

Let's Minimise our impact




Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2017–26 (WRRS) is a roadmap for the future direction and actions of Council's waste and resource recovery services, waste-related education, policy and advocacy activities. It identifies issues and opportunities for Council and our community.

By implementing this strategy, Council aims to realise this vision for Cardinia Shire:

Waste and resource recovery services will be appropriate, provide value for money, and produce improved environmental benefits and amenity for our community. Council will collaborate with others in the region to advocate for and facilitate improved services and outcomes for our diverse and distinctive shire.

The top priorities are:

- increasing resource recovery with a particular focus on hard waste service, food in garbage waste, additional kerbside programs and e-waste
- achieving long-term secure landfill arrangements by reducing landfill and seeking alternative landfill treatment options
- addressing increasing issues of illegal dumping through improved services and compliance activities
- continuing to drive value-for-money services
- appropriately considering waste management provision in developments, including increased higher density development, infill development and new Council facilities
- supporting the local community to be responsible and accountable for their waste generation and disposal practices.



Resource recovery can be defined as the extraction of useful materials or energy (through recycling and other waste treatment and processes) from materials that would otherwise end up in landfill.

Engagement and consultation

Almost 700 residents allowed us to gain an insight into their thoughts and priorities in relation to waste management issues and future options through a telephone survey. The areas explored included hard rubbish, green waste, as well as littering, illegal dumping and Council provision of related education and information. Council used these findings along with the data, identified trends and issues, learnings and opportunities from industry, legislative requirements and other feedback, to develop an action plan.

Waste and resource recovery in Cardinia Shire

Council provides significant waste services including residential kerbside, public place litter, dumped rubbish collection and processing services. Our emphasis is on waste and resource recovery education relating to services, regional and local issues. We also make significant input into the advocacy, development and implementation of key strategies and policies of Victorian and Australian governments on waste management.

Many of Council's waste and resource recovery services are contracted, costs are often related to market forces and contract rates, and thus to a degree outside Council's control. This puts ongoing challenges to Council to seek efficiency opportunities and more effective ways of working to ensure the garbage charge increases are kept to a minimum.

Challenges and opportunities

Many of the challenges that have existed in Cardinia Shire will remain into the future. Rapid population growth, which includes a large proportion of families, along with sparsely populated rural areas and some difficult access areas, will continue to put pressure on the delivery and cost of Council's services.

Many of these challenges also bring opportunities and solutions. As Cardinia Shire's population grows, economies of scale are achieved with services and this allows Council to look at implementing service improvements or additional resource recovery opportunities without considerable price increases. The requirement to address the issue of landfill availability drives Council to look at higher technology options and achieve better environmental outcomes over time.

Proposed actions

Actions in the strategy build on the successes of the previous *Waste Management Strategy 2010-15* and take advantage of recent advancements such as newer technologies and improved markets for products, resulting in improved financial outcomes for resource recovery. Council has also identified areas where we would like to do better or deliver a response to an emerging or prevalent issue.

Council has developed a five-year action plan to ensure our actions are relevant and respond to emerging needs. The plan will be reviewed and revised every five years.

Did you know:

We expect to be providing waste services to more than **53,000** properties by **2028**. That's a **41% increase** in the next **10 years**.



Some examples of key actions for the first five years (2017–21)

Note: The WRRS action plan has 39 actions for the first five years of implementation.

Reducing waste

Action: Update waste guidelines regarding 'No garden waste in the garbage bin', and undertake promotion and compliance activities.

Why: Green waste in landfill causes unnecessary landfill gases and can be put to much better use by creating compost for farmers.

Action: Investigate strategies for maximising benefits of kerbside recycling bins.

Why: To help residents who need to be able to fit more into their recycling bin.

Green waste

Action: Implement a suite of options that provide alternatives to burning off.

Why: To provide residents with options for managing green waste.

Action: Undertake a review and develop a system for diverting food waste from landfill.

Why: Food waste makes up almost 32% of residential garbage bins and provides the biggest opportunity to reduce waste to landfill.

Waste education

Action: Provide educational material and support to schools and early learning centres to improve engagement and resource recovery.

Why: Fostering positive behaviour in young people is extremely effective. These residents are our future so we need to encourage them to do the right thing.

Litter and illegal dumping

Action: Develop a business case for a dedicated litter and illegal dumping prevention officer to promote appropriate behaviours.

Why: Prevention is better than a cure. A dedicated officer means we will be able to reduce illegal dumping through education and compliance activities.

Action: Continued review of public place litter and recycling services, to reduce litter, maximise recycling and reduce contamination.

Why: We want to make sure there are bins in public places where residents will use them.

Leading the way

Action: Implement best practice waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure at new Council facilities.

Why: It is important for Council to practise what we preach and ensure we are doing our bit to reduce landfill.

Advocacy

Action: Advocate for limited use of single-use plastics at Council-supported events and facilities.

Why: It is important for Council to practise what we preach and ensure we are doing our bit to reduce landfill.

Development

Action: Review and update *Landscape Development Guidelines* to assist with the continued and increasing consideration of waste provisions in developed areas.

Why: Cardinia Shire is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia, we need to ensure this growth is sustainable with minimal impact.

Contracts

Action: Landfill – work with MWRRG to procure landfill and alternatives to landfill beyond 2021, focusing on improved recovery rates.

Why: Landfills in the south-east of Melbourne have finite air space. We need to ensure safe disposal options exist for our residents well into the future.



The scope of the WRRS

Infrastructure

- Landfill rehabilitation
- Kerbside bins
- Public place litter and recycling bins



Collections

- Garbage
- Recyclables
- Green waste
- Green and Hard Waste



Services

- Litter management
- Illegal dumping
- Street sweeping
- Education and engagement
- Customer service



Data

- Waste stream quantities
- Population trends
- Service data



Challenges and opportunities

- Growing population
- Development – MUDs/higher density/new Council facilities
- Diverting food/organic material from landfill
- Decreasing dumped rubbish



Strategic framework

- Council Plan and other policies
- Victorian Government
- Australian Government



Innovation opportunities

- New technologies
- New facilities
- New contracts seeking new opportunities



Did you know:

Our action plan has **39** actions we aim to achieve in the first five years of implementation.



Waste and Resource Recovery 2017–26

Strategy summary

Cardinia Shire Council

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National Relay Service (NRS):

Customers who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact Council through the National Relay Service: TTY users, phone 133 677 then ask for 1300 787 624.

Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) users, phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 787 624.

If you need an interpreter, phone the Translator Interpretation Service on 131 450.