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COUNCILS KERB WASTE GOING TO LANDFILL

South Australia's councils will share in \$4.5 million of State Government funding to help them improve collection of household recyclable material – and cut the amount of waste going to landfill.

Environment and Conservation Minister John Hill said the funding would support councils in achieving the proposed goal for 2010 of 75 per cent of waste put out by householders for kerbside collection to be recycled.

“Under the state’s first comprehensive waste plan, developed by Zero Waste SA, we have set goals for seriously cutting the amount of waste going to landfill,” Mr Hill said.

“The State Government acknowledges the important role councils will play in South Australia achieving this goal.

“The funding will encourage councils to continue to improve their kerbside practices with a view to setting a consistent standard in collection.”

In SA about 65 per cent of waste is diverted from landfill, but much of this is commercial recyclables. Figures from last year reveal that about 30 per cent of all household waste was recycled and 70 per cent sent to landfill.

“We really want to improve our performance in terms of household recyclables,” Minister Hill said.

The amount of funding councils receive in the two-year program will be based on how much recyclable material they collect per household through kerbside collection.

“We want to see high yielding kerbside recycling systems in place,” Minister Hill said. “This funding is an incentive for councils to increase the amount of household recyclables collected and to improve their collection systems.

“This program sets a clear direction for where the State Government wants kerbside recycling to go – better recycling and less waste.

“We have established Zero Waste SA with the intention of reducing to nil the amount of waste going to landfills servicing metropolitan areas. Under South Australia’s draft waste strategy released last month we plan to stop building landfills, which are a significant source of greenhouse gases which cause global warming.”

Funding guidelines and application forms will be made available on the Zero Waste SA website:
www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au