
Wednesday, 14 November 2007

S.A. PURSUING 25% REDUCTION IN WASTE TO LANDFILL

South Australians are well on the way to achieving a targeted 25 per cent reduction in waste to landfill by 2014 under *South Australia's Strategic Plan*.

Minister for Environment and Conservation Gail Gago marked National Recycling Week by congratulating South Australians and councils on achieving a reduction of around 10.7 per cent since the target was set in 2003.

“South Australians are doing a good job with recycling, but the next 15 per cent poses the greatest leg of the challenge and we have plenty of work ahead,” says Minister Gago.

“Our State continues to lead nationally in recycling, helped by the State Government’s \$4.8 million funding for councils, through Zero Waste SA, to upgrade their recycling systems.

“High yielding kerbside collections now service 370,000 households.

“Recycling is a fantastic means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions because in nearly all cases, less energy is needed to recycle than produce the same product from scratch.

“Latest figures available show 2.3 million tonnes of material was diverted from landfill in S.A. during 2005/06 preventing more than 1.2 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, which is the equivalent of removing 287,508 cars from our roads or planting 1.8 million trees.

“The greatest greenhouse benefits have been achieved through aluminium recycling, which results only in 5 per cent of the greenhouse gas emitted compared to primary aluminium production.

“Almost half of what is left in the household waste bin is food organics.

“Diverting food organics from landfill is logically the next opportunity to cut the amount of waste going to landfill and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“In response to local government interest, Zero Waste SA is now considering how food waste could be most effectively incorporated into kerbside recycling collections.

“This promises to be a good opportunity to further reduce waste to landfill and I look forward to considering the options,” says the Minister.