



Further information Zero Waste SA at [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au) or on 8204 2051.

## Economic benefits

Recycling creates jobs in collection, sorting and reprocessing. It saves money for companies that combine it with a reuse and reduction approach to waste generation.

In South Australia new and expanding enterprises collect and reprocess glass, oil, wire, hazardous waste, printing cartridges, rags, old clothing, scrap metal, green organics, electronic equipment, old x-rays, corks, and all sorts of car parts.

These businesses clean air filters, compost, manage landfill gas, design recycling systems, granulate waste rubber and plastic, blend plastics to make new products, make drainage pipe and plastic pots from waste plastic, refill print cartridges, and make rubber safety surfacing products.

They all do it to make a 'buck' while at the same time creating jobs. Here are some examples:

- In the year to 31 March 2005, of the many recycle depots in Adelaide, the 6 Scout Recycling Centres received, sorted and redistributed 13,000 tonnes of recyclable materials in a total of 130,000 hours by 170 personnel. Recycling depots take deposit cans and bottles, as well as scrap metal, paper and cardboard, and the volumes of each continue to rise each year, at last count by an average 22%.
- Jeffries and Peats Soils & Garden Supplies are two Adelaide companies which together employ approximately 100 people. They both process green organics to make compost and mulch products. Their combined tonnage of valuable soil conditioners produced each year exceeds 125,000 tonnes.

- Plastics Granulating Services (PGS) located in Kilburn, converts recycled and waste plastic into pellets that are sent on to manufacturers to be made into new products. 12,000 tonnes of plastic pass through the PGS process each year and the company employs 60 people.

And the recyclers are not on their own. Current Zero Waste SA grants are encouraging innovation in finding ways of sorting recycled materials more efficiently, turning food waste into better compost and processing mixed plastic waste into recycled products.

## Social benefits

A landfill site is not a preferred neighbour nor is it a preferred housing base. As the demand for land to accommodate housing continues to grow, landfill sites are moving further away. The further landfill is from the residents who produce the waste, the higher the cost of transport.

Recycling education is taken to community groups, service clubs and schools. Children are taught to be skilled recyclers and waste minimisers, while they learn to work in groups and negotiate to find solutions.

'Green' groups in workplaces can help develop the management and organisational skills of participants — to their own benefit and the advantage of their employers. Green workplaces have been shown to have higher productivity.

## Reality check

The Wuppertal Institute has calculated the 'ecological rucksack' (the amount of waste generated in producing everyday products) is 1.5kg for a toothbrush, 75kg for a mobile phone and 1500kg for a personal computer.

Commission of the European Communities 2003



Government  
of South Australia

# Good for the planet and more

## Zero Waste SA

The benefits of recycling stretch further than you might imagine – to business and our economy, to our children, and of course to the Earth.

### Environmental benefits

When we recycle materials and containers, we:

- conserve raw materials
- consume less energy
- produce less pollution and greenhouse gas.

Recycling reduces the:

- need for new waste disposal facilities
- danger of their environmental impacts from leaching and methane production
- need for more suitable land for waste disposal
- need to reclaim land that has been used for waste disposal
- need for raw materials.

