Strategic priority 2:

# Resources and waste management

## Context

Waste is created in almost all areas of life, at home, in the community and in the workplace – but not everything we throw away is waste. Some of the things that are thrown away are valuable and can be recovered and turned into new materials or products, reducing the use of raw materials and the energy used in the processes to make them. The value of materials collected through waste streams is enabling new markets to be developed, such as recycled plastic products, and driving innovation in technology, such as waste processing facilities.

Landfills are a short term and increasingly expensive solution to waste management. Waste sent to landfill often contains a variety of recoverable materials, including organic waste, which can break down and produce leachate, releasing greenhouse gas emissions.

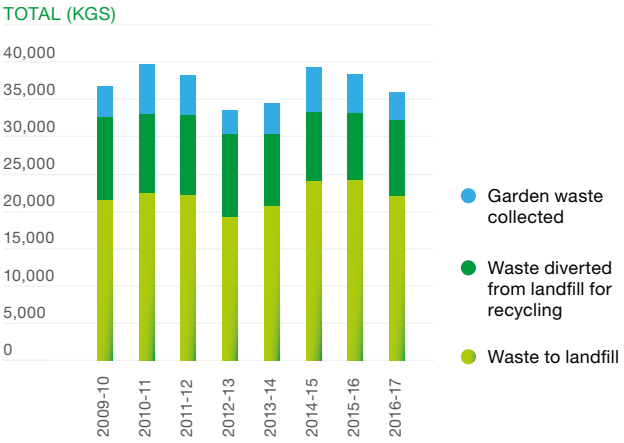
Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill is about reducing the amount of waste generated in the first place, diverting as much as possible and exploring new technologies and systems for waste management.

Waste and recycling management is a key responsibility of local government, and has social, environmental and economic significance.

By 2036 the Stonnington population is projected to grow to 161,471 residents. This growing population combined with an increasing proportion of medium and high-density housing and increasing consumption rates will have a significant impact on waste generation and management services.

Council focuses on waste management services to minimise waste and maximise resource recovery. Shifting waste from a problem to an opportunity for resource recovery is an important element of this strategy.

### Waste generation in Stonnington

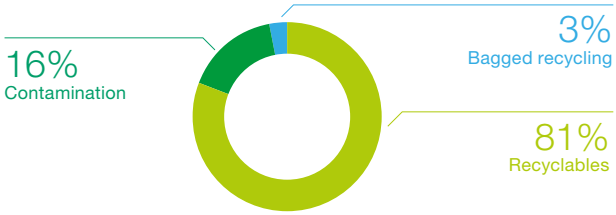



The amount of waste sent to landfill within Stonnington has varied over the last 10 years. This can be partly attributed to increasing densification in Stonnington with commercial operators providing waste services for higher density developments, reducing demand for Council waste collection services. The last 10 years has also seen a decrease in the amount of waste diverted from landfill for recycling. This is mostly due to the amount of print media reducing and glass being replaced with lighter weight plastic for some containers.

While subscribers to Council's garden waste service have increased since 2009, garden waste collection is heavily influenced by seasonal changes, for example, a hotter year will yield less garden waste.

### Composition of kerbside garbage stream (by mass)


### Composition of kerbside recycling stream (by mass)




The kerbside garbage and recycling streams within the City of Stonnington offer significant opportunities for resource recovery. Local bin audits have demonstrated that only 30 per cent of the kerbside garbage stream is true waste, unable to be recovered through existing services or programs. There is significant opportunity to recover recyclables and garden waste through Council's kerbside recycling and garden waste services and the Stonnington Waste Transfer Station. While kerbside services are currently unable to recover food waste, there are opportunities to recycle this product on-site through a range of household systems, such as worm farms and compost bins, as well as communal composting facilities.

Council's kerbside recycling service has a contamination rate of 16 per cent with a further 3 per cent comprised of bagged recycling which is unable to be processed through the recycling facility. This contamination rate is considerably higher than the state average, providing a significant opportunity for improvement through waste education and engagement.

Increasing community awareness around correct waste management practices and the environmental impact of waste disposal are an important element of Council's waste education and awareness programs. The waste management hierarchy sets out priorities for efficient resource use and guides Council's waste education principles. It outlines the preferred order of waste management practices, from most to least preferred, with avoidance being the most preferred option and disposal being the least.


## Resource management

There is increasing global recognition that the cumulative effect of procuring, consuming and disposing of products and services is having a negative impact on the environment. Purchasing decisions have the potential to improve the environmental, social and economic impact of purchased products and services throughout their life.

The City of Stonnington plays a key role in 'closing the loop' on recycling through purchasing recycled materials as part of Council operations and will continue to identify opportunities to purchase recycled materials to be used in Council operations, where suitable alternatives are available.

Strategic priority 2:
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(continued)

# Our approach

## Council provides garbage, recycling and garden waste kerbside waste collection services and a range of additional services to support resource recovery including a Waste Transfer Station, biannual hard waste collection service and opportunities for residents to recycle household items through conveniently located recycling stations.

Council also provides free electronic waste recycling, including TVs and computers, at its Waste Transfer Station and is exploring ways to facilitate the Victorian Government's ban on electronic waste in landfill.

Current kerbside collections provide an essential community service through the regular removal of waste materials from households and some businesses. They also form part of the supply chain for recovered materials through the Material Recovery Facility to which these items are sent.

Food waste in the kerbside garbage stream is a lost resource and key contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Recovering this valuable resource reduces emissions and produces a useful product for improving soil, growing healthy gardens and supporting food production. Council supports residents to reduce the amount of food waste sent to landfill through targeted events and discounts on home food recycling systems. Council is also exploring innovative solutions for apartment residents to recycle food waste onsite.

## Education

Council delivers a comprehensive waste education program to support the community to minimise waste production. This includes waste minimisation workshops and tours for schools, early learning centres and residents and the provision of a wide range of educational materials.

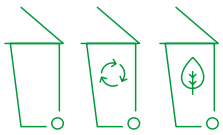
Council also tailors programs to various sectors of the community to support innovation and waste management including apartment buildings and sports clubs.

## Resource management

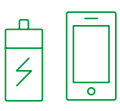
The City of Stonnington plays a key role in identifying opportunities to purchase recycled materials. Environmental specifications are embedded in infrastructure project tender documents and Council uses recycled content in asphalt pavements, such as shared paths and roads.

Other infrastructure projects have also sought to maximise the use of recycled materials. For example, as part of Council's Yarra River Biodiversity Project, a recycled plastic boardwalk was installed, containing plastic from kerbside recycling collections. Other opportunities to increase the uptake of recycled products include street furniture, bollards and playground materials and equipment.

Council consumes large quantities of goods and materials that can have varying degrees of impact on the environment. Council can positively influence the environment through selecting products and materials that are manufactured locally and are made from environmentally sustainable products/recycled goods.



» Council provides **garbage, recycling and garden waste collection** services



» **Free TV and computer recycling** at Council's Waste Transfer Station


» **Waste education program** to support the community to minimise waste production

» Council uses **recycled content in asphalt pavements**, such as shared paths and roads

# Resources and waste management strategic objectives

**Council will:**

2.1 reduce the level of contamination in kerbside recycling to less than the metropolitan Melbourne average

2.2 reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill

2.3 provide best practice waste management services

2.4 improve resource recovery through kerbside waste services

2.5 reduce the use of single-use plastic at events in Stonnington

2.6 purchase materials and services with minimal environmental impact

2.7 explore innovation and efficiency in its use of materials and products

2.8 reduce the amount of paper used by 10 per cent each year, and

2.9 advocate for industry-wide reform to manage food waste and recyclables.

**Council will support the community to:**

2.10 avoid waste and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill

2.11 improve resource recovery in kerbside waste services

2.12 access information on waste management, and

2.13 choose materials, goods and services that have minimal environmental impact.