

Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy survey overview



cttg.sa.gov.au/waste

Thank you to everyone that participated in our Waste and Resource Recovery survey.

We received an overwhelming response from our community, with 1,420 responses to the survey from residents, businesses, community and sporting groups and local educational institutions. We also received a further 514 contributions through our ideas walls.

At the same time, we met with more than 37 external and internal stakeholders, and reviewed more than 20 national and state policies, strategies, plans and research documents to better understand the broader state of the industry.

Much of the information provided through these engagement activities has helped shape our Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2033.

The Waste and Resource Recovery strategy 2033 was presented to the Service Review Committee on Wednesday 5 July. The Committee referred the strategy to Council for adoption. Council subsequently adopted the strategy at the 11 July Council meeting.

This strategy will now guide our waste management efforts through to 2033.

With the strategy now endorsed, we have turned our attention to the first three-year action plan. The action plan will be finalised over the coming weeks, taking into account the many suggestions made by our community.

Key findings

Our community strongly supports more responsible waste management, with 87% of respondents stating that reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and recycling was either very or extremely important to them.

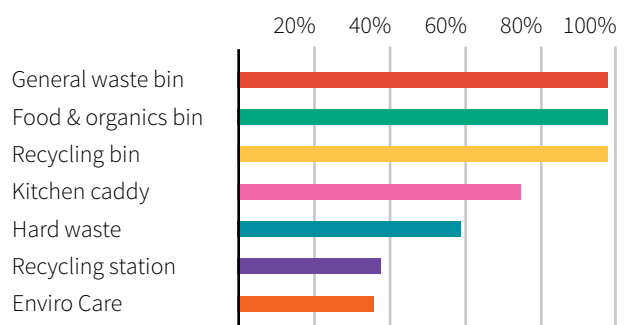
When asked why, respondents were mainly concerned with protecting the environment and preserving natural resources for future generations.

For others further down the importance scale, the 'busyness of life' became more of a factor as did confusion about what goes in which bin.

Bin usage

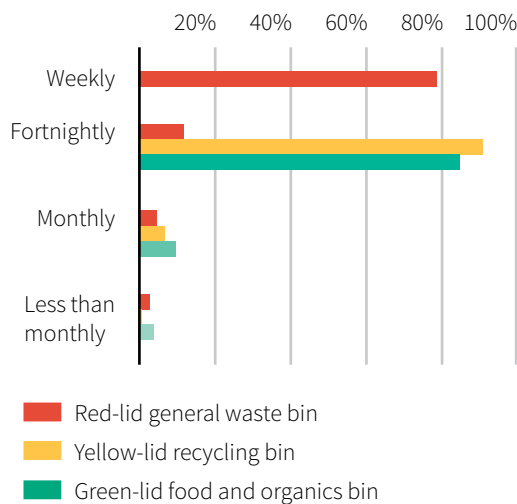
Respondents told us they actively use the three bin system, with 80% putting two of a possible three bins out for collection every week. Around three quarters use a Mini Muncher kitchen caddy and just over half had used Council's hard waste service in the past 12 months.

Figure 17: Waste and recycling services usage



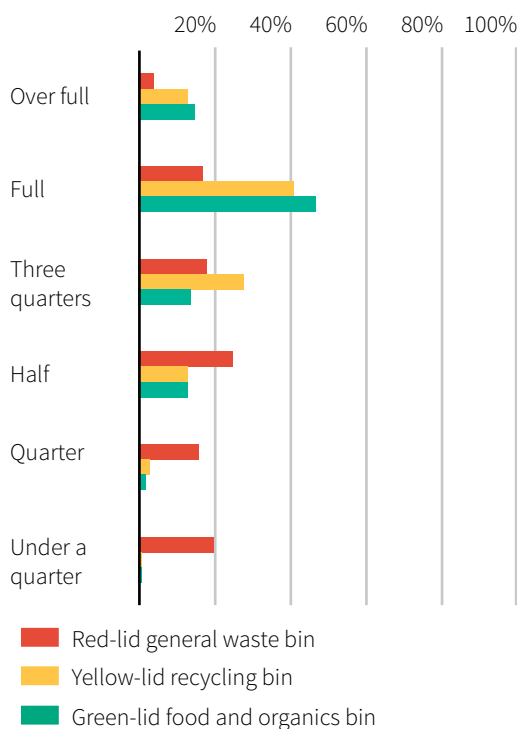
Respondents mentioned around 30 other services provided by third parties that they used to recycle items such as e-waste, hazardous chemicals, clothing, blister packs, light bulbs and bread tags.

Figure 18: Frequency of waste service usage



About 61% of respondents red-lid general waste bins were half-full or less, with just one in five either full or over full. In contrast, over half of all respondents yellow-lid recycling bins (54%) and green-lid food and organics bins (62%) were either full or over full.

Figure 19: Average bin volume at time of collection



What's important to our community

When managing waste, respondents told us that the most important things were as follows:

- Knowing that what goes in your yellow-lid recycling bin and green-lid food and organics bins is actually recycled (51%).
- Avoiding the creation of waste and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill (51%)
- Minimising the environmental impact of waste (38%).

Respondents also said they wanted additional options to dispose of items that do not belong in the kerbside bin system (34%) and a more convenient waste disposal system (21%).

Similarly, respondents said the provision of additional options to recycle items that do not belong in the kerbside bin system (64%) was the most important priority for Council. Assisting households and business to reduce waste to landfill (46%) and improving kerbside recycling options – eg the provision of a weekly organics bin collection (42%) were also considered top priorities.

Challenges and opportunities

Respondents provided a large volume of ideas and suggestions in relation to waste management. The top five themes can be broadly categorised as follows:

1. A soft plastic collection and recycling solution.
2. Waste education and community assistance .
3. Weekly green-lid food and organics bin collection and additional organic material recycling options.
4. Provision of additional options to recycle items that do not belong in the curbside bin system.
5. Collaboration between government and business to address issues such as packaging.

Ideas from the community

- 'Landfill isn't sustainable, It's not safe for us or the environment.'
- 'It's extremely important to reduce waste and divert our valuable resources from landfill. The resources are not finite. Our children and future generations deserve better and I firmly believe that every little thing we can all do will add up to making an important difference.'
- 'Costs need to be kept to a minimum, Council rates are already really high.'
- 'Fitting everything in recycle and green bin. Our green bin is always full to the brim.'
- 'There is too much waste coming into the home from packaging.'
- 'It's hard to figure out what goes in which bin sometimes and also hate putting things in the red bin when I feel it could be recycled.'
- 'I'd love a local campaign to improve recycled waste and reduce landfill, we should recruit champions like me in the community.'
- 'Change the green bin to weekly and the red bin to fortnightly.'
- 'The recycling of non-standard items like batteries, electronics etc.'
- 'Look into alternative recycling methods that may benefit the local community.'
- 'Have more businesses that actually recycle waste.'
- 'Structure council operations to embrace the Circular Economy and Zero Waste principles.'
- 'Reward ratepayers who demonstrate high achievement in recycling household waste.'
- 'Champion research and development.'
- 'More investment in grass roots community programs/projects.'

