

Don't Waste It!

Waste and Recycling Strategy 2025-28




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City of Port Phillip

99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda, VIC 3182

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Wominjeka.

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



Workers at the Port Phillip Resource Recovery Centre in South Melbourne

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Message from the Mayor – Waste and Recycling strategy

Our updated *Don't Waste It! Waste and Recycling Strategy 2025–2028* outlines how our City will reduce waste, recover more resources and deliver services that are needed now and in the future.

Much has changed in recent years – our population has grown, new standards for household waste services have been introduced and the cost of waste disposal continues to rise.

This Strategy responds to these shifts. It refines our targets, updates our actions and simplifies how we track progress so we can deliver meaningful, measurable improvements. It reinforces our commitment to building a circular, low waste city where residents, visitors and businesses can work with us to achieve great outcomes.

Our community has already helped drive significant progress by embracing new services and supporting better practices. Since 2022, we have:

- rolled out food organics and garden organics recycling (FOGO)
- introduced specialised vape recycling
- trialled public place recycling systems including Container Deposit Scheme baskets
- delivered communal glass hubs with low contamination rates.

Yet, there is still more to do. Since our last strategy, new challenges have arisen. The Victorian Government landfill levies have increased sharply – increasing the cost of sending waste to landfill. The Victorian Government is also mandating all Councils provide a kerbside glass collection. Finally, our population continues to grow and densify. We need to tailor our services to accommodate these factors.

This Strategy sets out how we will meet these challenges, including:

- the introduction of a kerbside glass service
- fortnightly garbage collection for houses and townhouses
- improvements to bin access and placement
- strengthened litter and dumping prevention
- new policies that will support a circular economy across the municipality.

Despite the pressures of increased waste management costs imposed by the Victorian Government, the Strategy also commits us to delivering a consistent, value-for-money service.

I'd like to thank the many residents and community organisations who contributed feedback during our consultation. Your insights have helped shape this Strategy.

I encourage everyone to play their part. Together, we can create a cleaner and more sustainable Port Phillip for current and future generations.



Cr Alex Makin
Mayor
City of Port Phillip



Executive Summary

The City of Port Phillip's Waste and Recycling Strategy guides the ways Council will transform our waste services over the next three years.

Vision and objectives

The strategy will contribute to achieving Port Phillip's community vision of **a liveable and vibrant city that enhances community connection and wellbeing**, by reducing our environmental impact. We will responsibly manage waste and work with our community to enhance environmental outcomes through three key objectives:

- reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill
- increasing the recovery of valuable resources
- providing a value for money service.

Targets

We want to ensure that we're moving towards our objectives, and to do that, we have to set achievable targets. The indicators to achieve these targets are:

- contamination rate in the kerbside mixed recycling bin (25 per cent reduction)
- glass in the kerbside mixed recycling bin (72 per cent reduction)
- contamination rate in the kerbside FOGO landfill bin (29 per cent reduction)
- amount of FOGO in the kerbside landfill bin (49 per cent reduction)
- amount of kerbside mixed recycling in the landfill bin (65 per cent reduction)
- diversion rate – diversion from landfill
- community satisfaction with Council meeting its responsibilities towards the environment
- Total dumped rubbish per capita (2 per cent reduction)
- kerbside collection bins missed per 10,000 bin lifts
- customer satisfaction with regular landfill collection
- customer satisfaction with regular mixed recycling collection
- customer satisfaction with regular FOGO collection.

Strategy Highlights:

As our population grows, so too does our waste generation and the cost to manage it. Our challenge is to minimise waste and deliver best practice waste management in a densely populated municipality, as cost of living and the cost of waste disposal continues to increase.

We currently provide a three-bin kerbside service. By 1 July 2027, we also need to:

- provide a glass kerbside bin
- get users putting glass in the glass bin before it counts as contamination in the mixed recycling bin
- standardise our landfill bins so they all have red lids.

We also need to consider other factors:

- How do we reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill? With the landfill levy having increased by 158 per cent since FY21, getting recoverable waste such as FOGO out of the landfill bin is critical to maintaining a cost-effective service.
- The Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) sits on Crown Land. With the Fisherman's Bend Master Plan in full swing, we must consider how much longer we can access this site and what our plan is.

The City of Port Phillip will reduce waste to landfill by:

- revising the use of the RRC
- establishing litter procedures and litter enforcement officers
- developing a Circular Economy Policy
- exploring Advanced Waste Processing
- reducing access to landfill streams through scarcity principles, including fortnightly garbage collections for houses and townhouses.

The City of Port Phillip will increase the recovery of resources by:

- delivering a kerbside glass service
- improving the accessibility of existing and future glass hubs
- working with owners corporations and real estate agents to improve behaviours with short-stay, student, international and renter cohorts
- provide targeted and culturally appropriate resources and support to residents.

The City of Port Phillip will provide a value for money service by:

- developing a waste charge policy that provides clarity of service offerings
- standardising kerbside offerings
- reviewing and redesigning Council's Waste Management Planning Guidelines to provide consistency and best practice for future builds
- reviewing bin distribution and placement, especially in laneways and for Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs)
- implementing Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) in our bin fleet.

What's the problem?

As our population grows, so too does our waste generation and the cost to manage it. Our challenge is to minimise waste and deliver best practice waste management in a densely populated municipality.

From 2021–2024, the landfill levy increased by 96 per cent and in 2025 was raised by another 26 per cent.

Contamination makes up 18 per cent of our mixed recycling bins (2025 municipal waste audit). Contamination occurs when non-recyclable items like general waste are disposed of in the recycling bin. Contamination increases our processing costs and risks waste going to landfill.

91 per cent of our dwellings are medium to high density (2021 Census), in other words, units and apartments. Waste in these buildings is hard to manage as multiple residents share the same bin. They often require tailored education to make sure bins are being used correctly. While new builds have Waste Management Plans (WMPs), many of our existing buildings predate this requirement and were not built to accommodate multiple waste streams.

Imagine you have a big pile of rubbish.

Diversion rate is like a recycling score:

It tells us how much of that rubbish we're putting in the right bins (mixed recycling and FOGO bin) instead of the landfill bin. The higher the score, the better we're doing. The main way to improve our diversion rate is by putting more items in our mixed recycling and FOGO bins, and fewer items in our landfill bins.

Recycling the right stuff: When we put plastic bottles, paper, and food scraps in the correct bins, we're helping the diversion rate go up. That means less rubbish goes to landfill.

Less room in the landfill bin: When people have less space in the landfill bin, they try harder to put things in the mixed recycling and FOGO bin. That's why our neighbours pick up their landfill bins only every two weeks instead of every week. We explain this a bit more in the next section.

How we compare to other councils

Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill

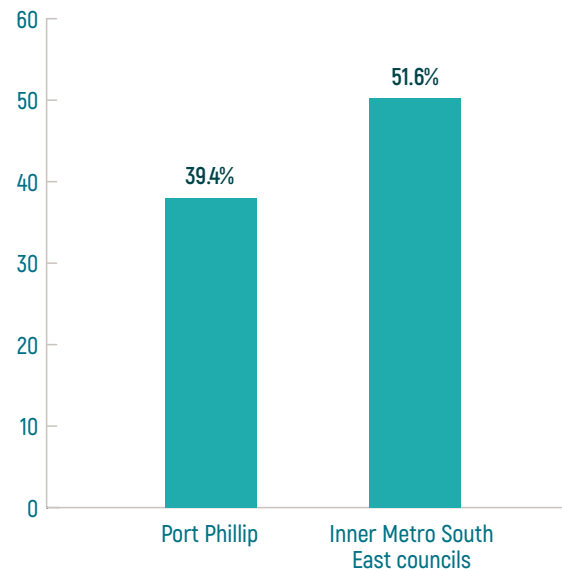


Table 1: Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill. City of Port Phillip compared to the average of the inner metropolitan southeast councils, using 24/25 data.

The Victorian Government conducts an annual review comparing landfill diversion rates between councils. The landfill diversion rate is the percentage of all our waste that is recycled correctly in the mixed recycling and FOGO bin. In 24/25 our diversion rate was 39.4 per cent compared to an average of 51.6 per cent for six other Inner Metropolitan Southeast councils. Three of our neighbouring councils (Bayside, Boroondara and Glen Eira) have a fortnightly garbage collection service which can increase diversion rates through scarcity principles.

Landfill bin

- 120 litre (standard)
- Collected weekly
- Contents go to landfill
- 39 per cent of the landfill bin is food (by weight) which could be recycled in the FOGO bin (2025 municipal waste audit)
- 19 per cent of the landfill bin is e-waste and mixed recycling (by weight) (2025 municipal waste audit)

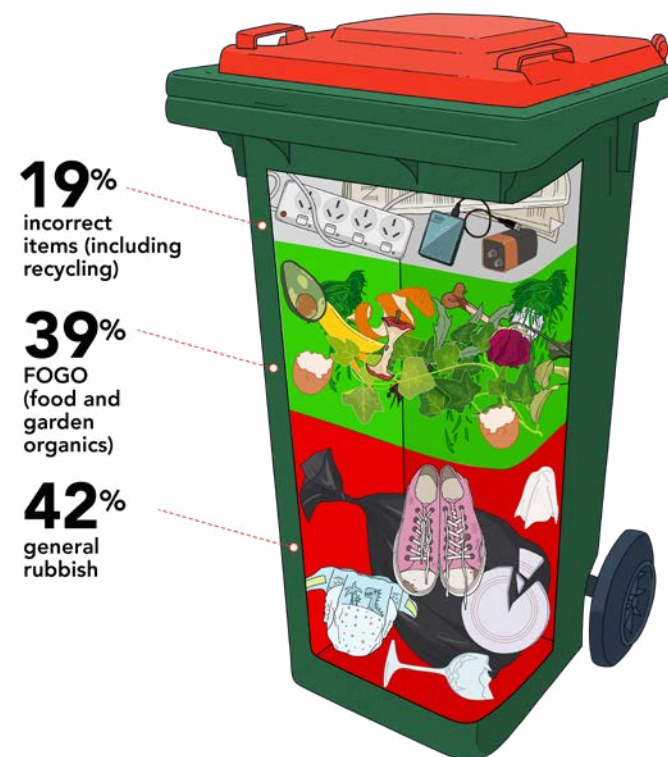


Figure 1: Composition of the landfill bin (by weight).

Mixed Recycling bin

- 240 litre (standard)
- Collected weekly
- Certain types of paper, cardboard plastic and metal can be recycled
- 30 per cent of the mixed recycling bin is glass (by weight) (2025 municipal waste audit)
- Glass will be treated as a contaminant in the recycling stream when the proposed Household Waste and Recycling Standard comes into effect on 1 July 2027

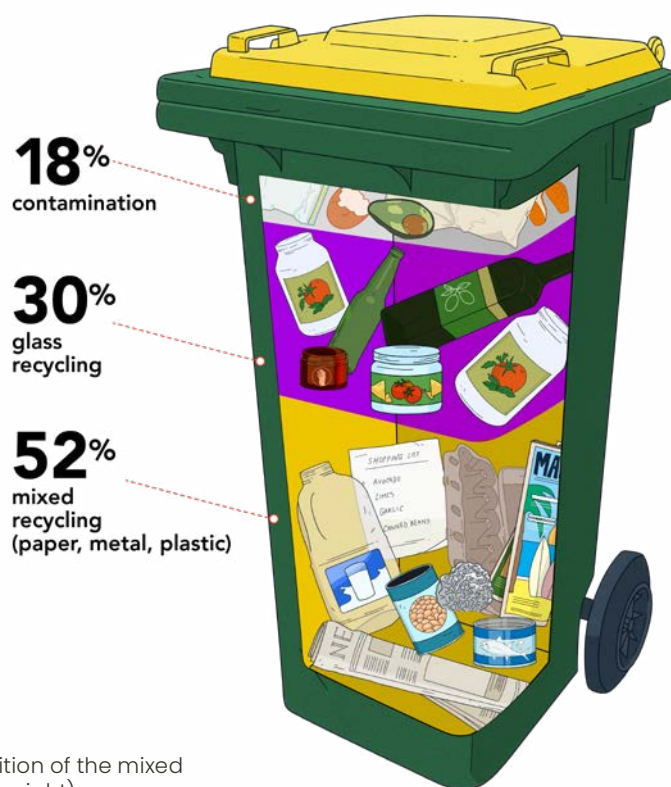


Figure 2: Composition of the mixed recycling bin (by weight).

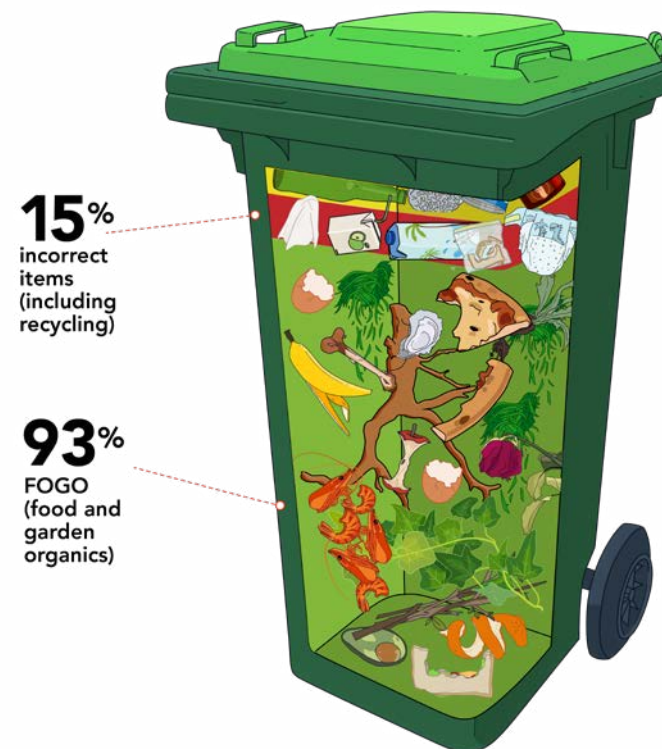


Figure 3: Composition of the FOGO bin (by weight).

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)

- 120 litre (standard)
- Collected weekly
- Service introduced in 2023 for Single Unit Dwellings (SUDs) and 2024 for eligible Multi Unit Dwellings (MUDs)
- Food scraps and garden waste is recycled into compost to be used on parks and gardens around Victoria

Additional waste services:

Hard rubbish, green waste and the RRC

Hard rubbish and green waste collections are available for residents to dispose of certain materials that can't go in their kerbside bins. We also operate a resource recovery centre for residents to safely dispose of household waste.

E-waste

There are certain hazardous items like e-waste which cannot be thrown out in kerbside bins as they are a fire risk. E-waste is any item with a plug, battery or power cord. We offer e-waste recycling at the RRC and introduced vape recycling in 2024. Vapes and batteries are increasingly causing 'hotloads' (the industry term for waste fires). When they get crushed in trucks or at the recycling facility, they can cause fires with toxic smoke plumes, posing environmental and health risk to workers. We have established vape and battery collection points for residents to safely dispose of their used vapes.

Public bins

Port Phillip's public spaces are popular with residents and visitors alike, especially during the warmer months. Access to waste disposal points is important to keep our public spaces clean and to prevent litter from ending up in nearby waterways. We have a disproportionate amount of public litter bins compared to recycling bins. Our recycling bins have a high contamination rate of 26 per cent (2025 municipal waste audit). In June 2025 we installed metal baskets on a number of public litter bins to encourage passersby to dispose of their eligible Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) containers for anyone to retrieve, to increase recycling and reduce damage to public place bins.

Audits, education and behaviour change

Council supports the community to correctly dispose of their waste through education and behaviour change methodology. This takes several forms from waste guides to bin room posters, social media to newsletter articles. Council also has a team of waste education officers who provide information to residents, especially to apartment managers.

We use audits to monitor and improve our waste management processes. We conduct audits to:

- understand the types and quantities of materials discarded
- help us plan for future services
- track progress against the targets set in the strategy
- plan education and behaviour change tactics.

Demographics



21%

Speak a language other than English

44%

of households contain only one person

49%

of residents are renters

48,777

households receive a kerbside service

21 km²

Covering an area of 21 square kilometres, we are geographically one of the smallest municipalities in Victoria and we are also one of the most densely populated

Achieving our vision

We want to reduce our waste to landfill.

We can do this through:

- reducing contamination in our recycling
- finding new and innovative ways to recycle items
- reducing the quantity of items produced in our community.

We want to empower our community.

This includes:

- helping to build capacity and skills sharing
- providing efficient and effective services that enhance circularity across the city
- demonstrating leadership in waste reduction and innovation.

We want Council and our community to continue being guided by the waste hierarchy.

The Australian Government revised its Waste Hierarchy Framework in early in 2025, and we are using this model, combined with circular economy principles, to guide our work.



Beverage container baskets installed on public place litter bins

Using Circular Economy Principles and the Waste Hierarchy Framework



Moving towards a Circular Economy

A circular economy is one that moves us away from a linear mindset and allows us to live and work within a system that:

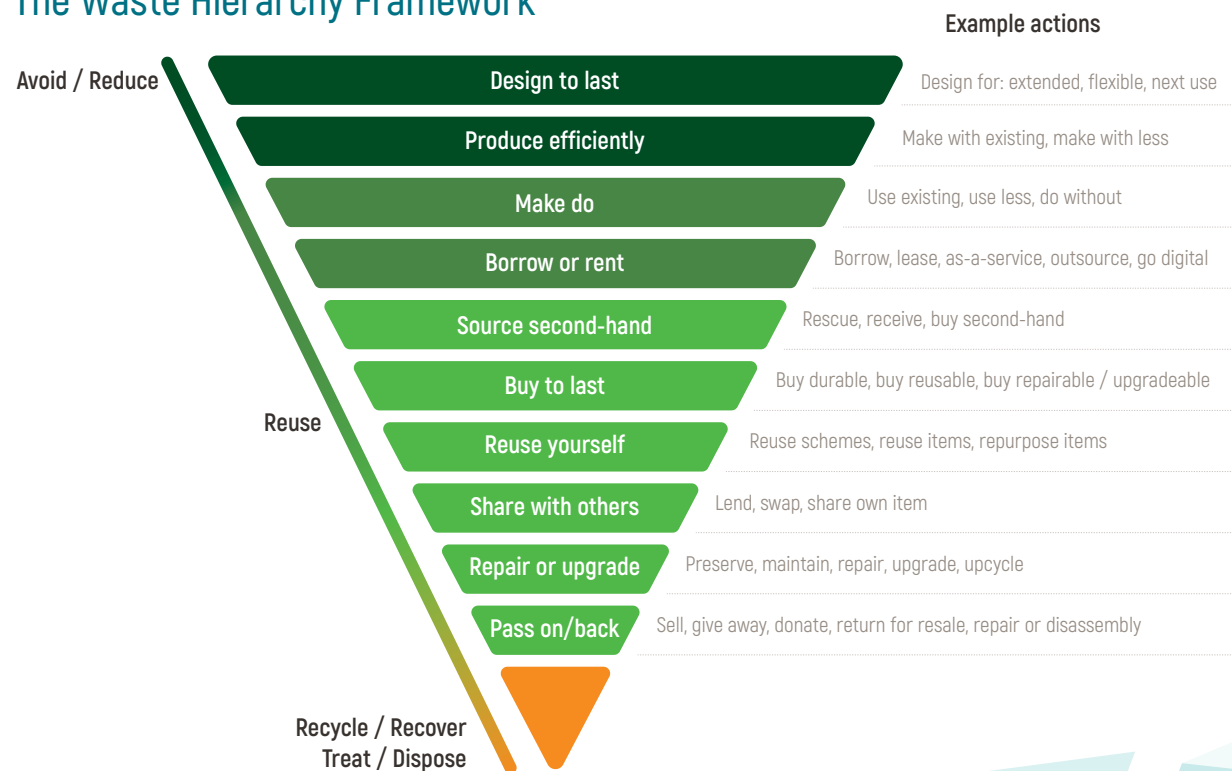
- promotes thoughtful consideration of all inputs and outputs
- reduces environmental impacts
- supports economic growth
- prioritises future-planning
- protects and works within our natural environment.

The key to circularity is to consider not just reusability and repairability but also recycling and waste disposal. A circular economy is a system that aims to stop materials from becoming waste and to prolong the useful life of all materials. Through this, we lessen our impact on the environment.

We need to prioritise waste avoidance and reduction through good design and efficient production above reuse and recovery. By doing this, we reduce the quantity of materials that we generate, consume and discard. We use a combination of the Waste Hierarchy and circularity principles because this work is complicated. Combining the two principles allows us to navigate these areas more effectively and thoughtfully.

Through this strategy, Council aims to responsibly manage waste and support the community in enhancing environmental outcomes.

The Waste Hierarchy Framework



Source: The Waste Hierarchy Framework, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government, January 2025

What about soft plastics?

As you read this Strategy, you might notice one thing missing: soft plastics. In Port Phillip, soft plastics, including packaging and cling film, makes up about five per cent of the landfill bin.

We know you're worried about soft plastics, and we're worried about it, too. Soft plastic is a complicated issue that requires a sector-wide response. Dealing with the tricky problem of soft plastics needs us to look at the market, at manufacturing, at processing and at recycling, as well as collection. Councils are just one tiny part of it.

As such, we can't commit right now to tackling soft plastics. But we will look into opportunities for soft plastics diversion, and we will step in as soon as a space opens up for councils to do this work.

Objective 1. Reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill

Focus area: **Decreasing the amount of waste produced.** Avoiding and reducing waste is important. Looking at what waste we produce and why, and how it ends up in landfill, is critical to understanding how the community uses our waste service and how we can provide a good service. By reducing waste, we reduce our impact on the environment, we minimise our reliance on our shrinking landfills, and we reduce the cost of our waste services.

Focus area: **Appropriate disposal of items.** We can reduce dumped waste and litter through improving access to hard waste services, litter prevention enforcement and supporting diversion of difficult to recycle items.

Table 1. Indicators to support Objective 1
LGPRF = Local Government Reporting Framework

Indicators	Base FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Diversion rate (LGPRF) – Diversion from landfill	40%	40%	45%	55%
Total dumped rubbish per capita (2 per cent reduction)	12.77 kg/hh	12.77 kg/hh	12.77 kg/hh	12.51 (kg/hh)
Amount of FOGO in the kerbside landfill bin (49 per cent reduction)	35.43%	35%	28%	18%
Amount of mixed recycling in the kerbside landfill bin (65 per cent reduction)	14.3%	13%	10%	5%
Contamination rate of kerbside FOGO bins (29 per cent reduction)	7.01%	7%	6%	5%

Table 2: Activities to support Objective 1

#	Activities that reduce waste to landfill	FY25	FY26	FY27
1.1	Review litter and dumped rubbish procedures to ensure they align with expectations and are adequately resourced, including establishment of Litter Enforcement Officers.		●	
1.2	Investigate opportunities for diversion of hard to recycle items and problematic waste streams.	●	●	●
1.3	Reduce access to landfill streams through scarcity principles, including transitioning houses and townhouses to fortnightly garbage.		●	
1.4	Develop and implement a plan for monitoring and reducing waste to landfill from Council facilities.		●	●
1.5	Support recycling and safe disposal of waste through revision of RRC use, development of an operational strategy, and upgrades to facilities and processes.		●	●
1.6	Investigate opportunities to work with local organisations to divert high quality reusable goods that are dropped off at the RRC.		●	
1.7	Develop a Circular Economy Policy to guide Council and community.		●	
1.8	Deliver activities and programs that promote community ownership of resources and services such as competitions to name new trucks.		●	●
1.9	Advocate to the Australian and Victorian Governments to introduce policy changes that actively foster a circular economy, including for extended product stewardship.		●	●
1.10	Investigate levers to incentivise Circular Economies in local businesses.			●
1.11	Explore Advanced Waste Processing to manage remnant waste streams.	●	●	●

Objective 2. Increase recovery of valuable resources

Focus area: **Reduce contamination across all our waste types.** Higher contamination rates reduce our ability to get precious things back from our waste streams. By assessing and consolidating Council’s kerbside bin services, we can ensure that all eligible dwellings have the correct bins and services. This will improve kerbside collections and help reduce contamination.

Focus area: **Making it easier to correctly separate at the source for recycling.** Recovering what we have and using it for as long as possible is critical for reducing our reliance on natural resources. It helps us minimise our impact on the environment and reduces the cost of our waste service. Council can increase resource recovery by introducing a kerbside glass collection service and improving the communal FOGO and glass hubs.

Focus area: **Community partnerships and behaviour change.** Council provides permits for large community events. Establishing clear guidance on waste management for events will allow Council to model good recycling behaviours for community and visitors. Developing and implementing targeted, culturally appropriate resources for SUDs and MUDs, as well as visitors, is also a part of this.

Table 3. Indicators to support Objective 2

Indicators	Base FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Contamination rate in the kerbside mixed recycling bin (25 per cent reduction)	13.24%	13%	12%	10%
Glass in kerbside mixed recycling bins (72 per cent reduction)	36.19%	35%	25%	10%

Table 4: Activities to support Objective 2

#	Activities that increase recovery of valuable resources	FY25	FY26	FY27
2.1	Deliver a kerbside glass collection service and a communal hub system that is effective and accessible to all, and in alignment with the proposed Service Standard.	●	●	
2.2	Identify and engage with appropriate users to improve information to and engagement of renters, including short-stay, students and international visitors.		●	●
2.3	Develop and provide relevant, targeted and culturally appropriate resources and support residents to improve knowledge, behaviour change and ownership of waste, recycling and circularity.	●	●	●
2.4	Develop and implement a waste management policy which applies to all permitted events.		●	
2.5	Explore and support initiatives that connect community and skill and knowledge share, including supporting non-profit and community organisations that build the capacity of residents.		●	●
2.6	Embed circularity in Council’s internal processes, including in infrastructure and buildings.			●
2.7	Advocate to the Victorian Government on the expansion of CDS return locations and accepted items.	●		

Objective 3. Provide a value for money service

Focus area: **Reviewing and standardising existing kerbside services, including distribution, placement and collection of wheelie bins.** Reviewing existing services and consolidating them will allow future changes to be brought in efficiently. This work will be supported by introducing contamination management protocols and working with contractors to implement new technology. This will allow future work using AI and RFID.

Focus area: **Apply the waste charge equitably.** The waste charge is currently not governed by any one policy and does not consistently consider properties that receive a council service such as business and commercial sites, non-rateable sites, industrial sites and schools. It also doesn't consider properties that receive a partial Council waste service.

Focus Area: **Secure Resource Recovery Centre services.** Review the use of the RRC and how its services are best utilised across our community, with a view to ensuring our City is not negatively impacted by the reclamation of the RRC site by the Crown by 2050.

Focus Area: **Advocacy.** There are many areas of interest to our community that the City cannot control. We will advocate to State and Federal Government on producer stewardship and circularity.

Focus Area: **Circular Economy.** Develop, review and redesign policies and plans to guide circularity.

Table 5. Indicators to support Objective 3
LGPRF = Local Government Reporting Framework

Indicators	Base FY24	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28
Community satisfaction with Council meeting its responsibilities towards the environment	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
Kerbside collection bins missed per 10,000 bin lifts (LGPRF)	5	7	7	7
Customer satisfaction with a regular landfill collection	8.6	8.6	8.6	6.5
Customer satisfaction with a regular recycling collection	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.5
Customer satisfaction with a regular FOGO collection	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.5

Table 6: Activities to support Objective 3

#	Activities that provide a value for money service	FY25	FY26	FY27
3.1	Develop and implement a waste charge policy that provides clarity of service offerings and charges to ensure consistency of charges across various property types.		●	
3.2	Standardise Council kerbside service offerings and ensure that all service offerings are administered, applied and used appropriately. This includes standardising all landfill bins, so they have a red lid in FY26/27.	●	●	●
3.3	Work with rate payers and collection contractors to optimise bins and bin placement, looking especially at placement of bins from SUDs for collection and working with MUDs on numbers and sizes of bins.		●	
3.4	Review our hard and green waste collection and drop off services to ensure they are equitable and relevant to the community's needs.		●	●
3.5	Work with collection contractors to review collection day areas to balance loads during the week.		●	●
3.6	Work with recycling collection contractors to implement coordinated contamination management protocols and strategies.		●	
3.7	Review and redesign Council's Waste Management Planning Guidelines and Planning Scheme to ensure future buildings – whether serviced by Council or not – are built to accommodate multiple and complicated waste streams.		●	
Activities that improve service efficiencies				
3.8	Work with contractors to implement systems that allow Council to provide a data driven education and service driven response to issues such as the use of RFID and AI technologies.		●	●
3.9	Improve visibility and trust in our waste service through reporting to our community. This will include establishing a reliable baseline for all waste services and ongoing accessible communications.		●	●

How will we know we are achieving our objectives?

Progress on the Waste and Recycling Strategy will be reported to Councillors quarterly. In addition, Council is required to report to Local Government Victoria (LGV) annually via the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF).

The reporting that Council conducts includes a combination of municipal-wide compositional audits and contractor audits. The latter sets our fees for the following financial year. There is often a discrepancy between the two. From this strategy, we will only use the data from the municipal-wide compositional audits for reporting unless otherwise required by legislation.



Recovering heating systems for recycling at our Resource Recovery Centre

Costs and Funding

What are our big costs?

The main contributions to the cost of the waste service that Council provides are listed in the table below.

Table 7. Waste service costs

Stressor	Cost details	Ongoing or One-off
<p>Landfill Levy</p> <p>There is a cost to dispose of waste. Since FY21 to FY25, the landfill levy has increased by 158%. In brief, the more weight in landfill bins, hard waste and dumped rubbish, the greater the cost to Council.</p>	<p>FY21: \$65.90 per tonne FY25: \$169.79 per tonne</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Contamination charges</p> <p>Our recycling is charged at a flat rate per tonne. That cost increases the more contamination we have, and the more contamination we have in mixed recycling bins, the more this service costs. From 1 July 2027, glass will count as a contaminant in mixed recycling.</p> <p>It costs \$70 more per tonne to collect our mixed recycling with our current contamination rate than it would if we hit our target of 10%.</p>	<p>Commercial in confidence</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Service Standardisation</p> <p>As part of the service standardisation, we must roll out glass bins to all residents that receive a kerbside service, ensure all landfill bins have red lids (not green or burgundy), and consolidate the communal glass and FOGO hubs.</p>	<p>Glass: \$1.7mil Communal: \$7k per hub (# TBD)</p>	<p>One-off</p>

Stressor	Cost details	Ongoing or One-off
<p>RFID</p> <p>We must install RFID in all our bins. This will help us locate lost bins and identify contamination.</p>	<p>\$1.5 million</p>	<p>One-off</p>
<p>Standardisation of Information</p> <p>We know that our services are not provided equally. For example, the private waste rebate is not currently applied properly – that is, some rate payers are receiving the rebate and a kerbside waste service. We know that some rate payers have more bins than they should, and some have fewer.</p> <p>In order to make sure our services are provided equally; we have to gather a lot of data. This is very labour intensive.</p>	<p>\$750k</p>	<p>Multi-years</p>
<p>Education and behaviour change</p> <p>It costs us money to talk to you. For every brochure we post to every house, it costs us about \$30,000.</p> <p>Litter Enforcement Officer to investigate and prosecute dumped rubbish issues.</p>	<p>\$30k per year</p> <p>\$80k per year</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

How do we pay for things?

The main way we recoup these costs is:

- **Waste Charge:** The waste charge is charged to all rate payers in the city. A rebate is provided to any rate payer who doesn't receive a kerbside service. The waste charge can only fund services directly received by ratepayers. That is, it cannot fund general use costs such as emptying street litter bins.
- **Fees:** We charge fees at the RRC.
- **Grants:** Sometimes we receive funding from the Victorian and Australian governments. In 2023, we received funding from the Victorian Government for the FOGO bin roll out.

Why do we need a new Waste and Recycling Strategy?

Don't Waste It! 2022-2025 was adopted to better reflect the City's waste context at the time. This included:

- the release of 'Recycling Victoria, a new economy' in 2021
- a changed waste landscape due to federal waste export bans and the landfill levy
- changing community expectations.

It was designed as an interim update to the 2018 Strategy and was always intended to be refreshed after three years.

Table 8. Don't Waste It 2022-2025 in review

Priority Area	What We Achieved
Food organics and garden organics (FOGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolled out communal FOGO hubs • Rolled out kerbside FOGO to eligible SUDs and MUDs • Launched and maintained a FOGO audit program
Separated glass recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolled out communal glass hubs • Targets met: Communal Glass Bins achieved less than 5 per cent contamination rate during the first post implementation municipal waste audit in 2023 and then continued to maintain these contamination levels until 2025
Mixed recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted key incorrectly recycled items such as batteries and vapes • Launched and maintained a MUDs inspection program
Public place waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trialled a public place recycling bin expansion in 14 locations • Trialled CDS container basket trial in 86 locations.



Our communal hubs allow anyone in our community to recycle their food, garden waste and glass items

Reflecting on our targets

Don't Waste It! 2022-2025 was ambitious, setting 24 targets and 39 priority actions across nine priority areas, set to long term goals that exceeded the length of the strategy. Seven targets and 18 priority actions were met or completed. Whilst suitable at the time, many of these targets and actions gradually became unachievable. Since its adoption, what we need to achieve with our kerbside service reforms, and how we achieve them, has changed.

The date for the introduction of the four-stream waste collection has been brought forward from 2030 to 2027 by the Victorian Government. This was partially in response to the cautious approach that many Victorian Councils have been taking to their rollouts. The draft Service Standard have also changed several times and are 18 months delayed for confirmation. Our communal glass and FOGO hubs are not likely to comply with the updated Service Standard.

This strategy will set fewer targets, with all of them being directly aligned to the 2027 targets – that is, within the lifetime of the strategy.

How this strategy was developed

Don't Waste It! 2025–2028 draws from:

- Victorian and Australian Government legislation and guidance documents
- Reviews of previous strategies
- Benchmarking against other Councils
- Waste and Circular Economy industry benchmarking
- Gender and Equity Impact Assessment
- Two phases of community engagement

Engagement process

In March and April 2025, officers went out to the community to consult on a broad range of waste issues. We heard from 601 members of the community. We received survey submissions and feedback in person at pop ups and discussion groups, including at Russian and Greek seniors groups meetings. The full engagement report can be found online at **Don't Waste It! | Have Your Say Port Phillip**.

In September and October 2025, community members and stakeholders were encouraged to provide feedback on the Draft Waste and Recycling Strategy. We received 90 written responses.

What we heard from the community

We heard that our community wants more education directly on bins, with signage that is easy to understand, and that education and awareness is important to people. We heard that our community worries about how much space their bins take up, and how to transport their rubbish and recycling from their kitchens to the correct disposal points.

We heard that people like the communal FOGO and glass hubs but find them difficult to use. We heard that people want to recycle correctly, but that knowing where to put items is complicated. We heard that people want more access to recycling options and want to support the circular economy.



Our role

Table 9. Guiding policies for the Strategy

Government type	Guiding policies		
<p>Federal</p> 	<p><i>National Food Waste Strategy 2017</i></p>	<p><i>National Waste Policy 2018</i></p>	
<p>State</p> 	<p><i>Environmental Protection Amendment Act 2018</i></p>	<p><i>Recycling Victoria: A new economy 2020</i></p>	<p><i>Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021</i></p>
<p>Local</p> 	<p>Act and Adapt Strategy 2023-28</p>	<p>Council Plan 25-35</p>	<p>Waste and Recycling strategy 2025-28</p>

The Australian Government provides the national waste framework, it is responsible for implementing Australia’s international treaty obligations and addressing market failures. The constitutional responsibilities regarding waste management and resource recovery sit with state and territory governments and the delivery of waste services sit with local government.

Policy, regulation and strategy

Australian Government

The National Waste Policy (2018) provides a framework for collective action to improve waste management by businesses, governments and communities by 2030. The policy focuses on avoiding waste, improving resource recovery, increasing the use of recycled materials, better management of material flows and improving information to support innovation, guide investment and inform customer decisions. *The National Food Waste Strategy (2017)* aims to halve food waste by 2030 by providing policy support, business improvements, market development and influencing consumer behaviour change.

Victorian Government

In 2020 the Victorian Government released its circular economy plan *Recycling Victoria: A new economy (2020)*, requiring a new four stream waste and recycling system for households across the state. *The Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* was then legislated to increase recycling and reuse of materials and reduce waste to landfill. The proposed *Household Waste and Recycling Standard (2024)* details how Council is to provide the four waste streams including landfill, mixed recycling, separated glass recycling and FOGO recycling. It also determines the materials accepted in each stream and outlines the auditing process and potential infringements for not acting in accordance with the Standard.

The Environmental Protection Amendment Act 2018 takes a prevention-based approach to environmental protection. It includes the General Environmental Duty (GED) which requires all Victorians to take reasonable and practical steps to reduce the human and health risks of their activities. Under the Act, Council has the authority to fine for littering and dumping.

City of Port Phillip

The Council Plan is a strategic plan that guides our work. The Plan for Port Phillip 2025–35 is a four-year Council Plan with a 10-year time horizon and includes six strategic directions. Don't Waste it! Waste and Recycling Strategy helps us achieve strategic direction 2 'an environmentally sustainable and resilient city' by:

- implementing the four waste streams
- optimising our hard and green waste collection service
- delivering community education programs and
- advocating to the state and federal governments to introduce policy changes that actively foster a circular economy.

The Act and Adapt Strategy 2023–28 provides the direction for Council and community to act together to respond to the challenges our City faces due to climate change. The strategy includes five priority areas, including a sustained reduction in waste. Don't Waste it! Waste and Recycling Strategy establishes targets and actions to improve how we manage waste to landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the loss of valuable materials.

Local governments are expected to provide kerbside waste services along with other services like hard rubbish and specialised recycling to help meet the targets both set in state and federal policy.

Under Port Phillip's Planning Scheme, Waste Management Plans (WMPs) are required for certain residential and commercial developments. This provides Council with an opportunity to ensure dwellings:

- are designed to encourage reuse and recycling
- have waste and recycling storage facilities that are accessible and adequate
- have waste recycling storage facilities that minimise impact on residential amenity, health and the public realm
- have waste and recycling facilities that are designed for future use and requirements.



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