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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW WASTING LESS, BUT THERE'S ROOM TO IMPROVE

Environment Minister Rob Stokes today released data on waste and recycling in NSW, which shows promising signs of waste reduction across the state, but identifies much more needs to be done to increase recycling rates.

Mr Stokes said NSW households are sending less waste to landfill, but improvement to recycling rates is needed if we are going to reach our ambitious target of diverting 75 per cent of waste from landfill by 2021.

“These figures show significant investment is needed to provide better recycling infrastructure and education for families,” Mr Stokes said.

“That is why the NSW Government is providing over \$250 million over five years to enhance recycling and waste treatment infrastructure across NSW.”

The 2012-13 Local Government Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Data Report released by the Environment Protection Authority today shows:

- NSW households generated 3.47 million tonnes of domestic waste in 2012/13, comprising of 2.02 million tonnes of waste that went to landfill and 1.45 million tonnes of recyclables collected.
- This was down from 3.52 million tonnes the previous year.
- The average NSW household generated 23.6kg of waste a week, consisting of 5.1kg of recyclables, 5.3kg of food and garden organics and 11.7kg of landfill waste.
- The average person in NSW generated 9.2 kg of waste a week, down from 9.4kg in the previous year.
- NSW households generated a total of 3.47 million tonnes of waste, sending 2.02 million tonnes to landfill and recycling the remaining 1.45 million tonnes.
- Twenty one councils sent 437,141 tonnes of kerbside residual waste to an Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) facility, of which 236,212 tonnes (or 54%) was recovered. The total waste sent to AWT facilities for processing increased by 40% (or 168,530 tonnes) compared to 2008/09.

The report uses data collected before the first of NSW Government's Waste Less Recycle More grants were rolled out, which have totalled more than \$112 million since 2013-14.

Waste Less Recycle More is a five-year \$465.7 million initiative that includes funding for business recycling, managing problem wastes, new waste infrastructure, local councils and programs to tackle illegal dumping and litter.

For more information: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/warr/datareport.htm>