

A Blueprint for Household Recycling

Australia recycles a lot of its materials across the household, commercial and building sectors. It can do better and with the recent challenges to our household systems, now is the time to define best practice and introduce a system that will deliver us an outcome where over 80% of the materials and products we handle at a household level are diverted from landfill. Of course, reduction and reuse have a crucial role, but we also need a clear, consistent and convenient recycling system.

Kerbside collections- Packaging and paper

Four bin fortnightly collections with cost built into rates at new level

- Green lid for food and garden organics with acceptance of food in paper bags or approved biodegradable bio sourced bags- 120L or 240L fortnightly
- Yellow lid for commingled all paper and cardboard, metals and rigid and flexible plastics. Flexibles using 'bags in a bag' available from council or supermarkets- 120L or 240L fortnightly
- Purple lid for packaging glass -60L or 80L fortnightly
- Red lid for residual waste -80L or 120L fortnightly
- Green bin direct to regional composting facility and to soil enhancement markets
- Yellow bin to MRF with sorting to market specifications and regular independent auditing and reporting of outcomes/destinations
- Purple bin direct to beneficiation with majority to packaging manufacture and residual to road construction
- Red to landfill until 80% diversion achieved. Energy recovery after this outcome.

Durable goods

- Annual collections of designated durables for reuse or recycling without compaction
- No hard waste collections for landfill disposal
- Neighbourhood drop off reuse and recycling stations
- Identified pathways for all domestic durable goods

Other

- CDS scheme with options for consumer credit or recovery through kerbside with redemption based on tonnes collected and sorted.
- CDS extended to all beverage and other rigid bottles
- One off shared funding support for new bin purchase and distribution
- Exemption of recycling upgrade from rates capping
- Regular reporting of recycling and residual waste levels against state-wide targets of 80% diversion
- Paper and cardboard separate collection from multi-unit developments serviced by skips
- All residential sites to be serviced by recycling (drop off for remote locations)
- Extended product stewardship arrangements covering clothes, furniture, other key items
- Point of sale return for small items -batteries, phones, cartridges, smoke detectors, other items
- Deselection of problematic packaging by APCO members- PVC, carbon black, PS.