



At Home



At Work



Plastic Bags



Grants



Local Government

Zero Waste SA 2008–09 BUSINESS PLAN

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Government
of South Australia

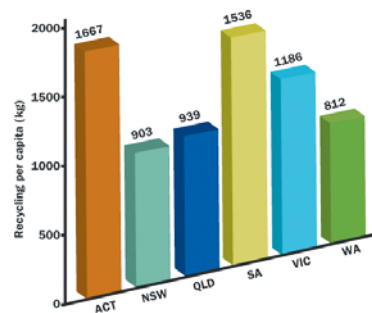
AVOID • REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE

Zero Waste SA, established by the *Zero Waste SA Act 2004*, provides strategic policy advice and direction to government and stakeholders, and undertakes programs and projects that maximise waste reduction and promote recycling and ecological sustainability. It engages other stakeholders in partnerships for change.

Key achievements

decreased waste to landfill ■ Since 2003, the amount waste to landfill has decreased by more than 11% – a remarkable reduction in South Australia's growing economy.

tackling targets ■ We are within reach of achieving South Australia's Strategic Plan target of reducing waste to landfill by 25% by 2014. Recycling rates in South Australia continue to grow, putting South Australians amongst the best recyclers in the nation, having recycled 68% of all waste generated in 2006-07.



Per capita recycling activity by State

Source: *Review of recycling activity in South Australia 2006-07 (Hyder)*

reduced emissions ■ In 2006–07, recycling in South Australia prevented the equivalent of about 0.93 million tonnes of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere – also the equivalent of taking 214,000 passenger cars off the road.

comprehensive recycling pilot ■ Zero Waste SA will further consolidate its achievements in kerbside recycling when 16,000 South Australians from 10 councils participate in the most comprehensive pilot of household kitchen waste recycling yet to be undertaken in Australia.

regional reforms ■ Most regional councils in South Australia have, with substantial funding from Zero Waste SA, developed or almost completed regional waste management plans which provide a blueprint for infrastructure and services across the state. This will lead to further investment in waste management infrastructure throughout South Australia.

leadership and recognition ■ Zero Waste SA's leadership role nationally is recognised world-wide. Zero Waste SA has been applauded for its own in-house actions as well as its programs with a number of awards for its sustainable office fit out and the 2007 Premier's Award for Sustainability.

results through collaboration ■ Collaboration is a fundamental part of Zero Waste SA's strategy in delivering its business plan. The value of our partnerships with KESAB environmental solutions and the Waste Management Association of Australia (SA Branch) continue to strengthen every year.

Zero Waste SA's Business Plan 2008-09 demonstrates that it is actively working to help people reduce their impact and reduce waste.

Overview

Zero Waste SA (ZWSA) is releasing its sixth business plan at a time of challenge and response: the evidence of climate change is challenging us to change our wasteful habits and the response from the community, industry and government is gaining momentum.

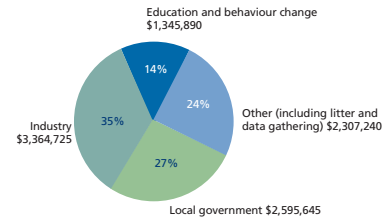
The community now recognises climate change as the number one environmental issue. Each of us needs the support to understand the impact of our lifestyles and what we can do to reduce our individual and collective carbon footprints.

The South Australian Government's sustainability and greenhouse agendas are driving nationally recognised environmental change. South Australia already has high recycling rates. In the waste arena, the state is known for Container Deposit Legislation, the proposed ban on single-use plastic bags, high performance kerbside collection systems, food waste recycling, and collaborative research and market development programs for the compost industry.

Having reduced waste to landfill in South Australia by over 11% in 5 years, ZWSA is now concentrating on the more challenging task of helping business, industry and the community improve their overall environmental performance.

2008-09 budget by sector

Percentage distribution



'Supply chain management', 'procurement choice', 'closed loop production' are not only terms that have entered the vernacular; they are actions being incorporated into standard operating procedures, often with the help and urging of ZWSA. They reduce waste, and they minimise the greenhouse gas liability from waste production and disposal.

That is a liability we can ill afford and that ZWSA is addressing in this business plan by researching approaches to waste avoidance and helping to improve industry resource efficiency. New programs for kerbside food waste recycling, commercial and industrial waste systems are planned.

ZWSA is also looking after the interests of South Australian businesses by encouraging investment in recycling and reprocessing infrastructure, and investigating the potential for economic returns to resource recovery industries under carbon trading or emissions reductions programs.

ZWSA will continue to build capacity with partners and collaborators. In 2008-09 a new partnership with the University of South Australia signals a widening of our networks and influence, and promises innovative solutions, marketing and behaviour change.

Allan Holmes, Chair, Zero Waste SA Board

Strategic Focus 2008-09

Partnerships



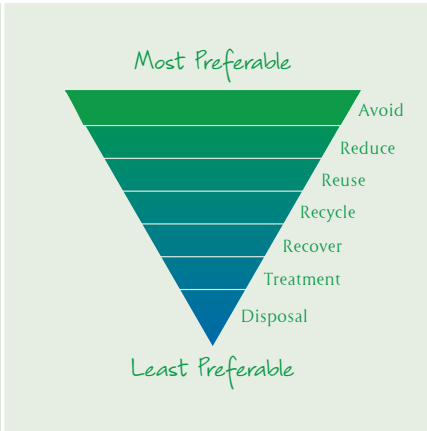
Commercial and Industrial sector



Climate change



Waste avoidance



Collaboration



ZWSA continues to improve communication with councils and industry, and with the community to improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviours towards waste management and recycling.

All Waste Streams

Measurement and performance

Knowledge about waste streams, recycling performance, markets and consumption help monitor the effectiveness of ZWSA programs and identify where more effort is needed. Quality data is a priority.

Partnerships, communication and education

The University of South Australia, in collaboration with ZWSA, has established a centre of excellence for waste related research to build capacity for activities at the higher levels of the waste hierarchy. ZWSA continues to improve communication with councils and industry, and with the community to improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviours towards waste management and recycling. The partnerships with the Buy Recycled Business Alliance and others to promote recycled products, or reuse is of prime importance.

Incentives

ZWSA's incentive programs, according to a recent survey, are making a significant contribution to reducing waste to landfill to the tune of 473,000 tonnes of material diverted from landfill in 2006. The grant schemes, which reflect the differing needs of metropolitan and rural communities, have also generated significant investment in recycling and resource recovery from councils and the private sector, and provided efficiency gains and employment, and improved the quality of recyclables.

Advocacy

ZWSA understands that it is at the national level that solutions to waste problems can have the greatest impact, and continues to work with the Environment Protection Authority, the Commonwealth, other states and territories, and industry sectors on finding solutions for problematic and priority wastes such as e-wastes, tyres, consumer packaging and plastic bags.

Wipe Out Waste

The Wipe Out Waste (WOW) program introduces an understanding of waste, litter, recycling and related environmental issues as part of curriculum from kindergarten through to primary and secondary schools. Since the program's launch in September 2006, 263 teachers, parents, and school support and grounds/facilities staff from 79 metropolitan and regional South Australian schools, have participated in 16 workshops. During the next three years we will continue to improve the program.

National Packaging Covenant

In early 2008, the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) supported a comprehensive mid-term review of the National Packaging Covenant to comprehensively and independently evaluate the Covenant's progress against its overarching objectives and targets. The results are expected in November 2008.

Country areas

Lower population densities in country areas, where 20% of South Australia's waste is generated, disadvantage the delivery of waste and recycling services for country communities. As regional strategies near completion, ZWSA's emphasis is now moving from planning to implementation and it will continue to fund high priority regional projects.

Increasing reprocessing capacity

The reprocessing industry needs ZWSA assistance to reduce the cost of sorting recycled materials and increase capacity for reprocessing of recyclable materials. ZWSA's reuse and recycling infrastructure incentives project aims to increase capacity for local reprocessing of recyclable material to high value end use products and invest in infrastructure that enables greater reuse of waste materials.

Actions for 2008-09

1. Collect data through the annual recycling survey to supply information on waste types and quantities.
2. Continue to take a carefully staged modular approach to the development of a knowledge based database.
3. Use the grants system to continue to encourage innovation in waste reduction and management.
4. Develop a revised market research program to streamline timely data collection.
5. Complete the mid-term review of South Australia's Waste Strategy 2005-10.
6. Investigate the potential for economic returns to industries in the resource recovery sector under carbon trading or emissions reductions programs.

7. Continue the successful partnership with the Local Government Association.
8. Consult with the waste industry through the Waste Management Association of Australia, SA division to maximise resource efficiency plans in the commercial and industrial waste streams.
9. Contribute to funding the development of a regional waste management and implementation plan for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.
10. Establish the centre of excellence in waste reduction and management at the University of South Australia with the appointment of a Chair.
11. Continue the WOW program in regional and metropolitan schools with a focus on teacher training projects, support networks and resources materials.
12. Manage the government's program to inform and educate the community in the lead up to the proposed ban on lightweight single-use plastic shopping bags.
13. Improve access to, and the quality of information on, recycling and waste management.
14. Investigate the best ways to increase the size and diversity of markets for locally processed recycled materials.
15. Prioritise infrastructure projects that increase recycling of commercial and food organics, contaminated soil, problematic waste streams such as e-waste and used tyres, mixed and residual waste processing.
16. Support projects that lead to increased reuse of materials, through sorting, repair and disassembly.
17. Fund high priority regional projects.
18. Continue to assist the EPA's development of the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy.



Computer and electronic waste is building up in landfill. An estimated 1.6 million computers are going there each year.

Municipal Solid Waste

One-third of the waste going to landfill is municipal solid waste. The best practice kerbside collection by councils has boosted diversion from landfill to above 50% in some areas but we can do better.

Problematic wastes

Disposal of obsolete computer equipment to landfill is increasing throughout Australia. More than 1.6 million computers are estimated to have been sent to landfill in 2008 in Australia.¹

Many electronic products contain hazardous substances which are of no concern for human exposure or release into the environment during ordinary use and handling. However, such concerns may arise if e-waste is improperly handled, landfilled, incinerated, shredded, ground, melted or illegally dumped. The potential to co-collect e-waste in conjunction with the household hazardous waste and farm chemical collection program will be investigated. ZWSA will sponsor a forum for local government on e-waste issues and initiatives. Strategies for managing hazardous contaminants of recycling streams (e.g. asbestos, syringes) will also be a priority.

Incentives

Kerbside and related incentives have encouraged councils to change their preferred collection of kerbside materials. High performing, easy to use systems are at the core of changing household recycling behaviour. These systems have also reduced occupational health and safety risks for those who collect kerbside materials.

¹ (Environment Australia - Computer Waste Model at www.environment.gov.au/settlements/publications/waste/electricals/computer-report/pubs/appendixb.pdf)

Recovering food waste

By the end of the 2007–08 financial year all metropolitan councils had implemented, or had committed to, high performing kerbside collection systems (40 local councils in total) when all these collections are on stream they will service over 500,000 households. There are still some weighty barriers to effective systems – the collection and composting of food waste and recycling of all types by residents in multi-unit dwellings, where waste and recycling facilities are often poor or absent.

Thinking big for small scale recyclers

Community-based organisations and some schools collect materials for recycling or reuse, each at a small scale but all contributing to increased awareness and improved knowledge about recycling and resource recovery. The School and Community Grants program combines the Social Enterprise Grants and the Regional Implementation Program - Small Projects component into a more effective vehicle to spread the message and encourage behavioural change throughout the community.

Actions for 2008–09

1. Develop, pilot, promote and evaluate community-based initiatives particularly those for shifting community attitudes, awareness and actions towards waste reduction and avoidance.
2. Maintain a financial incentives for waste and recycling systems in local government to encourage continuous improvement.
3. Identify public infrastructure requirements and best available technology economically available (BATEA) for systems as they relate to litter.
4. Assist local councils to put in place necessary infrastructure (e.g. recyclables bins).
5. Develop and promote public place and event recycling.
6. Investigate the potential for collecting e-waste in the household hazardous waste and farm chemical collection program.
7. Sponsor a forum for local government on e-waste issues and initiatives.
8. Develop strategies for managing hazardous contaminants, such as asbestos and syringes, of recycling streams.
9. Target charities, service clubs and other not-for-profit organisations and schools that recover reusable resources in the new School and Community Grants Program.
10. Pilot domestic waste food collection with participating councils.
11. Reissue the new and improved *Minimising Waste at Public Events – Guidelines for Event Organisers*.



Significant volumes of readily recyclable material continue to pour into landfills. South Australia is in need of an effective collection system for the C&I sector.

Commercial and Industrial Waste

In 2006–07, South Australia recycled 2.4 million tonnes of material, of which 870,636 tonnes was C&I material. But significant volumes of readily recyclable material continue to pour into landfills. South Australia is in need of an effective collection system for the C&I sector complemented by workplace awareness and education for small–medium businesses, to separate materials into recyclable and residual waste.

Actions for 2008–09

1. Encourage South Australian business and industry to adopt sustainable practices.
2. Identify specific industry sectors and companies, and explore opportunities and initiatives for waste avoidance, reduction, reuse and recycling.
3. Encourage state government to continue to implement the Greening of Government Operations Framework to become a leader in the field of 'green business'.
4. Develop an incentives program to encourage effective collection systems for C&I recycling.

Develop best practice waste management systems and guidelines for the residential and commercial building sector.

Construction and Demolition Waste

The ZWSA–KESAB Clean Site program has the building and construction industry in its sights. The program aims to improve waste management and resource recovery practices on construction sites by implementing and adopting codes of practice and recycling systems. It has gained recent support from the Master Builder's Association (MBA) and the Housing Industry Association (HIA).

Actions for 2008–09

1. Continue the Clean Site program and collaborate with partners (EPA, DEH, HIA and MBA) to encourage sustainable on-site practices underpinned by stronger compliance.
2. Work with SA Housing Trust and industry associations to develop best practice waste management systems and guidelines for the residential and commercial building sector.
3. Support links to equivalent industry programs such as GreenSmart.
4. Fund KESAB to deliver rural/regional workshops, demonstration best practice sites in rural and metropolitan areas, forums and workshops, and on-site best practice demonstration days.
5. Fund KESAB to implement an integrated tertiary sector Clean Site learning and visitation module embracing civil building sites.



What we will spend

INCOME (Waste to Resources Fund)		
50% of waste levy payments		11,671,000
Cash held 1 July 2008, carried forward (estimate)		8,413,000
Monies from external sources		791,500
Estimated interest earned		400,000
Estimated total funds available for financial year		21,275,500
EXPENDITURE (programs and administration)		
2.0 ALL WASTE STREAMS		
2.1 Program Measurement and performance		
Project 2.1.1	Waste audits and market survey	65,000
Project 2.1.2	Knowledge management and information systems investment	313,500
Project 2.1.3	Review of grants programs performance	-
Project 2.1.4	Measuring community and business attitudes and behaviour	13,000
Project 2.1.5	Review of Waste Strategy and development of new strategy for 2010	165,000
Project 2.1.6	Carbon offset options	86,000
Subtotal		642,500
2.2 Program Partnerships		
Project 2.2.1	Local Government Association	30,000
Project 2.2.2	Waste Management Association (consultation and conference)	10,000
Project 2.2.3	Out of Councils and remote areas	100,000
Project 2.2.4	Partnerships with the tertiary education sector	240,000
Project 2.2.5	Sustainable communities incorporating Tidy Towns	25,000
Sub-total		405,000
2.3 Program Communication and Education		
Project 2.3.1	Wipe Out Waste schools	172,500
Project 2.3.2	Corporate communications, education and marketing (including plastic bags phase out)	965,000
Sub-total		1,137,500
2.4 Program Incentives		
Project 2.4.1	Market development incentives	164,000
Project 2.4.2	Metropolitan Infrastructure Incentives	922,500
Project 2.4.3	Regional Implementation program	1,000,000
Sub-total		2,086,500
2.5 Program Advocacy		
Project 2.5.1	National projects (EPHC waste working group)	213,000
Project 2.5.2	Environment Protection Policy	38,000
Sub-total		251,000
TOTAL ALL WASTE STREAMS		4,522,500
3.0 MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE		
3.1 Program Problematic wastes		
Project 3.1.1	Product stewardship (e-waste; hard waste; hazardous)	214,000
Sub-total		214,000
3.2 Program Incentives		
Project 3.2.1	School and community grants	150,000
Project 3.2.2	Kerbside incentives program (including food)	990,000
Project 3.2.3	Public place and events waste minimisation	35,000
Sub-total		1,175,000
TOTAL MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE		1,389,000
4.0 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE		
4.1 Program Incentives		
Project 4.1.1	Commercial collections and contracts	1,100,000
Sub-total		1,100,000
TOTAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE		1,100,000
5.0 CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE		
5.1 Program Communication and education		
Project 5.1.1	ZWSA-KESAB Clean Site building industry litter reduction, recycling and resource recovery	30,000
Sub-total		30,000
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE		30,000
6.0 LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING		
6.1 Program Investigations, reporting progress and data collection		
Project 6.1.1	ZWSA and KESAB litter counts, trends, analysis and monitoring	60,000
Sub-total		60,000
6.2 Program Communication and Education		
Project 6.2.1	ZWSA and KESAB litter awareness and resources	50,000
Project 6.2.2	ZWSA and KESAB illegal dumping and compliance	50,000
Project 6.2.3	Assistance to local government for illegal dumping compliance	100,000
Project 6.2.4	ZWSA and KESAB litter reduction	30,000
Sub-total		230,000
TOTAL LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING		290,000
7.0 HAZARDOUS WASTE		
7.1 Program Household Hazardous Waste and Farm Chemical Collection		
Project 7.1.1	Household Hazardous Waste and Farm Chemical Collections	593,000
TOTAL HAZARDOUS WASTE		593,000
8.0 WASTE AVOIDANCE		
Project 8.1.1	Consumption and waste avoidance	204,000
Project 8.1.2	Industry – Resource Efficiency Assistance Program	686,000
Project 8.1.3	Government – Resource Efficiency Assistance Program	100,000
TOTAL WASTE AVOIDANCE		990,000
9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES		
Salary and on-costs, office rent, etc		698,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:		9,613,000

Avoidance of waste is top of the tree in waste management. It is something for the whole community to aspire to and for ZWSA to pursue.

Litter and illegal dumping

Litter is a significant issue particularly in metropolitan areas and on metropolitan beaches; illegal dumping is a significant cost to peri-urban councils; both also adversely affect charitable collection organisations. ZWSA is attempting to reduce this incidence through a number of actions, including direct assistance to local government.

Looking at litter

KESAB has been monitoring litter incidence at 151 sites across the state on a quarterly basis since 1998. The data shows littering trends, item type and littering locations, and forms the basis for developing community education and awareness campaigns. Data will be stored and analysed in the new ZWSA data information system under development. National litter monitoring was re-introduced in 2006 using the methodology developed by KESAB.

Actions for 2008-09

1. Provide funding and support to KESAB for its litter campaigns and recycling initiatives.
2. Collaborate with stakeholders to identify issues and barriers, scope options and trial strategies to influence stronger compliance and enforcement.
3. Directly assist councils faced with illegal dumping issues.

Hazardous waste

The ZWSA operated Hazardous Waste Depot at Dry Creek, open in the morning of the first Tuesday of every month (except public holidays) and some weekends, is an invaluable, though sometimes inconvenient, resource for the South Australian community. ZWSA's complementary mobile system for the proper disposal of household hazardous waste and farm chemicals is an accessible service in both metropolitan and regional areas of the state.

Actions for 2008-09

1. Evaluate the recommendations of future options for the Household and Farm Chemical Collection Program and the Household Hazardous Waste Depot at Dry Creek.
2. Run collections in 20 metro and country councils.
3. Increase participation by 10% over previous collections in the same areas.
4. Educate the community on household hazardous waste management practices and better inform stakeholders and the community on household and farm chemical collection facilities.

Waste avoidance

Avoidance of waste is top of the tree in waste management. It is something for the whole community to aspire to and for ZWSA to pursue. In order to address waste avoidance, ZWSA must analyse how it will influence waste avoidance outcomes.

Resource efficient manufacture can make a difference by reducing raw material, energy and water use and minimising waste production. Companies implementing resource efficiency measures have realised large environmental and cost savings – and their actions can give them a new marketing edge.

Actions for 2008-09

1. Develop, in collaboration with the centre of excellence at the University of South Australia, an investigation that reveals consumption patterns, waste avoidance and reduction issues, and is informed by international experience and knowledge.
2. Help businesses and government understand, develop and implement cost saving resource efficiency measures through the Resource Efficiency Assistance Program.
3. Advocate for government to lead by using its purchasing power to favour sustainable manufacture of goods and supplies.