

DRAFT Waste and Recycling Strategy 2019-22

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Executive Summary

Council's Vision is for a Greener, Bolder, More Connected City. Reducing waste and maximising recycling outcomes is not only a vital part of the work we do but also is very important to our community. This strategy sets out our long term goals and objectives for waste and recycling, with an Action Plan outlining our focus for the next three years.

Council previously adopted the *Darebin Waste and Litter Strategy 2015-2025*. Significant challenges in the recycling industry and our declaration of climate emergency have required us to rethink and adjust our approach. While many core objectives such as reducing overall waste to landfill and community education remain a key focus, we have also shifted our focus more to cutting emissions from waste, advocacy to state and federal government and challenging traditional approaches to waste and recycling.

A review into Council's waste and recycling services has been conducted over the last 18 months with the aim of identifying innovative, solution-focused approaches to service delivery and materials processing, and inform our *Waste and Recycling Strategy* so that it:

- reflects Council's commitment to taking action on the climate emergency;
- takes into account recent changes in the recycling industry;
- positions Darebin as a leading council for waste and recycling services;
- challenges traditional kerbside models and current best practice; and
- delivers customer service excellence, greater social equity and inclusion, and value for money.

This *Waste and Recycling Strategy* is shorter in timeframe than than the previous strategy – this reflects the dynamic state of the waste and recycling sector. Significant change is expected over the next few years and may require a degree of flexibility to adapt our approach as needed. That being said, this Strategy sets long term directions, so that we can be confident that actions now and in future will contribute to Council's long term goals. In order to meet the current challenges in the waste and recycling sector, Darebin is calling for a whole of sector review to address waste and recycling throughout its lifecycle and this requires state and federal government intervention to address issues outside of the remit of councils.

Like other councils, Darebin City Council, temporarily sent recyclable materials to landfill in 2019 when the SKM recycling facility in Coolaroo closed. This occurred between 25 July and 5 September 2019. This closure highlighted issues in the sector including unsafe stockpiling, an over-reliance of some operators on overseas processing and the vulnerability of statewide recycling infrastructure. Council has been able to renegotiate a new contract with VISY and our kerbside recycling material is being recycled. However, the recycling crisis and the temporary disruption to this service highlights the need for a change in the statewide, and national, approach.

In 2020 we will consult with the community about possible changes to a range of services to achieve improved waste and recycling outcomes. This consultation will include options for:

- changing the collection frequency of kerbside green waste and garbage to maximise food waste recycling;
- services to multi-unit developments and businesses;
- improved hard waste services to maximise recycling outcomes; and
- improving fairness, equity and sustainability of how waste and recycling services are charged and options for how incentives may be able to help reduce waste and therefore cost overall.

While we have been reviewing our approach and developing this new strategy we have continued to roll-out a number of key initiatives, including:

- Introduction of food waste recycling via the green bin in October 2019
- Continued roll-out of communications to our community on how to prevent food waste
- Adoption of the new Council Social and Sustainable Procurement policy to prioritise purchase of recycled products and materials
- New Home composting incentives scheme roll-out in 2019
- Educating and helping our community to recycle their electronic waste through our e-waste campaign
- Promoting textile drop off hubs
- National Recycling Week promotions
- Launching a *Pitch It for Waste*: a business development program designed to support new business start-ups in tackling our waste - in early 2020
- Asking community to help through advocacy and their behaviour through supporting our community to act e.g. Love Our Streets/Friends of Groups through promotion in council social media channels

We will continue this work and ask the community to continue to work with us to reduce waste, improve their recycling outcomes and cut emissions from waste. We will continue to work with other levels of government to improve the waste and recycling outcomes.

Key Objectives

- Address waste in the context of Climate Emergency
- Valuing resource productivity
- Design out waste and pollution
- Maintain the value of products and materials
- Innovate new solutions for resource efficiency
- Create new circular economy jobs
- Foster behaviour change through education, regulation and engagement

Long-term Goals

- Reform Waste policy at the state and federal level to align with the climate emergency.
- Divert all green waste from landfill and increase uptake of green waste service
- All textiles diverted from landfill
- Reduced textile consumption
- Comprehensive waste services provided to all multi-unit developments and commercial business
- Greenhouse gases eliminated from all waste processing
- Reduce contamination, increase diversion, minimise waste to landfill and increase resource recovery
- Maximise diversion of Hard Rubbish from landfill
- Waste charges are financially sustainable and equitable.
- Drive innovation in materials recovery and world leading waste operations.
- Zero dumped rubbish and litter
- Darebin City Council is a zero-waste organisation

Climate Emergency and Waste Implications

Darebin Council was the first Council in the world to declare a climate emergency. There are now over 1000 governments worldwide that have declared a climate emergency. This commitment is driving new and significant investment into greenhouse emissions reduction actions by many Victorian councils.

In 2017 Darebin adopted its *Climate Emergency Plan* – this plan requires council to re-examine its policies and actions in the context of the climate emergency. This means instead of just looking at our waste from a cost or volume/tonnage perspective, we examined waste through the lens of greenhouse gas emission reduction.

What are Darebin’s greenhouse gas emissions from residential waste?

When considering the greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste, there is a need to consider impacts across the whole waste system from the benefits of improved recycling to better waste processing, not just from the end product (that is all the emissions in the production of goods, transport and waste processing as well as recycling and composting options).

To determine where the biggest potential lies to improve Darebin’s carbon impact from waste management, it is necessary to look at waste going to landfill. The below table shows emissions associated with waste going to landfill from across the municipality. While ‘Recycling Potential’ demonstrates that significant reductions in emissions can be achieved via recycling, the ‘Reduction Potential’ shows that far greater gains can be achieved by avoiding production of these materials in the first place.

	Landfill Impact	Recycling Potential	Reduction Potential
Soft plastics	7	-4,885	-9,309
Dense plastic	6	-3,973	-7,572
Paper / card	3,315	-4,589	-7,820
Garden waste	713	-479	0
Food waste	5,490	-3,082	-68,495
Sanitary wastes	804	0	-3,656
Textiles	1,342	-23,509	-84,394
Wood	-3,323	0	0
Non-ferrous metal	1	-9,515	-9,912
Ferrous metal	2	-1,987	-3,022
Electronic and electrical	1	-161	-1,565
Glass	2	-739	-1,203
Other inerts	0	0	
Other miscellaneous combustibles	1,316	0	
Hazardous	1	0	
TOTAL	9,676	-52,920	-193,294

In the case of recycling systems, emissions are avoided because of a reduction in the need to produce goods from virgin materials; benefits are typically reduced in comparison to those resulting from waste prevention activity, as the recycling production process itself also results in some emissions.

What does this mean for action?

In reviewing Darebin's waste in the context of the climate emergency council has identified the following opportunities for greenhouse gas emission reduction:

Food

The greatest potential to reduce carbon impacts from waste is to address food waste. This is also the single biggest opportunity to reduce the quantity of waste Darebin sends to landfill. In 2019 Darebin Council introduced its new food waste recycling service to existing green bin households.

The next steps to drive further reductions in food waste are to introduce a universal food waste service for all, this will mean:

- Developing food waste collections for apartments and town houses.
- Developing commercial food waste collections.

Textiles

Textiles are the most carbon-intensive materials on a per tonne basis. Although they do not make up a large portion of Darebin's waste stream reducing textile use can have a relatively large carbon impact. Council will start to target textiles (both reduction in consumption and increases in recycling) through:

- Introducing and/or promoting new textile collection services, such as drop-off hubs or periodic collections
- Investigate Textile recycling in Australia

Textiles that cannot be re-used typically end up getting disposed of often in developing countries. To date there has been limited options for reclaiming the fibres to enable the creation of recycled fibres for new products. The northern suburbs of Melbourne have a long history with clothing and footwear. There are precedents for innovative processing and re-use of textiles internationally with the most famous being the ReTuna recycled shopping mall in Sweden www.huffpost.com/entry/recycled-mall-sweden-retuna_n_5bfd0762e4b0eb6d931346b3

Further, an Australian company Blocktexp claims to have developed a proprietary technology that will enable the separation and reclamation of fibres. They are reportedly intending to build a 10,000 tonne per annum facility in South East Queensland. There may be an opportunity to investigate the establishment of a similar facility in Darebin for the Melbourne market. www.blocktexp.com

Separate the recycling streams for improved material recovery

Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017

Darebin Council is calling for the Victorian Government to take a more active leadership stance in relation to waste greenhouse emissions, waste greenhouse emissions avoidance and drawdown outcomes.

Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017 establishes a long-term target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Act also requires five yearly interim emissions reduction targets to be set to keep Victoria on track to meet this long-term target. The first two interim targets – for 2025 and 2030 – must be determined by 31 March 2020.

Now is the time for the Victorian Government to act to set emission reduction targets for the waste sector. These targets need to be linked to significant action on recycling and waste policy reform.

QUICK WINS

As well as the core actions outlined in this Strategy, which may take some time to implement fully, there are several actions that Darebin can progress relatively easily and quickly. These include:

- Improvements to the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre
- Textile collections
- Food waste prevention education
- Implement an incentivised home composting programme

There is also good potential to reduce carbon impacts by recycling and reducing non-ferrous metals (like aluminium or copper), as well as tackling paper and cardboard and dense and soft plastics. Council can investigate and develop new collection services to:

- Identify opportunities for expanding community recycling station drop off points (i.e. recycling hubs) and the range of materials recycled.
- Develop business cases and partnerships developed to identify if high value streams or low value can be separated (paper; metal) and if overall frequency change could reduce waste to landfill.

Deep reductions in waste to landfill – waste processing options for the future

By undertaking a significant step change in how waste is managed, Darebin could increase diversion of waste from landfill from 44% to 82%¹ and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The core actions to achieve this level of performance are collecting food waste (which is underway), anaerobic digestion of the collected food waste, and treatment of the residual waste before landfill.

Anaerobic digestion of food and garden waste and treatment of the residual waste before landfill are two processes that will assist us in reducing our carbon output. However, Darebin cannot do this on its own. To enable this, the following factors need to be assessed:

- Economies of scale, in most instances to get good results from these two processes the need for additional feedstock would need to include additional partners.
- Investment in new technologies, capital costs for a new plant to process food waste could be around \$20 million, while a new plant to treat the leftover waste before it goes to landfill could be \$50 million to \$75 million.
- Engaging with potential suppliers to gather further detail on what can be delivered by specific equipment and processes, and their operational parameters.
- Joint ownership and joint procurement approaches.

We have seen the Victorian Government deliver significant investment in renewable energy through the harnessing of all levels of Government energy purchasing power. This has resulted in bringing about new wind and solar farms in Victoria and will bring forward around \$533 million of new investment in renewables, 300MW new renewable energy, and around 600 jobs during construction, saving the state \$84 million over 10 years. The same kind of benefits could be achieved with anaerobic digestion and Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) processes. We need a long-term commitment from the Victorian Government to invest in bioenergy waste processing. This work needs to start urgently and should be led through by a new independent Victorian Waste and Recycling Authority.

Waste to Energy is not the solution

We do not support waste to energy technology as a sustainable technology. This is because by consuming plastic, which is made from petroleum, it is effectively burning oil for energy and creating more greenhouse gases, albeit at a slightly slower speed. If the Victorian Government could create a strong and effective recycling processing and collection infrastructure, then plastic would be largely removed from the waste stream and waste to energy is far less likely to be a suitable technology.

We are also concerned that waste to energy plants could act to displace investment in renewable energy sources of electricity (such as solar and wind) from the electricity grid.

¹ Eunomia Report page xx.

Waste Hierarchy

This strategy places emphasis on the waste minimisation hierarchy which favours waste avoidance and reuse as the preferred outcomes before recycling, energy recovery, or landfill. The hierarchy is a useful guide for individual choices, however this strategy also recognises that this approach must be embedded into policy and service design by all levels of government and that avoiding waste generation must ultimately be embedded into how Australia's economy and society operates.

Council will support the community to avoid the use of single-use plastics by working with local businesses.

Avoid - a deliberate choice to not generate waste through purchasing decisions and behaviour.

- For example, choose items that will last a long time or have a long life span, join a tool or toy library to borrow the items you need, repair items rather than throwing them out,

choose items with no or less packaging, buy smaller amounts of food that goes off quickly. By avoiding buying new items we achieve the highest environmental, financial and community benefits.

Council will explore better ways of recovering materials from hard waste and e-waste collections through contracted parties and fostering innovation.

Reuse - choose items that can be reused rather than disposed.

- For example, use a refillable water bottle rather than single use bottles, give items to an op shop or friends, buy second hand items and use reusable bags.

- **Recycle** - involves turning items into reusable (often raw)

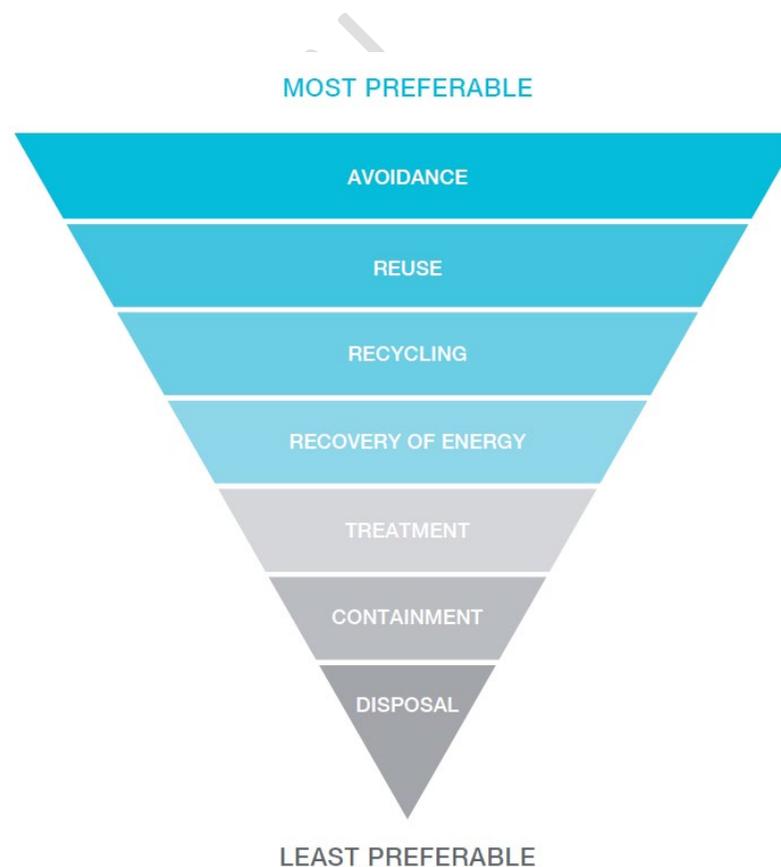
materials. It can also include buying recycled items. It also includes composting food and garden waste. Recycling can reduce the energy, water, greenhouse emissions associated with producing new items.

- For example, use your kerbside recycling bin correctly, recycle metal products, take phones, TV's and computers to drop-off points for electronic waste recycling. Buy products such as printing paper and toilet paper with 100% recycled content.

Trial an anaerobic digester with local traders to process food waste locally.

- **Recovery of energy** - when materials cannot be recycled, energy may be able to be recovered from them. However, waste to energy technology should not be seen as a sustainable alternative to recycling. It is Council's position that the state government should pursue other technologies and policy approaches such as anaerobic digestion. (See pg? for further information)

Treatment, Containment and Disposal - the last options and least desirable outcome for waste management. Darebin's residual wastes are disposed to a secure best practice landfill with a high level of gas and energy recovery.



The State of Play for the Waste and Recycling Sector

Global

Waste is a global issue. A global shift in recycling processing means that places all over the world are taking a different approach to recycling. Australia, like many other developed countries has been reliant on overseas markets for the processing of some recycled materials, many of these markets are have collapsed or are shrinking. This presents challenges but also opportunities to make widespread change in how waste is dealt with globally. The developed world should not be exporting its environmental problems to developing countries.

China National Sword

Until recently China was among the largest importer of recycled materials globally. In 2018 China introduced the National Sword Policy which put restrictions on the kinds of recyclable material it will accept from overseas. It will only accept material with a contamination rate of 0.5% or less. Much of the material they had been receiving previously was heavily contaminated. Following the change in policy from China other countries throughout Asia began to impose similar restrictions.

The global price for recyclable materials plummeted with these changes, sparking a 'recycling crisis'. This has forced many developed countries to rethink their approach to waste and recycling, develop new markets domestically, and move towards circular economy solutions.

Some developed countries already have advanced waste and recycling that we can learn from. For example, the Netherlands only sends two percent of its waste to landfill, where landfill bans were first introduced and gradually extended to 64 different categories of waste.²

National

Traditionally the Federal Government has not played an active role in waste and recycling in Australia, leaving the responsibility to the state and local government sector. Following the recycling crisis the Federal Government showed more interest in the issue, however greater and more urgent action is required at a national level. The entire system needs to be reshaped, because dumping almost half the nation's waste in landfill is simply unsustainable.

Nationally Australia generates approximately 67 million tonnes of waste per year, with 55 percent of that going to recycling facilities, 3 percent to energy and the remainder (42%) to landfill.

² <https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/columns/spinifex/recycling-and-incineration-surprises-in-the-netherlands/>

European Commission Circular Economy Action Plan

The European Commission Circular Economy Action Plan is one example of how circular economy approaches are being implemented around the world.

The European Commission has adopted a Circular Economy Package which includes a suite of measures to transition to a circular economy. One of these measures is the Circular Economy Action Plan, which promotes efficient resource use throughout the economy. The European Commission has estimated that shifting to a circular economy will save €30 billion over 20 years through more efficient waste management and increase GDP by seven per cent. By 2035, up to 170,000 jobs will be created in the waste management sector and around 3 million jobs in the wider economy.

Approximately 12 percent of national recycling was exported overseas in 2017-18. The Chinese restrictions on the imports led to a significant decrease in Australia's export of recycling to China, overall between 2016-17 and 2017-18 waste exports to China decreased from 1.26 million tonnes (Mt) to 0.75 Mt, a decline of 41%. However, most of this shifted to other countries in Asia, however these countries are progressively imposing restrictions and new approaches are urgently needed³.

The *2018 National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources*, provides a framework for collective action by businesses, governments, communities and individuals until 2030. The policy sets stronger targets for improved recycling and reducing waste to landfill including:

- *Divert 80% of waste from landfill*
- *Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2030*
- *Halve volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030*

However, this policy and its targets have not been backed with the required funding or concrete actions to deliver on these targets.

On 9 August 2019 the Council of Australian Governments agreed Australia should establish a timetable to ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, while building Australia's capacity to generate high value recycled commodities and associated demand. The Federal Government tasked state Environment Ministers to develop a proposed timetable and response strategy to implement this ban.

Darebin would welcome such a ban, however without the required funding support and investment in improved infrastructure much of what is currently being exported could end up going to landfill or being stockpiled.

International experience shows that best practice waste management is achieved with a strong nationally co-ordinated approach⁴.

Victoria

The recycling crisis highlighted a lack of long term planning and policy co-ordination at the State level with the collapse of the state's largest recycling facilities and the uncovering of dangerous stockpiling and storing practices and illegal disposal of toxic waste. Several large scale fires have occurred in recent years at recycling facilities and storage sites with serious environmental and public health impacts.

A range of state government departments have responsibilities for waste and recycling and a number of reviews have been conducted recently or are underway in light of the recycling crisis as outlined below.

³ Data on exports of Australian wastes 2018-19, Blue Environment 1 Nov 2019

⁴ <https://www.smh.com.au/national/ambitious-and-expensive-export-bans-on-waste-prompts-pleas-for-federal-funding-20191108-p538sh.html>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/publications/national-waste-policy-2018>

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/ambitious-and-expensive-export-bans-on-waste-prompts-pleas-for-federal-funding-20191108-p538sh.html>

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is responsible for policy in relation to land use and environment. DELWP is currently developing a Circular Economy Policy that will set the overarching policy to reduce environmental impacts of production and consumption and get more out of our natural resources.

DELWP is responsible for the administration of the landfill levy which places a price on every tonne of waste that goes to landfill. This levy is paid by councils on behalf of residents to the state government. Since its introduction in 2005 \$1.7 billion has been collected via the levy. The money raised is held in the Sustainability fund, purposed to fostering:

- Environmentally sustainable use of resources and best practice in waste management.
- Community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, or adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria.



Environment Protection Authority (EPA) – is responsible for environmental regulation. The Environmental Protection Act was updated in 2018 and will take effect from July 2020. It includes significant reforms to contaminated land and waste management.

Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) – there are a number of regional waste forums, MWRRG is the forum for metropolitan Melbourne. The Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan articulates the long term direction for resource recovery and waste management in metropolitan Melbourne. MWRRG is responsible for negotiating and managing a number of contracts for waste and recycling processing on behalf of councils and provides support to councils on waste and recycling education.

Infrastructure Victoria has recently examined how the industry as a whole has been operating, what has been working and what hasn't, and will advise how infrastructure and government action can create a better recycling sector. It found that 'outcomes observed in the Victorian recycling and resource recovery sector fall short of a sector operating efficiently and are reflective of market failures.'⁵

Sustainability Victoria (SV) – is a statutory authority whose role is to support the sector through education, they also manage the 'Detox your home' program for the collection of household chemicals.

Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) – conducts a range of reviews, recently including 'Managing the Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy' in 2018 and 'Recovering and Reprocessing Resources from Waste' in 2019.

The diffused nature of roles and responsibilities in the state government for waste and recycling has led to duplication, a lack of cohesion and inadequate long term strategic planning. Darebin City Council is calling for the creation of a Victorian Waste and Recycling Authority that centralises the delivery of policy, regulation and support to create a whole of lifecycle approach to waste management in Victoria. The Sustainability Fund, raised through the landfill levy, must be directed towards its stated purpose to improve waste management, greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation.

⁵ Source: Recycling and resource recovery infrastructure evidence base report, Infrastructure Victoria 2019, p17.)

Local

The average Darebin household produces approximately 15 kg of total waste per week, 52% garbage, 27% recycling and 21% green waste. The trend overtime for kerbside collection shows a reduction in total waste across and garbage (landfill) over time. Recycling and green waste remain relatively stable.

In 2019 Darebin introduced food waste recycling, food can now be placed in the green bin along with garden waste – this is turned into compost. Over time this could lead to an increase in green waste, however garden waste is highly changeable depending on rainfall and may decline over time.

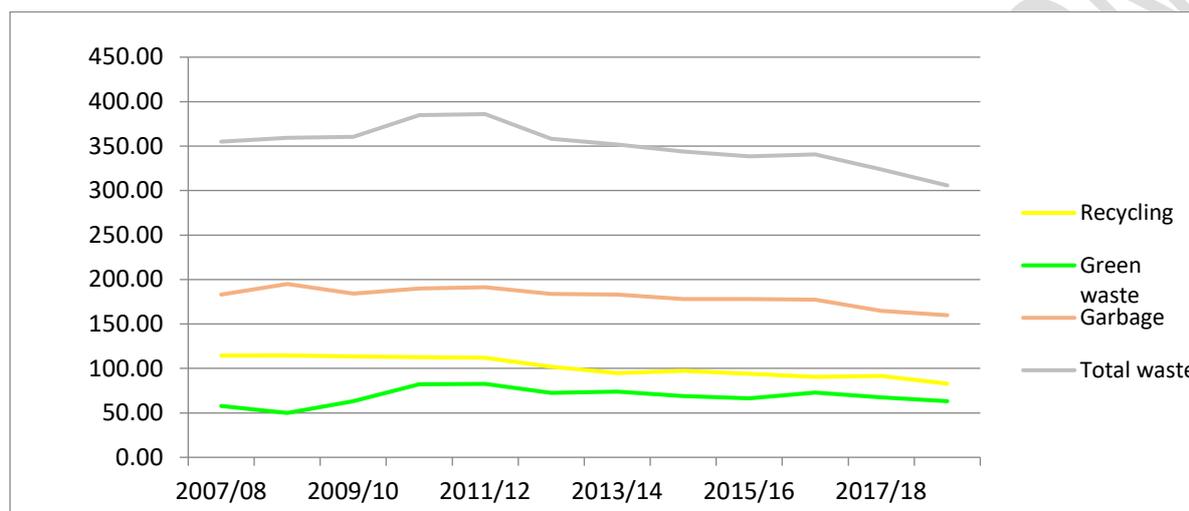


Figure xx: Annual kerbside waste and recycling collection per capita

An audit of kerbside bins conducted in August-September 2018 bins showed that contents of the average household garbage bin was 40 percent of food waste, and a further 5 percent of other organic material. Introducing food waste recycling, encouraging home composting and promoting ways to reduce food waste is the biggest opportunity for us, Council and the community, to reduce waste to landfill. This will also significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions – food waste in kerbside garbage bins goes to landfill where it produces methane a harmful greenhouse gas and it is calculated that this amounts to approximately 7000 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

Over the course of this strategy we will continue to focus on reducing food waste to landfill. We will work with the community to try to find solutions to help businesses and residents in multi-unit developments divert food waste from landfill.

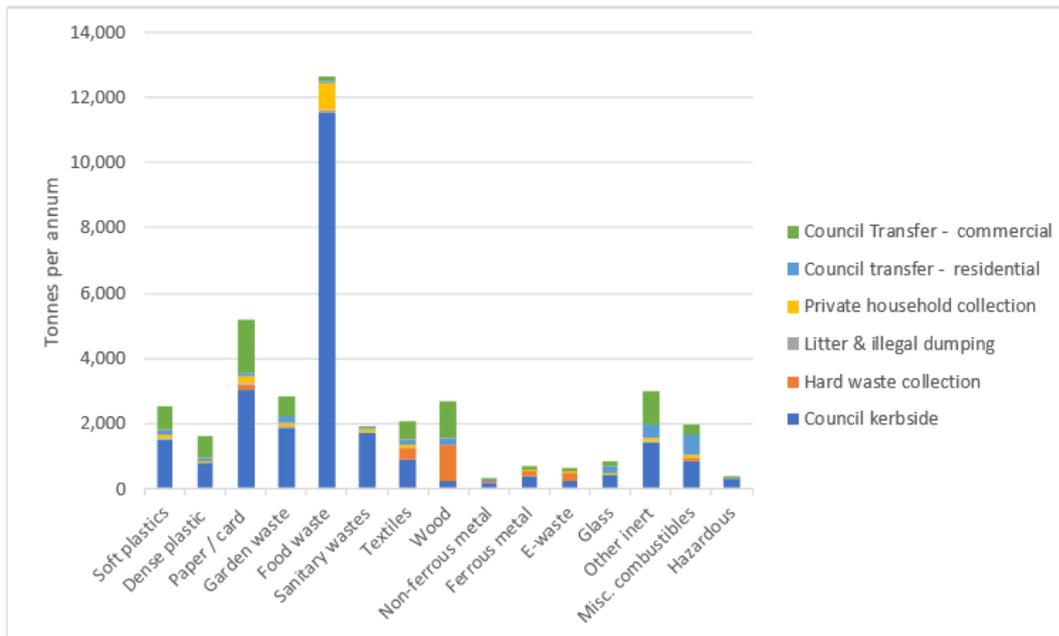


Figure xx: *Composition of Council Controlled Waste to Landfill*

Council also collects waste via hard and dumped rubbish, via our transfer station – Darebin Resource and Recovery Centre (DRCC), street sweeping and litter collections. The above graph shows the composition of this waste that currently goes to landfill.

In total Council collects approximately 40,000 tonnes of waste, 57% of this is sent to landfill and 43% is recovered via kerbside recycling, green waste or via drop off points or transfer stations.

Approximately 2000 tonnes of hard rubbish is collected annually in Darebin, just over 20% of this is recycled. A key focus will be to improve this recycling rate, promote other options for re-use of materials and discourage dumped rubbish.

Reducing single-use plastic and litter is also a key focus for this strategy. We will work with our local community to eliminate single-use plastics and support initiatives like, Love our Streets and Water Watch, and the activities of creek management groups, and friends of groups to protect our waterways.

A 3 year Action Plan has been prepared with the detailed work we will do at a local level over the next three years to improve recycling outcomes, reduce waste to landfill and emissions from waste. However, this strategy recognises that many of the opportunities to implement best practice waste and recycling processing require state and federal government. We are committed to working with other levels of government to implement the changes needed at a local, state-wide and national level.

WASTE AND RECYCLING ADVOCACY

Creating a circular economy requires government policy and intervention and needs to be founded in the waste hierarchy. It should be designed to achieve:

- Minimal use of virgin materials
- Net zero emissions
- No escape of litter into the environment

Key Advocacy Asks to State Federal Government

To meet longer term goals emerging from the strategic design work described above, the Draft Strategy proposes focusing efforts on building on Council's strong advocacy platform to shift industry and government towards low carbon and robust waste and recycling management solutions. The following key advocacy asks are outlined in the Strategy:

1. Factor greenhouse emissions into all waste and recycling decisions

Climate change is the leading environmental issue of our time. Given the Climate Emergency, we call on the State Government to ensure that greenhouse emissions are a key driver when making decisions on waste and recycling management, infrastructure or projects.

2. Create effective governance to look at the whole supply and waste system including policy, economic development and facilitation.

We are calling for a whole of sector review, and the creation of a new independent Victorian Waste and Recycling Authority to take charge of waste and recycling throughout the lifecycle. The current institutional arrangements do not achieve a whole of system view, and some of the current regulation is now 25 years old and no longer suits the marketplace. This authority must effectively coordinate with Federal and local governments and could be funded via the Landfill Levy.

3. Turn off the tap – require and incentivise higher use of recycled materials.

- Set targets and introduce regulations and/or legislation to phase out the use of virgin materials for packaging and replace with recycled materials, as well as ban the import and production of hard-to-recycle materials.
- Set high minimum recycled content procurement targets in all levels of government.
- Introduce financial incentives for using recycled materials that are funded by producers using virgin materials – a similar mechanism to the Victorian Energy Efficiency Scheme could be considered.
- Broaden and deepen the TV and computer product stewardship scheme to other products and include mechanisms for cost burden sharing.
- The State Government to fast track its' Plastic Pollution Action Plan which was promised in 2019 to prioritise the most effective actions to reduce other types of plastic pollution such as cigarette butts, food and beverage containers and other single-use plastic items. We consider that these actions need to be taken through COAG for broad-scale nationwide action.

4. Incentivise and drive effective waste and recycling behaviour at end of pipe

In principle economic incentives should align with policy goals. Victoria needs a container deposit scheme with cash back models. Product sale levies should be placed on all types of packaging,

including source separated schemes for items including cigarette butts, other types of plastics, textiles and glass. Funds from these systems could help industry establish collection points where people already visit including shopping areas, schools or trains stations. With costs borne by users, rather than the broader community.

The State Government should deliver a sustained, wide-spread waste education campaign focused on waste avoidance to contribute to changing behaviour.

5. Recycling industry development and sector wide standards.

Regular industry and economic development tools used to help the recycling industry develop, innovate and grow. These could include R&D grants, support to facilitate early business development and help to identify locations for collection networks.

Sector accreditation for overseas imports or processing is important and should be done at state, or Australian level to ensure that it's effective and enables a level playing field.

6. Require high standards for waste and recycling processing – that cut emissions.

The need for effective recycling processing will remain high. Recycling will be expected to be reprocessed into quality recycled material streams. Darebin Council does not regard burning plastic (waste to energy) as a suitable path (*refer to page # for why*). The State Government should pursue other technologies and policy approaches. Advice council has received suggests that waste to biofuel may offer a good intermediate solution because it could displace use of fossil fuels in vehicles which we don't currently have a better alternative.

7. Work with the Federal Government for product stewardship

Local government is united in believing that a national product stewardship scheme is critical to introduce to help share the cost burden, which is currently falling primarily on local government.

Product stewardship legislation is national, so schemes must be introduced by the Federal Government. However, State Government can lead the way on the introduction of new legislation working together with the Federal Government.

We further call on the Federal and Victorian governments, to work together urgently to introduce a comprehensive product stewardship scheme.

8. Spend the landfill levy on climate, recycling and waste issues transparently and urgently

We are steadfast in our call for the State Government to urgently spend the landfill levy transparently to take action on climate, recycling and waste issues.

Action Plan

Broad direction	Current Actions	2020-21	2021-2022	Long-term direction
Re-set the strategic direction of the Waste Strategy to align with the Climate Emergency Foster Innovation	Continuing our advocacy work for waste policy reform to deliver outcomes that align with the climate emergency. Launching a Pitch IT competition for innovative waste services in early 2020. Asking our community to help through advocacy and their behaviour – e.g. Love Our Streets through promotion in council media channels.	Develop an interactive a Zero Waste Map for our community (or similar online tool) as part of the refresh of the Council Waste and Sustainable Consumption webpages to provide the community with a one-stop resource to promote all waste and recycling options. Partner with the university sector and others to create a centre for waste policy innovation.	Continuing our advocacy work for waste policy reform to deliver outcomes that align with the climate emergency.	Reform Waste policy at the state and federal level to align with the climate emergency.
Cut food waste to landfill	Rolling out food waste service to residential properties and food waste prevention programme through social media and events. Rolling-out home composting incentives and promote community programs, information sessions, training and promotion of home composting and worm-farming as the preferred way to manage unavoidable food waste.	Consider collection frequency changes to increase uptake of food and green waste. Trial an anaerobic digester with local traders to process food waste locally.	Further refine the universal service for green waste.	Divert all green waste from landfill and increase uptake of green waste service.
Cut textiles to landfill	Promote and work with providers to expand the location of textiles bins in places that people visit regularly such as shopping areas, schools, opp. shops, stations in 2020. Call on industry for creative and effective solutions to textiles waste.	Run an education and awareness campaign on textiles use and reuse. Support our local Community to run an upcycling fashion parade/event.	Explore specialist collection service to households for textiles collection (privately delivered but council facilitated) and the opportunity for a local reuse/making industry, considering centralised 'drop off options and collection options.	All textiles diverted from landfill Reduced textile consumption.
Establish services suitable for the commercial sector (business) and multi-unit developments (MUDS)	Introduce a planning condition on new developments to provide for green waste services. Trial Green Waste collection for businesses in 2020.	Develop a business case based on self-funded waste charges model that is 'complete' recycling and waste solution for multi-unit developments (MUDs). Evaluate the Green Waste business trial.	Implement the new service to MUDs Develop business case based on self-funded waste charges model that is 'complete' recycling solution for businesses. (i.e. most if not all waste streams) Tender, contracting and service launch.	A comprehensive waste services is provided to all multi-unit developments and commercial business in the City of Darebin.
Secure future focused technologies that deliver the lowest greenhouse option.	Continue to call on the Victorian Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a new policy approach to deliver waste processing facilities with high standards on greenhouse gas emissions. Address the split incentive between landlords and tenants for the provision of comprehensive waste services. 	Explore innovative specialist services for nappies (and other products) to divert these from landfill. Work with others in local government to reform and drive waste sector reform to align with the climate emergency.	Tender with other councils with high standards on carbon for cutting edge processing facilities such as anaerobic digestion.	Greenhouse gases eliminated from all waste processing.
Recycling	Rolling-out communications for the e-waste ban and promoting residential e-waste collections at key customer service centres. Promote and support alternative, accessible recycling options for the community (e.g. Community Recycling Stations, DRRC, kerbside recycling services, public place recycling).	Identify opportunities for expanding community recycling station drop off points (i.e. recycling hubs) and the range of materials recycled. Deliver the recycle right message through the distribution of the Recycling Guide to all ratepayers. Business case and partnerships developed to identify if high value streams or low value can be separated (paper; metal) and if overall frequency change could cut costs.	Tender, contract variations as needed.	Reduce contamination, increase diversion, minimise waste to landfill and increase resources recovery.
Hard rubbish service review to increase resource recovery rate	Analyse hard waste and recycling services (including e-waste collections) to inform a new contract. Explore Pitch IT for Hard Rubbish collection.	Review, then EOI and tender the hard waste contract and review the service and collection of e-waste to explore better ways of recovering materials through contracted parties and foster innovation.	Implementation of new Hard Rubbish contracts.	Maximise diversion of Hard Rubbish from landfill.

		Investigate better bin solutions for people with disabilities including smaller/more manoeuvrable bins and access to other services including hard waste as part of the service review.		
Waste Charges	Undertake comprehensive audit of residential waste and recycling to inform service changes (complete).	Review service charges to ensure equitable and sustainable charging for waste, recycling and green waste recycling services. Cease and transition the larger bin permits system as part of the service charge review.	Run a trial the introduction of 'pay-per-lift' charges for waste, recycling and green waste recycling services to encourage waste generation reduction and improved recycling.	Waste charge are financially sustainable and equitable.
Contracts - key waste services	DRRC contract (expires June 2021) and work with neighbouring councils, MWRRG, Sustainability Victoria and other stakeholders, to investigate the potential to develop the site as a regional transfer station or bulk haulage site and a more sustainable resource recovery facility. Commence regional landfill waste disposal contract tender preparations.	Implement new contract for the DRRC and work with the DRRC contractor to assess and trial recovery of a wider range of materials, including further expansion of product stewardship listed items. Promote the 'transfer station' i.e. DRRC to our community through social media. Implement landfill contract tender. Progressively replace bin lid colours for waste, recycling and green waste recycling services (when bins need replacing) in line with the national standard and rolling out bin stickers.	Progressively replace bin lid colours for waste, recycling and green waste recycling services (when bins need replacing) in line with the national standard and rolling out bin stickers.	Drive innovation in materials recovery and world leading landfill operations.
Littler and Dumped rubbish	Continue to work with our community to support and promote community efforts to clean up Darebin. Consider and consult on the introduction of a city-wide ban on single use plastic that would apply to any business that provides or sells plastic takeaway food containers, straws, coffee cups and plastic lids.	Continue to work with Merri Creek and Darebin Creek Management Committees and community groups to reduce litter in waterways and expand the WaterWatch program. Develop a municipality wide litter and dumped rubbish reduction campaign: seek funding for this through the Victorian Government. Work with business to facilitate bulk buys for alternatives to plastic take away containers.	Develop strategies to reduce rubbish dumping near multi-unit developments. Investigate the best infrastructure options for protecting waterways from litter including gross pollutant traps.	Zero dumped rubbish and litter
Council Leadership	Update Council procurement policy and implement processes to prioritise purchase of recycled products and materials - the new 2019 <i>Sustainable Procurement Policy</i> . Continue to roll-out council's action plan to eliminate the use of single use plastic at Council events and events on Council land and venues.	Develop a Zero Waste Plan for Council. Continue to implement measures to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle waste and stop littering from all Council facilities and services. Continue to support good waste avoidance, litter and recycling practices at community events by providing information in Council's Event Guide and Venue Hire Policy and making appropriate bin caps available.	Implement a Zero Waste Plan for Darebin Council.	Darebin Council is a zero-waste organisation .