



# Waste Less, Recycle More

A \$337 million grants and funding initiative 2017–2021 extension



### **Front cover photo credits**

#### **Top:**

Global Renewables UR-3R waste facility recovering materials for recycling.  
Photo: UR-3R

#### **Bottom 1:**

Painting the bins at Bourke. Photo: NSW EPA

#### **Bottom 2:**

Waverley Council bins at Bondi Beach. Photo: NSW EPA

#### **Bottom 3:**

Waste paint cans at a community recycling centre. Photo: NSW EPA

#### **Bottom 4:**

The Circulate project is diverting plastic from landfill in the Hunter.  
Photo: Green Tulip

© 2016 State of NSW

Published by the NSW Environment Protection Authority on behalf of  
NSW Government

Environment Protection Authority, 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW  
2000. PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232

Phone: (02) 9995 5000 (switchboard). Phone: 131 555 (environment  
information and publications requests)

Phone: 1300 361 967 (national parks, general environmental enquiries,  
and publications requests)

Fax: (02) 9995 5999. TTY users: phone 133 677 then ask for 131 555

Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 131 555

Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)

#### **Report pollution and environmental incidents**

Environment Line: 131 555 (NSW only) or [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

See also [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)

EPA2016/0538

ISBN: 978-1-76039-480-6

October 2016

## Minister's message



The NSW population is expected to grow to 9.9 million people by 2036 and the amount of waste generated in NSW in 20 years is expected to be 159 per cent higher than in 2002. The challenge is to manage this population growth so that the community and environment are protected. The NSW waste and resource recovery sector is key to achieving this.

NSW has set ambitious waste and recycling targets. To achieve these targets, we need to invest in innovative business approaches and to stimulate investment in new processing technologies and capacity across NSW.

I am thrilled to announce this \$337 million NSW Government investment in waste and recycling services that will continue to transform the waste sector and to deliver economic and environmental benefits for NSW.

As part of the NSW Government's commitment to invest in this sector, more than \$802 million has been committed over nine years through waste and resource recovery work led by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

This brings the NSW Government's total commitment to the waste and recycling sector to more than \$802 million over nine years.

We have already achieved so much through our initial EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, with more than 822 projects across the state that are expected to process more than 2.2 million tonnes of waste and create 845 jobs.

I am confident that this second phase will deliver even more improvements.

With support and assistance from the NSW Environment Protection Authority, NSW's waste and resource recovery industry provides an essential service to the community to manage its waste effectively, to maximise its economic benefit and to mitigate the social and environmental impacts.

Funding for litter and illegal dumping initiatives has been increased to help achieve the Premier's priority of a reduction in litter volume by 40 % by 2020. Litter funding will also contribute to the rollout of the Container Deposit Scheme in 2017.

Funding has also been renewed to stimulate new and enhanced waste and recycling infrastructure across the organics, household problem waste, recycling innovation and business recycling streams.

Opportunities will be available for small community groups, not for profits, local councils and businesses, to ensure that waste and recycling innovation is rolled out across our communities - from investment in local park infrastructure through to improved recycling plants.

By creating an innovative and robust waste and recycling sector, we can establish best-practice systems and empower local communities to create and maintain clean environments and reduce landfill.

I look forward to the rollout of the next phase of our Waste Less, Recycle More initiative.

Mark Speakman  
Minister for the Environment



The Circulate project is diverting plastic from landfill in the Hunter.  
Photo: Green Tulip

## **A snapshot of funding and available grants 2017–2021**

### **Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Program \$70 million over 4 years**

- \$5 million for regional landfill consolidation and environmental improvements, in partnership with the Environmental Trust
- \$39 million for the Better Waste and Recycling Fund
- \$4.5 million for regional coordination and strategy for the Greater Sydney Region
- \$8 million for funding voluntary regional waste groups
- \$4 million to empower Aboriginal communities in waste management
- \$9.5 million for education and support

### **Illegal Dumping Prevention and Waste Enforcement Fund \$65 million over 4 years**

- \$3 million for clean up and prevention
- \$9 million to create and support Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squads and RID online
- \$1 million for the Aboriginal land clean-up and prevention program
- \$52 million for proactive enforcement compliance programs

### **Household Problem Waste \$57 million over 4 years**

- \$3 million for community recycling centre infrastructure grants, in partnership with the Environmental Trust
- \$37 million for community recycling centre receptacles and processing
- \$9 million for household chemical collection and processing
- \$8 million for education, training and support for problem waste collection

### **Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund \$48 million over 4 years**

- \$8 million for resource recovery expansion and enhancement grants
- \$25 million for major resource recovery infrastructure grants, in partnership with the Environmental Trust
- \$14.5 million for auditing, education and support
- \$0.5 million for weighbridges

## **Organics Infrastructure Fund and Program \$35.5 million over 4 years**

- \$4.5 million for organics market development including \$3 million in grants
- \$7 million for food waste avoidance, including \$1.6 million in Love Food Hate Waste grants
- \$14 million for organics infrastructure grants, in partnership with the Environmental Trust
- \$10 million for local government organics collection grants, in partnership with the Environmental Trust

## **Litter Prevention and Enforcement Fund \$30 million over 4 years**

- \$1.5 million for community litter grants
- \$4 million for local government litter grants
- Litter prevention programs, including the Hey Tosser! campaign

## **Business Recycling Program \$22.5 million over 4 years**

- \$12.5 million Bin Trim grants and small scale equipment rebates
- \$5 million for industrial ecology networks in the commercial and industrial and construction and demolition sectors throughout NSW
- \$5 million for other business initiatives

## **Recycling Innovation Fund \$5 million over 4 years**

- \$5 million for Recycling Innovation Fund grants, in partnership with the Environmental Trust

## **Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities programs \$4 million over 4 years**

- \$4 million for the education and coordination activities of the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authority (HACA)



Waverley Council bins at Bondi Beach.  
Photo: NSW EPA

## Introduction

The NSW Government is transforming the waste and recycling sector, delivering economic and environmental benefits in NSW. Under the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, 822 projects have received \$292.3 million in funding. These projects are aiming to process over 2.2 million tonnes of waste and have created 845 jobs.

The NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014–21 was released in 2014 and sets targets to:

- reduce the rate of waste generation per capita
- increase recycling rates across all waste streams
- increase the proportion of waste diverted from landfill to 75%
- establish drop-off facilities for managing problem household wastes.

The investment in infrastructure, services and education from the NSW Government Waste Less, Recycle More initiative has made significant progress towards these targets. However, increasing population and economic growth in NSW have also led to increasing waste generation. To meet these targets, additional investment is required.

Successfully meeting these targets in 2021 would result in an estimated additional 1,590 jobs in the NSW economy; energy savings equivalent to the energy usage of 1.49 million households each year; water savings equivalent to 5,392 Olympic swimming pools each year and greenhouse gas benefits equivalent to removing 530,971 cars from the road each year.

The NSW Government's decision to extend the EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative guarantees \$337 million in funding for 2017–21. In addition to creating an innovative and robust waste and recycling sector, the NSW Government is also focused on empowering local communities to create and maintain clean environments.

The NSW Government is serious about reducing litter.

On 14 September 2015, the Premier personally committed to reduce the volume of litter in NSW by 40% by 2020. Achieving this ambitious target will need sustained behaviour change across the community.

The introduction of a container deposit scheme from 1 July 2017 will play a key role, targeting drink containers which make up 44% of the litter volume in NSW. A container deposit scheme is however only one part of a broader and soon to be released NSW Litter Prevention Strategy that will have a renewed focus on education and public awareness. The extension of funding for 2017–21 will build on the work undertaken to date through the first phase of the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, including the successful Hey Tosser! campaign, capacity building of enforcement officers within the EPA and local councils, empowerment of the community and partnerships with key stakeholders.

Cracking down on illegal activity in the waste sector also remains a NSW Government priority. Illegal dumping is a crime that can cause serious harm to the environment and human health. The cost of such action is borne by the community, local councils and legitimate operators in the industry. Strong and proactive enforcement action is required to protect both the environment and the significant NSW Government investment in a world class and innovative waste and recycling sector.

The continuation of the EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative to 2021 makes it clear that the NSW Government is committed to a clean and healthy environment.

Painting the bins at Bourke.  
Photo: NSW EPA



## Key elements of the Waste and Recycling Infrastructure package

### Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Program

Under Waste Less, Recycle More (WLRM), the Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Program has led to increased collaboration between councils and improved waste and resource recovery outcomes in communities.

Since 2013, 14 regional waste strategies have been developed, 850 projects have been funded by the Better Waste and Recycling Fund, 31 landfills in regional NSW have been closed with a further 63 receiving funding for improvements, and pilot programs have commenced with Aboriginal communities in western NSW.

The extension of the Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Program for 2017–21 will provide \$70 million to local communities to increase recycling and reduce illegal dumping and littering.

The new, comprehensive package will be rolled out by the EPA. It includes:

- \$39 million allocated over four years for councils that pay waste levies to support local waste and recycling initiatives
- \$4.5 million for regional waste groups in the metropolitan levy area to fund regional coordinators, infrastructure planning and delivery of regional waste strategies and action plans (2017–21)
- \$8 million for regional waste groups in rural and regional NSW to fund regional coordinators and programs, and the delivery of regional waste avoidance and recovery strategies and action plans (2017–21)
- \$5 million to support regional and rural local councils with landfill consolidation and closure, the building and upgrading of transfer stations, and environmental improvements to small landfills servicing rural communities
- \$4 million for a new program for sustainable waste management in discrete Aboriginal communities across NSW
- \$9.5 million for a NSW recycling campaign, bin audits, training, support and capacity building for local councils.

### Illegal Dumping Clean up, Prevention and Enforcement Fund

Combating illegal dumping is a key priority for the NSW Government and local communities. The EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative has funded the successful Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad partnership with 41 local councils. The RID Squad model is a funding and operational partnership between the EPA and councils to identify and prosecute small scale dumping.

Under the next phase of WLRM, \$65 million over 4 years is allocated to the Illegal Dumping, Clean-up, Prevention and Waste Enforcement Fund to fund:

**\$70 million  
over 4 years**



Providing multi-unit dwellings with plastics recycling options in inner-west Sydney.

Photo: Canterbury-Bankstown Council

**\$65 million  
over 4 years**



Illegally dumped waste on Gandangara LALC land.

Photo: NSW EPA

**\$57 million  
over 4 years**



Community recycling centre in Deniliquin

Photo: John Craig

**\$48 million  
over 4 years**



Global Renewables UR-3R waste facility recovering materials for recycling.

Photo: UR-3R

- the RID Squad
- local clean up and prevention programs targeting illegal dumping hot spots
- Aboriginal land illegal dumping clean up and prevention programs
- waste licensing and tracking operations
- RIDOnline, the public illegal dumping reporting portal and state wide database
- proactive enforcement campaigns targeting rogue waste operators.

## Household Problem Waste Program

The Household Problem Waste Program will continue to be enhanced and build upon the successes so far. To date, 101 community recycling centres that provide a solution for the disposal of problem waste have been funded to the value of \$12 million. The Chemical CleanOut program has also safely collected 7,300 tonnes of chemical waste from 170,682 NSW households and continues to grow annually by more than 10%.

The extension of \$57 million to the Household Problem Waste Program for 2017–21 will continue to support the ongoing implementation of the Chemical CleanOut and Community Recycling Centre programs.

The priorities include:

- ensuring residents who live in multi-unit dwellings have ready access to a service to dispose of problem waste
- filling location gaps where communities in NSW do not have access to a community recycling centre
- maintaining the high level of operational standards from existing community recycling centres
- continuing to support program partners to deliver communication and education initiatives around the safe disposal of household problem waste.

## Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund

The Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund has already funded over \$85 million in projects, leveraging an additional \$158.4 million in investment from the waste industry in new and expanded infrastructure. This has led to an additional 1 million tonnes of recycling capacity per year.

The extension of the Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund with investment by the NSW Government of \$48 million in 2017–21 will provide on-going targeted support to councils, households, business, industry, not for profit organisations and charities to increase resource recovery, and to continue to build and upgrade the essential infrastructure and services needed across NSW.

The priorities include:

- recovery of recyclables from sorted and unsorted waste from business and households

**\$35.5 million  
over 4 years**



Love Food Hate Waste  
Photo: NSW EPA

**\$30 million  
over 4 years**



Roadside litter.  
Photo: NSW EPA

- reuse, recycling and reprocessing of recyclable materials such as plastics, timber, paper, cardboard, food and consumer packaging
- processing and stabilisation of residual business and household waste.

## Organics Infrastructure Fund and Program

Food and garden waste remains the largest proportion of waste going to landfill from both homes and business in NSW. The successful diversion and reuse of the organics stream is critical to achieving the target to divert 75% of all waste from landfill by 2021. More than 70% of NSW households now have access to a green lid bin service and infrastructure investment is delivering the capacity to process this additional supply.

The Organics Infrastructure Fund is managed by the EPA and will continue to take a multi-pronged approach to increase organics diversion and recycling through:

- avoidance education through Love Food Hate Waste
- increasing capacity for surplus food donation and distribution
- continuing expansion of organics collections services for homes and business
- ongoing investment in processing infrastructure, from large scale facilities to small scale equipment
- supporting opportunities to improve product quality
- developing markets for the recycled product.

## Litter Prevention and Enforcement Fund

The 2017–21 extension of WLRM includes a \$30 million Litter Prevention and Enforcement Fund that will fund litter prevention, enhance community engagement in litter reduction, support the implementation of the NSW container deposit scheme (CDS) and improve community infrastructure and enforcement programs.

The EPA's Litter Prevention Strategy will underpin this funding and is built around the following key elements:

- rewarding responsible behaviour – through the CDS targeting drink containers
- education and community engagement – through a consistent state-wide litter campaign Hey Tosser! adaptable for local use
- infrastructure and clean up of litter hotspots – through \$5.5 million in grants to local councils and community groups that fund better bins and effective clean up
- regulation and enforcement – through training of local council officers and through the new EPA system for community reporting of littering from vehicles
- monitoring and evaluation – through local, state-wide and targeted measurement and then evaluating the effectiveness of programs based on evidence.

**\$22.5 million  
over 4 years**



Paint manufacturer Derivan is saving thousands of dollars by recycling cardboard after a Bin Trim assessment.  
Photo: NSW EPA

**\$5 million  
over 4 years**



Supporting innovation in mattress recycling.  
Photo: Evolving Images P/L NSW EPA

## Business Recycling Program

The Business Recycling Program will build on significant efficiencies gained by working with tens of thousands of NSW businesses to achieve positive waste and recycling outcomes throughout Waste Less, Recycle More.

The Bin Trim Business Grants Program has already facilitated waste assessments for 15,730 small and medium-sized businesses in NSW, with an average increase in the recycling rate of 13%.

The \$22.5 million Business Recycling Fund will continue to support the commercial and industrial sector to increase waste avoidance and resource recovery, and achieve the NSW waste and recycling targets.

The Business Recycling Program is managed by the EPA. Priorities include:

- funding to support business recycling through a variety of advisory services and programs
- support for small-scale recycling infrastructure in NSW businesses
- expanding the NSW EPA's industrial ecology program, 'Circulate', to support medium to large enterprises achieve improved environmental practice.

## Recycling Innovation Fund

The Recycling Innovation Fund has already allocated \$15 million to over 23 projects that are creating new recycling infrastructure solutions, establishing or expanding recycling material markets through research and development and also increasing the efficiency of recycling facilities for specific targeted wastes.

An additional \$5 million over 4 years will provide opportunities for industry, councils, not-for-profit organisations and charities through contestable grant funding to further develop projects that provide innovative solutions to targeted waste types in NSW and include infrastructure and research.

## Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities programs

HACA works to improve the management, monitoring and response to asbestos issues in NSW. The NSW Government will invest \$4 million to assist in the development of coordinated prevention and education programs.

## Further Information

The additional funding will be available through grants funding after 1 July 2017. For more information on how to apply for funding or grants, and for details on eligibility, contact the Waste and Resource Branch on 131 555 or visit [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au).

**For more information on the initiative and how to  
apply for grants visit [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au).**