yes	doug@planetark.com 9300 9270
Planet Ark	Paper	Printed gusseted stock bags	Brown	Short handles	Standard print only	doug@planetark.com 9300 9270
Planet Ark	Polypropylene	Gusseted stock bags	Navy blue	Short handles	White print only	doug@planetark.com 9300 9270
Planet Zok	Calico			Short handles or shoulder straps	Yes	0425 346 946
RBS Recycling Pty Ltd	Calico			Short handles		9673 2166



# About The Watershed

## About The Watershed

The Watershed Sustainability Resource Centre at 218 King St Newtown is a joint initiative of Marrickville and City of Sydney Councils. King St both forms the boundary between the two local government areas, and is a natural ridge line – or ‘watershed’ – between the Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay catchments.

Since November 2002, The Watershed has developed and delivered a range of innovative projects supporting local community engagement in sustainability. The Watershed represents an ongoing Council commitment to the environment, focussing on issues such as stormwater pollution, eco-business initiatives, and sustainability in the home.

## Some current Watershed projects include...

### Shopfront Advisory Service

The Watershed is open from 10am – 4pm Monday to Saturday, and offers free advice on Council services and environmental issues to local businesses and the general public. There is also a range of merchandise such as worm farms, compost bins, calico bags and reusable thermal travel mugs.

### Environmental Reference Library

The Watershed has an enormous range of resources and books on issues including waterwise gardening, local flora and fauna, environmentally friendly petcare, rainwater tanks, composting, sustainable urban design, natural cleaning, and environmental theory. Visitors are welcome to research issues in the shopfront.

### Volunteer Community Educators

The Watershed supports a dedicated and talented team of volunteers, providing the support and resources to engage the local community in sustainability issues. Volunteers are a central part of the project, assisting in the development and facilitation of workshops, designing education strategies, and compiling research.

### Cork Recycling

In partnership with Taronga Zoo, The Watershed provides a much-needed cork deposit facility for local restaurants, hotels and residents. The sale of corks for reprocessing into boat decking and floor tiling contributes to the rehabilitation of animal habitats at Taronga Zoo, whilst diverting tens of thousands of corks from landfill every month.

### The Watershed Awards

Recognising the environmental achievements of local businesses, residents and volunteers helps to celebrate and promote positive initiatives. Inaugurated in 2003, The Watershed Awards are planned to be an annual event.

### Workshop Series

A free Saturday workshop series has inspired hundreds of participants to take action for sustainability. Workshops are designed to be practical, promoting simple and inexpensive environmental solutions which can be easily passed on from participants to their friends and family. The current workshop schedule is:

- > 1st Sat of every month:  
Worm Farming
- > 3rd Sat of every month:  
Natural Cleaning
- > 4th Saturday of every month:  
Low Cost EnviroTips for Your Home.

There are several projects in development, including a partnership with Realtors to address illegal dumping and provide information on sustainability and council services to residents; and a partnership with local cafes addressing waste by promoting reusable thermal travel mugs for take away beverages.

**The Watershed**  
Supporting Sustainable Environments



# What are we **doing** about it?

**Bagbusters** works together with local businesses and shoppers to reduce the amount of plastic carry bags used.

**Bagbusters** supports and acknowledges businesses that have embraced sustainable changes.

The **Bagbusters** project is supported by City of Sydney and Marrickville Councils.

## Building a plastic bag free Newtown & beyond!

- > Avoid providing plastic bags altogether.
- > Offer reusable bag options for sale to customers, such as recycled paper, calico, hemp, boxes or polypropylene (green bags). The Distributor Contact Information in this kit will help you find bag wholesalers in Sydney.
- > Consider charging a 10c levy for each plastic bag. Bunnings Warehouse and Ikea have succeeded in reducing plastic bag usage up to 95% with this levy. Proceeds can be donated to a local environmental charity!
- > Provide incentives for customers to avoid plastic bags.
- > Begin a plastic bag reuse system. Customers can bring in their plastic bags for reuse.
- > Train staff to ask customers; “Do you need a bag?” with their purchase.
- > Display signs reminding customers to bring their own bags.
- > City of Sydney and Marrickville Councils have been distributing calico bags to residents.



Building a plastic bag free Newtown & beyond

Offer reusable bags, with your logo printed

Provide incentives for customers to bring their own bag - be creative!

do you need a bag?

Train staff to pack more items in each bag

Display a Bagbusters Wobbler

Begin a plastic bag reuse system. Customers can bring in their used plastic bags to be re-used at the checkout

Remind customers to bring their own bag

# How Bagbusters can help your business

- > **Bagbusters** can work with you to design a plastic bag reduction strategy, tailored to your business needs.
- > **Bagbusters** can provide signage and window stickers to promote your business as environmentally aware. In a recent **Bagbusters** survey, 77% of King Street shoppers indicated that they would favour businesses who were actively reducing plastic bag usage.
- > **Bagbusters** can offer training to assist your staff in promoting a plastic bag free environment.
- > This information kit contains contacts of suppliers of reusable alternatives to plastic bags.

## Recognising outstanding businesses

- > A window sticker will be issued to businesses to identify support for **Bagbusters**.
- > Point of Sale signage will be provided to businesses to promote their commitment to sustainable environments.
- > Plastic bag free businesses participating in the **Bagbusters** project will be placed on an honour board in **The Watershed** shopfront.
- > Whiteboards or street-sweepers will be distributed to the first 40 businesses to actively reduce their plastic bag use.



How **Bagbusters** can help your business

