

OUR WASTE ... TOO PRECIOUS TO THROW AWAY

A joint initiative between Auburn, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, The Hills, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith councils.



WSROC

Advocating for the people of Western Sydney


NSW EPA

The Western Sydney Regional Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-2017 is helping Western Sydney councils work together to reduce the waste we produce and send to landfill.

MORE PEOPLE = MORE WASTE

Western Sydney is growing fast. By 2030, a further 1 million people are expected to settle in Western Sydney, bringing the population to 2.6 million people. There will be more units, townhouses and duplex homes in the region.

More people means more waste which needs to be recycled.

By 2021, it is likely more than 1,040,000 tonnes of domestic waste will be collected each year from Western Sydney households – enough to fill over 100,000 garbage and recycling trucks. Line them up and they would stretch from Sydney to Brisbane and beyond!

RECYCLING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Councils provide a range of waste and recycling services to households, including garbage, recycling, green organics services, kerbside clean-up services and drop-off centres.

The councils send the waste collected from households to 15 different waste and recycling facilities for processing or disposal, most of which are located within the Western Sydney region. Recycling recovers resources from the waste stream and puts them back into the economy.

After collection, garbage is either sent to landfill or a waste processing centre. Landfill space in Western Sydney is dwindling as landfills rapidly fill up with the waste we're producing.

As our population grows, we'll need more facilities to process waste collected. This includes recycling and composting facilities, and opportunities to recycle waste collected from the kerbside clean-up service.

DO THE RIGHT BIN

For most of us, recycling items like glass and paper has become second nature. Just over half (53%) of our waste is now being diverted from landfill. That's a significant improvement from 2007 when only 44% was diverted from landfill and recycled.

This good result has been thanks to community efforts to do the right thing.

We're doing well but we can do better. We need to reduce the waste we produce and send to landfill, and increase our recycling efforts.

Your local council is working hard to get the message out to the community about how to make sure your recycling efforts count and reduce the amount of waste each household produces. You can help by avoiding making waste, reusing items and recycling whenever possible.



Data for Western Sydney from the 2011-12 Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Survey



OUR 6 WASTE REDUCTION TARGETS

1. Avoid and reduce waste generation

We want to reduce waste from 7.8 kg per person per week to 7.5 kg per person per week by 2021.

2. Increase recycling

We want to divert 58% of waste from landfill to recycling by 2017 and 70% by 2021.

3. Divert more waste from landfill

We want to see an increase in recycling to 70% for municipal solid waste, 70% for commercial and industrial and 80% for construction and demolition waste by 2021.

4. Manage problem wastes better

We will build, upgrade or facilitate 10 community recycling centres for problem waste (such as paint, oils and gas bottles) throughout Western Sydney by 2021.

5. Reduce litter and illegal dumping

We will find out how much littering there is in our community to establish a regional baseline. Then we'll work to reduce litter.

We will find out how much illegal dumping there is across Western Sydney and work to reduce the incidence of illegal dumping by 10% by 2017.

6. Improve regional governance

We will work with councils and the NSW Government to manage our waste more efficiently by enhancing cooperation between councils.

The strategy's vision is to provide: 'A planned and collaborative approach to waste management, which is cost effective, supportive of our community and economy and improves resource recovery in line with state government targets.'

WORKING TOGETHER

As our population grows and landfills rapidly fill, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) and 10 participating councils will work together to find new ways to manage waste and recover more resources (recycling) to reach the strategy targets. We will:

- ▶ carry out studies and projects to increase recycling in our community
- ▶ look at littering and illegal dumping issues and work to decrease littering and illegal dumping in Western Sydney
- ▶ explore regional waste avoidance and recycling education programs and how we can deliver these effectively to our community
- ▶ assess the waste and recycling disposal and processing facilities available to our councils and our requirements for a growing population
- ▶ look at sites to develop community recycling centres and innovative services to recover more household waste and dispose of hard to recycle and hazardous items (such as gas bottles, oils and paints)
- ▶ explore potential joint contracts and promote examples of best practice and innovation between our councils.



MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about the strategy and how we propose to reduce waste in Western Sydney, contact WSROC on (02) 9671 4333 or go to www.wsroc.com.au

For assistance to recycle better in your household, contact your local council.

Connect with us:



The Western Sydney Regional Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy is supported by the NSW Environment Protection Authority with funding from the waste levy.