# Zero Waste Rebate Program

# Guidelines 2024

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If you have any questions, please contact:

**Resource Recovery Unit**

Phone: (03) 9217 2170

Email: [resource.recovery@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:resource.recovery@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

Website: [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grants)

## What is the Zero Waste Rebate Program?

The Zero Waste Rebate program is an action item in the [Rethinking Waste Plan 2021-2030](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/waste-environment/bins-and-waste/rethinking-waste-plan-2021-2030/), which outlines our goal to transition to a low waste city. It is one of several action items that will support our community to become leaders in clean, sustainable living. As part of the rebate program, residents will be able to claim a rebate on the purchase price of reusable nappies, reusable sanitary products, shopping carts, compost bin and composting tools.

## Why is Council providing this rebate program?

### Investing in reusable items at home is a great way to reduce household rubbish. They can also save on costs in the long term. In fact, by investing in reusable nappies, parents can save up to $2000 per child. However, the upfront costs of purchasing reusable nappies or sanitary items can be confronting. It can also be overwhelming with all the options available on the market. We know that it can take some time to discover which reusable items work best for you and your family. For that reason, the Zero Waste Rebate Program will encourage residents to trial reusable items at home and discover which items suit them best.

## Key dates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applications open | February 2024 |
| Applications close | Until funds are exhausted |
| Applicants notified of outcome | Allow up to 6 weeks |

## 

## Eligibility criteria

* All households in the City of Whittlesea are eligible for one rebate from each of the categories below. Each household is eligible for one rebate from each category per year.
* You must live in the City of Whittlesea and any products purchased must be used at this address. Applicants will be required to provide proof of residency
* Shopping carts are to be made from sustainable material such as metal, aluminium and cloth with minimal plastic parts.
* Rebates are only for:
  + Products listed below. Postage and other fees are not included.
  + 50% of the cost of items, up to a maximum rebate of $100 per category
* All rebates will be processed through direct bank transfer
* You must apply for a rebate within 60 days of making your purchase. The receipt must be legible and in Australian dollars.
* For online orders, proof of how much you spent is required. If your invoice does not show this, you should provide other evidence of the cost (e.g., screenshot from the website).
* This program will run until funds are exhausted. Please visit [Council’s Zero Waste Rebate webpage](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/waste-environment/living-green/zero-waste-rebates/) to find out if a rebate category is nearing its funding allocation.

## What you can claim a rebate for

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Items included in category** | **Rebate amount (what you can claim back)** |
| **Composting tools** | * Compost bin * Worm farm * Bokashi bin including grains and liquid * Compost aerator * Worms * Kitchen caddy | 50% of the cost, up to $200  \* Maximum rebate $100 |
| **Reusable sanitary**  **items** | * Reusable sanitary pads * Reusable sanitary cups * Leak-proof underwear * Incontinence washable clothing * Incontinence washable bed or chair pads * Wet bags for reusable sanitary items | 50% of the cost, up to $200  \* Maximum rebate $100 |
| **Reusable nappy items** | * Cloth nappies * Reusable swim nappies * Reusable liners for nappies * Reusable baby wipes * Wet bags for reusable nappies * Reusable nursing pads | 50% of the cost, up to $200  \* Maximum rebate $100 |
| **Shopping carts** | * Collapsible shopping carts made from sustainable material such as metal, aluminium and cloth with minimal plastic parts. | 50% of the cost, up to $200  \* Maximum rebate $100 |

## What you cannot claim a rebate for

* Postage and other fees
* Commercial equipment
* Items that are not been listed above

Assessment Process

1. All applications will be reviewed against the eligibility criteria (page 4)
2. All applications will be reviewed in chronological order from the time of submission
3. Eligible applications will be assessed by the Resource Recovery Unit
4. Applicants will be advised of their outcome

## How to apply

### Online Form

Applications for the Zero Waste Rebate are submitted online at [whittlesea.smartygrants.com.au](https://whittlesea.smartygrants.com.au/)

To apply online you will need an email address. If you cannot access the internet or require printed forms, please contact the Waste and Recycling Unit (details on page 2).

Please note**:** applications will only be accepted online. If you cannot access the internet or require printed forms, contact the Resource Recovery Unit. Emails or paper forms sent to Council offices via mail will not be considered.

More information

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Resource Recovery Unit**

Phone: (03) 9217 2170

Email: [resource.recovery@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:resource.recovery@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

Website: [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grant](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grants)