



Central Coast Council

Waste Management Strategy 2021–2026

JANUARY 2022

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INTRODUCTION

The Central Coast Council (the Council) recognises that the future of waste management, from a local, regional, State, and national perspective is changing.

The Tasmanian Government's Waste Action Plan 2019 outlines the key target areas for improving the way in which waste materials are used in a suitable manner.

The Tasmanian Government is to introduce a legislated waste levy and container refund scheme in 2022. These two major changes will affect the future landscape of the waste industry, providing an increase in opportunities, diversion techniques and infrastructure.

The Council's waste management services and infrastructure are both wide and varied. The implementation of a kerbside food organics garden organics (FOGO) service has increased a large percentage of the organics stream away from landfill. The Council operates a network of transfer stations and an inert landfill, provides public area collections and is actively involved in the regional waste group.

The purpose of the Strategy is to reduce the environmental impact of waste generation, reduce the associated financial impact for the Council and its community, and enable the Council to optimise opportunities in policy change, grants and contract alignment to improve waste diversion outcomes.

Vision

The Central Coast Council's Waste Management Strategy 2021–2025 provides a framework to guide efficient, environmentally responsible and cost-effective decisions for the delivery of Council-managed waste services.

Background

The Council currently operates a Resource Recovery Centre at Lobster Creek Road, Ulverstone, which includes an inert land fill, waste transfer station, green waste disposal, resale shop, and many recycling options. The current site commenced operation in 2005 and currently has in the order of 20 years remaining life as a landfill. Supporting this are three Country Transfer Stations at Castra, Preston and South Riana.

In the urban area a fortnightly kerbside collection service is provided for waste, recyclables and FOGO. The introduction of the FOGO service in 2019 has almost halved the volume of waste into landfill, with the organic material being converted into useful compost.

The Council is a co-owner of Dulverton Waste Management which provides environmentally sustainable landfill and organics recycling services. All putrescible waste from the Central Coast area is currently disposed of at this landfill.

Since the introduction of FOGO, the service levels provided for the kerbside collection have been questioned by the community. The service has been reviewed on two occasions. The main concerns have centered around the residual waste bin. It is recognised that the service will not be suitable for all residences, and options are available to increase capacity for those residences. Kerbside collection is an important part of reaching the waste to landfill goals outlined in this Strategy.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A circular economy is aimed at minimising waste and recognising that most waste is, or could be, designed to be reused or recycled rather than simply used and disposed of. Waste materials should become inputs for other processes, either as a component or as a recycled raw material. This approach contrasts the traditional linear economy which has a “take, make, dispose” model of production.

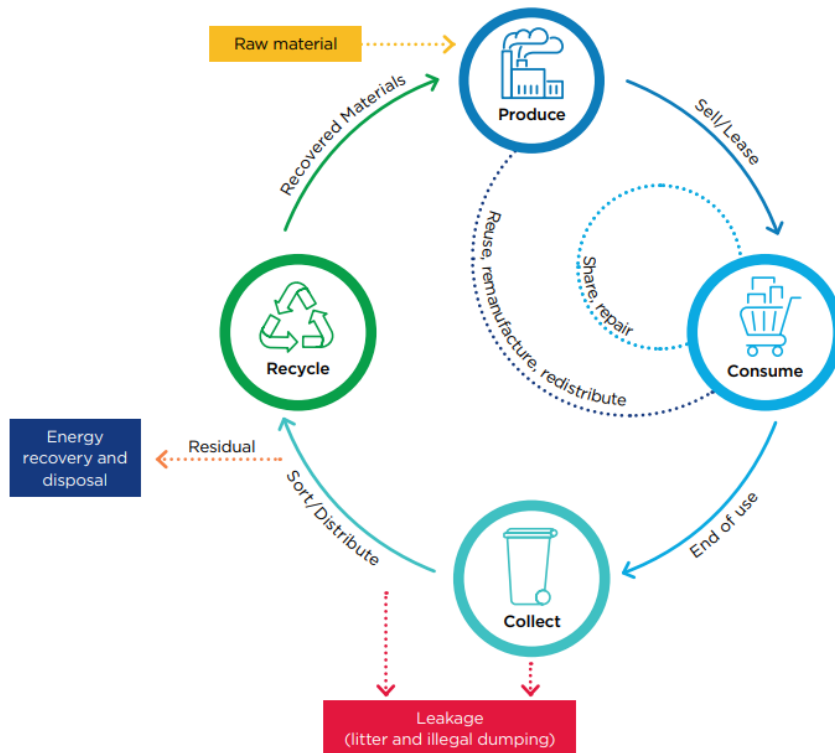


Figure 1: Circular Economy (NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041).

WASTE HIERARCHY

The waste management hierarchy is a crucial tool used that underpins the decision-making process when it comes to avoiding waste and maximising economic value.

Whilst the Council is a leader and advocating for change is embedded in the Strategic Directions and Actions, much of the higher-level actions (avoid, reduce, reuse) lies in the responsibility of the individual.

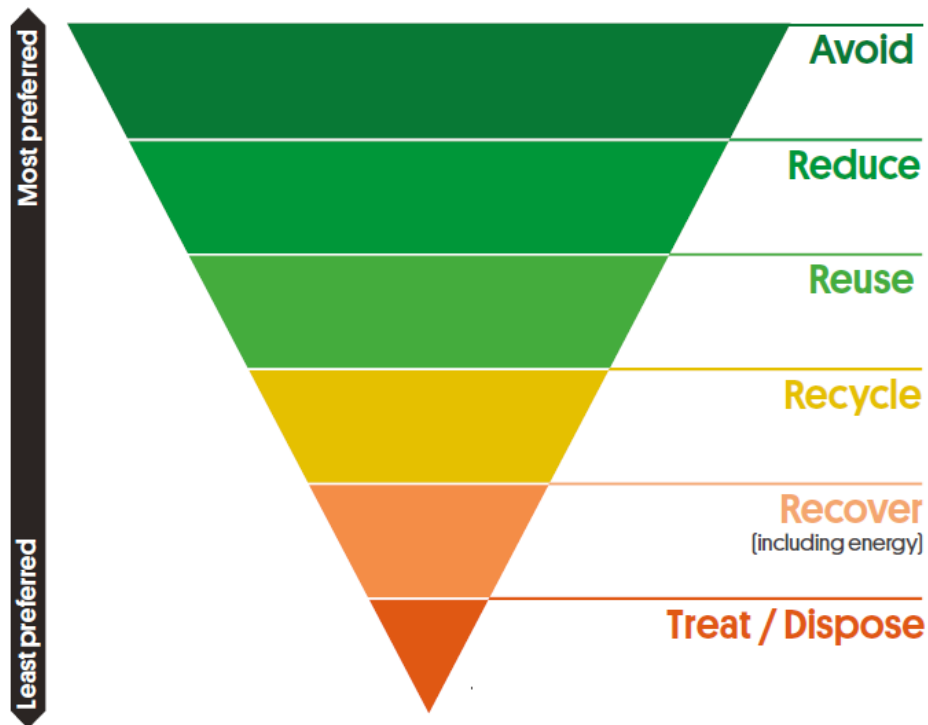


Figure 2: Waste Hierarchy (Green Industries SA, Strategic Plan 2021-2025).

RELEVANT POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1993

Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Bill 2021

National Waste Policy 2018

Tasmanian Government Draft Waste Action Plan 2019

Litter Act 2007

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994

Cradle Coast Waste Management Group Strategic Plan 2017–2022

Central Coast Strategic Plan 2014–2024

Central Coast Council Climate Change Strategy and Policy June 2019

The Council's Waste Management Strategy is aimed to align practices with State and regional policy. With the current status of the Tasmanian Government's introduction of the legislated Statewide levy and the changes to the voluntary regional waste levy, the Council has aligned with the Tasmanian Government's Draft Waste Action Plan 2019.

REFERENCES

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (Figure 1 – pg.3).

Government of South Australia – Green Industries SA, Strategic Plan 2021–2025 (Figure 2 – Pg.4.)

Tasmania Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment – Draft Waste Action Plan 2019 (Table 1 – Pg.6).

The Tasmania Department of Natural Resources and Environment (formerly Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment) Draft Waste Action Plan 2019 sets out a broad framework for waste management and resource recovery.

The focus areas are:

- 1 Moving to a Circular Economy: Government Priorities and Key Sectors
- 2 Governance
- 3 Data, Innovation Networks and Resource Recovery Targets
- 4 Infrastructure Planning
- 5 Support Resource Recovery across Industry
- 6 Education and Community Engagement
- 7 State and National Policy and Regulatory settings.

ACTION	TARGET
1 Reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill	25% by 2025 50% by 2030
2 Have the lowest incidence of littering in the country	By 2023
3 Achieve an average recovery rate from all waste streams	50% by 2025 80% by 2030
4 Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics	By 2030
5 Ensure 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable	By 2025
6 Reduce waste generated in Tasmania (per person)	5% by 2025 10% by 2030

Table 1: Targets of the Tasmanian Draft Waste Action Plan 2019.

STATEWIDE WASTE LEVY

The Council is part of the Voluntary Regional Waste Levy and is an active member. The Regional Waste Group has contributed to regional programs as well as a Statewide educational program called Rethink Waste.

The waste levy will enable funding to be available for projects directly relating to the Draft Waste Action Plan 2019.

The Tasmanian Government is developing an Organics and Infrastructure Strategy, which will be implemented as part of the overarching Strategic Plan.

CONTAINER REFUND SCHEME

The Container Refund Scheme (CRS) will provide opportunities for the community to deposit eligible containers and redeem monetary incentives.

The CRS will be a key part of the Tasmanian Government meeting littering targets and to generate cleaner streams of recyclable materials.

The transition of eligible containers from the kerbside comingled recycling bins to the CRS drop off points will potentially see a decrease in the materials collected through the kerbside system.

TARGETS

The Council has achieved a high level of diversion, through the practices implemented at the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre and the introduction of a kerbside FOGO service.

Diversion from the kerbside stream achieved 67%. Opportunities still exist for further diversion, such as the food organics in the waste stream.

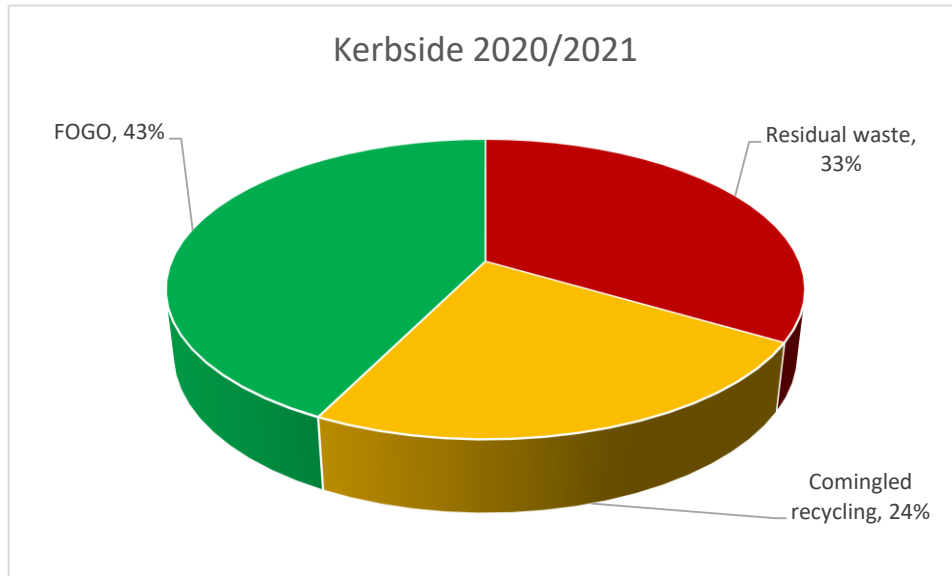


Figure 3: Kerbside 2020/2021 diversion breakdown

Overall, the Council-wide diversion is achieving 47%. This includes all waste materials managed by the Council, including kerbside, transfer stations and the inert landfill.

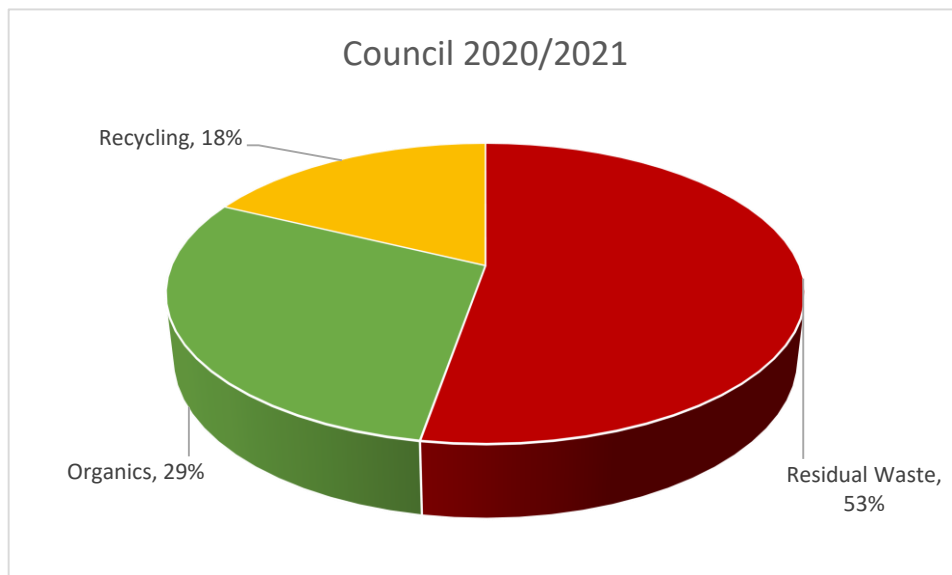


Figure 4: Council 2020/2021 diversion breakdown

The Council, through the objectives selected and the actions to be implemented have set a series of measurable targets.

ACTION	TARGET
1 Divert materials from landfill (Council-wide)	75% by 2025
2 Compliant with relevant environmental legislation and licences	100%
3 Educate, promote and engage with the community	All
4 Maintain and promote partnerships	100%

Table 2: Targets

OBJECTIVES

The Council has developed five key objectives that will drive diversion from landfill, increase resource recovery and recycling through better management and a circular economy, and to educate, engage and inform the community.

Objective 1: Waste Diversion

Diversion of waste from landfill, and to also look at the best use of these materials as a resource. This can be achieved through recycling, reuse and reprocessing.

The waste industry is changing rapidly in response to policy and regulation change from State directives. These include landfill levies and future grant opportunities.

Objective 1 Actions:

Action 1.1

- Increase Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection throughout the municipality

Action 1.2

- Continue to support the Resale Shop and other re-sale opportunities

Action 1.3

- Develop and implement a two-year plan for the upgrading of the Public Area waste systems

Action 1.4

- Implement a robust data collection and analysis program of all of the Council's waste programs

Objective 2: Infrastructure and Service Planning

Key assets within the Council include the inert landfill and transfer station network, as well as the public areas infrastructure.

Future opportunities to further enhance the inert landfill and transfer station network that provide a benefit to the Council and the community through enhanced capabilities.

Objective 2 Actions:

Action 2.1

- Develop a Master Plan for the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre

Action 2.2

- Implement improved Public Area waste systems, including locations, infrastructure etc.

Action 2.3

- Review all materials accepted at the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre

Action 2.4

- Review all materials accepted at the Country Transfer Stations

Objective 3: Environmental Impact and Compliance

Ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements for waste management, climate change and the environment.

Objective 3 Actions:

Action 3.1

- Ensure that all measures introduced under this Strategy further the objectives of the Central Coast Council's Climate Change Strategy and Policy

Action 3.2

- Annual reporting against the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre Environment Protection Authority (EPA) environmental licence conditions

Action 3.3

- Minimise the impacts of litter and illegal dumping on the environment

Action 3.4

- Monitor and report on historic, closed landfill sites within the municipality, including Penguin, West Ulverstone, South Riana, Preston and any others

Objective 4: Education and Engagement

Improvement of the community's understanding of the waste industry and waste activities is crucial to reaching the Strategy's targets and achieving its goals. The Council must actively engage with its staff and the community to successfully deliver the objectives and actions of this Strategy.

Objective 4 Actions:

Action 4.1

- Provide adequate resources to ensure the successful delivery of the Waste Management Strategy

Action 4.2

- Promote Circular Economy through the Council's internal and external purchasing policy

Action 4.3

- Ensure best practice waste services are provided to meet the community's requirements now and in the future

Action 4.4

- Explain to the community why waste reduction is necessary and inform them of the impacts on the environment from litter and illegal dumping

Action 4.5

- Achieve community ownership of problems and solutions through community engagement

Objective 5: Partnerships

Continuing to prosper and grow partnerships within the region and also on a Statewide basis will ensure that the municipality continues to lead.

Objective 5 Actions:

Action 5.1

- Continue ownership of the Dulverton Waste Management business and be an active participant

Action 5.2

- Establish formal arrangements with the region to manage/contract selected waste streams

Action 5.3

- Work in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement a successful legislated Statewide Waste Levy

Action 5.4

- Work in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement a successful Container Refund Scheme

Action 5.5

- Monitor opportunities to be a participant in national Product Stewardship Schemes

IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAMES

The actions outlined under each of the objectives have been developed to align with the Tasmanian Government's key areas and targets. The timeframes have been assigned to ensure adequate resources are available for outcomes to be achieved.

Table 3: Actions for each objective with associated implementation timeframes

ACTION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
1.1 Increase Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection throughout the municipality					
1.2 Continue to support the Resale Shop and other re-sale opportunities					
1.3 Develop and implement a two-year plan for the upgrading of the Public Area waste systems					
1.4 Implement a robust data collection and analysis program of all of the Council's waste programs					
2.1 Develop a Master Plan for the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre					
2.2 Implement improved Public Area waste systems, including locations, infrastructure etc.					
2.3 Review all materials accepted at the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre					
2.4 Review all materials accepted at the Country Transfer Stations					

ACTION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
3.1 Ensure that all measures introduced under this Strategy further the objectives of the Central Coast Council's Climate Change Strategy and Policy					
3.2 Annual reporting against the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre EPA environmental licence conditions					
3.3 Minimise the impacts of litter and illegal dumping on the environment					
3.4 Monitor and report on historic, closed landfill sites within the municipality, including Penguin, West Ulverstone, South Riana, Preston and any others					
4.1 Provide adequate resources to ensure the successful delivery of the Waste Management Strategy					
4.2 Promote Circular Economy through the Council's internal and external purchasing policy					
4.3 Ensure best practice waste services are provided to meet the community's requirements now and in the future					
4.4 Explain to the community why waste reduction is necessary and inform them of the impacts on the environment from litter and illegal dumping					
4.5 Achieve community ownership of problems and solutions through community engagement					

ACTION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
5.1 Continue ownership of the Dulverton Waste Management business and be an active participant					
5.2 Establish formal arrangements with the region to manage/ contract selected waste streams					
5.3 Work in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement a successful legislated Statewide Waste Levy					
5.4 Work in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement a successful Container Refund Scheme					
5.5 Monitor opportunities to be a participant in national Product Stewardship Schemes					

REVIEW

This Strategy will be reviewed every five years, unless organisational and legislative changes require more frequent modification.

SANDRA AYTON

GENERAL MANAGER

Date of approval: 21 / 02 / 2022

Minute Ref No. 54/2022

Approved by:

