

Recycling Industry Strategic Plan

Fact Sheet



The Victorian Government has invested record funding of more than \$100 million over the last four years to address waste and resource recovery issues.

What is the Recycling Industry Strategic Plan?

The plan is a \$37 million blueprint for a safe, resilient and efficient recycling system in Victoria.

This includes funding for key initiatives:

- An additional \$8.3 million to boost the Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund to more than \$21 million. This will improve the quality of up to 100,000 tonnes of recycled material, including through better sorting and processing.
- A further \$2 million to establish and expand markets for recycled materials – boosting the market development program to \$4.5 million.
- \$3.3 million for an education program to help the community recycle effectively.

The plan includes the \$13 million support package announced in February to help councils and industry in the short term, which followed China's decision to stop importing low-quality recyclable materials.

Did you know that we process about 86% of our recyclable materials in Australia?

The other 14% is processed overseas, including in China.

The plan has four goals designed to deal with immediate issues. The goals are:

- Stabilise the recycling sector
- Increase the quality of recycled materials
- Improve the productivity of the recycling sector
- Develop markets for recycled materials

Why do we need a strategic plan?

Victorians are committed recyclers and our efforts, particularly through kerbside recycling, make a real difference to our environment.

The waste and resource recovery industry is also important to the Victorian economy. It has an annual turnover of \$4 billion, provides 12,000 full-time equivalent jobs and involves more than 590 businesses.

Recycling Industry Strategic Plan

What does the plan mean for households?

The plan will help minimise costs to Victorian households in the long term, and ensure the ongoing viability of kerbside recycling collection services.

The government will also deliver an education program to help the community understand what can and can't be recycled, to help reduce the contamination of kerbside recycling.

Better recycling habits could reduce the amount of contaminated recycling going to landfill by about 40,000 tonnes every year – improving environmental outcomes and reducing costs.

Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund

The \$21 million Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund supports the development of infrastructure to improve the collection and processing of recycled materials. As of July 2018, 27 projects have been funded. These projects will divert at least 500,000 tonnes of material from landfill every year.

In June 2018, Integrated Recycling was awarded a \$130,000 grant from the fund to upgrade its Mildura plastics reprocessing facility. This funding will help increase production of Duratrack, a timber replacement product that is made from almost 100% recycled materials, including plastics and polystyrene.

Every kilometre of Duratrack sleepers contains about 54 tonnes of recycled plastic and 10 tonnes of recycled polystyrene.

Resource Recovery Market Development Fund

The \$4.5 million Resource Recovery Market Development Fund is designed to help create new and expanded markets for Victoria's recyclable materials.

The fund was launched in May 2018, with the allocation of a \$67,000 grant to help trial the use of asphalt made with recycled plastic bags, printer cartridges and glass in road surfacing.

Every kilometre of road surfaced with modified asphalt will use the equivalent of:

- 530,000 plastic bags
- 170,000 glass bottles
- Toner from 12,500 printer cartridges
- 130 tonnes of re-used asphalt.

Circular economy policy

One of the key actions in the plan will see the government develop a whole-of-government circular economy policy by 2020.

The circular economy policy will build on the government's existing waste and resource recovery initiatives, and help minimise waste and maximise recovery and re-use of materials.

More information

Visit environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/victorians-urged-to-keep-recycling for more information, or contact wastepolicy@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Did you know that recycling one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes?

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