

MD201 ENVIRONMENT

PROTECTING OUR PLANET, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



From Therese Bruning - MD201 Environment Chairperson

CREATE, REUSE, INSPIRE LIONS NATIONAL UPCYCLING PROJECT



Over the next few months, we're launching a fun, creative and meaningful Upcycling Campaign – Create, Reuse, Inspire – and we invite every Lion, Leo, Club and family member to be part of it!

This campaign is about upcycling, not recycling – thinking creatively, getting hands-on, and showing how small ideas can make a big environmental impact. We encourage clubs to take on upcycling projects and share photos of your creations, which will be showcased across our social media.

UPCYCLING vs RECYCLING - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

While both help our environment, upcycling and recycling are not the same.

Recycling

Recycling breaks materials down to be remade into something new. This process often requires:

- Transport
- Energy
- Industrial processing

Examples include:

- Turning plastic bottles into new plastic products
- Melting glass to make new bottles
- Reprocessing paper into new paper

LIONS NATIONAL UPCYCLING PROJECT.

🎨 Upcycling

Upcycling means reusing items in their existing form and transforming them into something useful, decorative or creative – without breaking them down. It's about imagination, craftsmanship and fun!

Simple examples:

- Old tyres turned into garden planters
- Glass jars made into lanterns or storage containers
- Wooden pallets transformed into outdoor furniture
- Old t-shirts or denim jeans turned into tote bags
- Broken crockery used in mosaics
- Dyeing, painting or decorating items to give them a new lease of life e.g. denim jackets, glass bottles, furniture etc.



🔗 Links for Ideas and Inspiration

- [101 Upcycling Ideas](#)
- [Upcycling Crafts and DIY](#)
- [50 Upcycling Ideas for the Garden](#)
- [250 Upcycled Furniture Projects \(including wooden pallets\)](#)
- [30 Denim Upcycling Ideas](#)
- [45 DIY Upcycle Ideas to Sew](#)
- [20 Easy Ideas for Kitchen Item Upcycles](#)
- [150 Upcycling Ideas for Garden Projects](#)

LIONS NATIONAL UPCYCLING PROJECT

WHY UPCYCLING MATTERS FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT 🌍

Upcycling has powerful environmental benefits:

- ✓ Reduces waste going to landfill
- ✓ Saves energy and natural resources
- ✓ Lowers carbon emissions
- ✓ Encourages mindful consumption
- ✓ Extends the life of everyday items

By choosing to upcycle, we reduce demand for new materials and help protect our planet – all while having fun and learning new skills.

A CAMPAIGN FOR ALL AGES - LIONS AND LEOS 🦁🦁

This campaign is designed to be:

🦁 Inclusive 🦁 Creative 🦁 Hands-on 🦁 Suitable for all ages

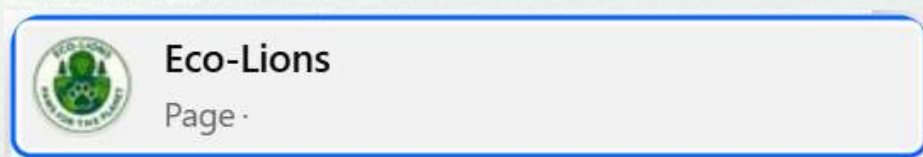
Leo Clubs are especially encouraged to get involved – upcycling is a fantastic way for young people to:

- Explore creativity
- Learn about sustainability
- Work together as a team
- Share their ideas on social media

From simple craft projects to large-scale club initiatives, every effort counts.

HOW CAN YOUR CLUB GET INVOLVED 📸

1. Choose an upcycling project (big or small)
2. Get creative and have fun
3. Take photos of your finished project (or even the process!)
4. Send your photos to environment@lions.org.au and/or tag our [Eco-Lions page](#) on Facebook @Eco-Lions. Use hashtags #ecolions #CreateReuseInspire #LionsUpcycleForGood



We'll share as many projects as possible to inspire others to get involved and make a positive difference for our environment.

LIONS NATIONAL UPCYCLING PROJECT

MONTHLY THEMES

The themes below ***are suggestions only*** and we of course welcome all projects at any time over the next few months.

FEB 2026 – Home & Everyday Items 🏠

Upcycling items found around the house. Examples: jars, clothing, furniture, containers, décor.

MAR 2026 – Garden & Outdoors 🌿

Giving new life to outdoor materials. Examples: tyres, pallets, pots, tools, signage.

APR 2026– Upcycle for Good 📺

Upcycling with purpose – creating items that are donated, gifted, used in service projects or support others in our community. Examples: items for fundraisers, furniture or toys for families in need, improvements to shared community spaces.

The upcycling campaign will run until the end of May 2026.



MOST IMPORTANTLY - HAVE FUN



CLUB PARTICIPATION CHECKLIST

Use this simple checklist to help your club get involved:

- Choose a monthly theme (or all three!)
- Decide on an upcycling project (simple or ambitious)
- Involve Lions, Leos, family members or community partners
- Create your upcycled item(s)
- Take clear photos (before & after encouraged)
- Write a short description of what you created and why
- Submit photos and details to environment@lions.org.au
- Share your project on social media - Tag @Eco-Lions plus #CreateReuseInspire #LionsUpcycleForGood
- Celebrate your impact and inspire others!