

Waste Survey 2026 Summary of Results



Thank you to everyone that participated in the Waste Survey 2026. We received **2890 responses**.*

This survey was an opportunity to check in with the community on how they are using Council's waste services and to further understand residents' perspectives, priorities, behaviours and experiences in relation to waste.

Results

Waste management overall



When asked what matters most when managing their waste and recycling, **reducing landfill** was a top priority for around half of respondents (48%).



Satisfaction with the waste collection service was high, with 92% of respondents feeling satisfied overall.



Half of respondents (50%) didn't have any challenges with their waste management. Those that did mentioned wanting:

- **information** about waste or recycling (e.g. collection days or what can go in each bin)
- convenient **disposal of non-kerbside items** (e.g. batteries or paint)
- **soft plastics** recycling options



Half of respondents (50%) hadn't used, or weren't aware of, Council's **mattress collection service**.

Recycling

Nearly all respondents (93%) feel that **recycling is easy** in their household, and that sorting their waste is important and **makes a real difference** (91%).

If unsure whether something can be recycled, over half of respondents (56%) would **check the label** for instructions.

The most common **non-kerbside items** that respondents took to drop-off locations for recycling were electronics (81%) and batteries (79%).

Food waste

Most respondents said they mainly use the **green bin for food waste** (67%), however 16% indicated they still place it in the red bin.

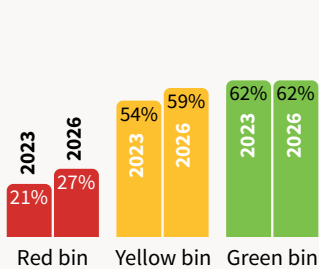
Most respondents (92%) feel that **avoiding food waste saves them money**, and are confident they know what goes in the green bin (92%).

Around half of respondents (47%) produced **2-3 ice-cream containers worth of food waste** per week.

Three quarters of households (74%) use a **kitchen caddy** to collect their food waste.

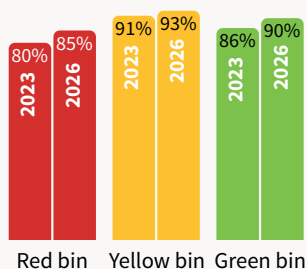
Avoidable food waste is mainly produced from food going off before it is eaten (52%) or leftovers not being consumed (50%).

% of bins that are **full or overfull** when collected



Respondents in 2026 were **more likely** to have a full or overfull red or yellow bin compared to 2023.

% of bins put out **every collection day**



Respondents in 2026 were **more likely** to put their bins out every collection day than in 2023.

The survey findings will help to inform future service delivery and support Council's ongoing focus on reducing landfill, increasing resource recovery, and delivering cost-effective waste services.

Learn how to better manage your waste at teatreegully.sa.gov.au/services/bins-and-waste