



Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

2025 - 2035

Eurobodalla
Shire Council

Acknowledgement of Country

Eurobodalla Shire Council recognises Aboriginal people as the original inhabitants and custodians of all land and water in the Eurobodalla and respects their enduring cultural and spiritual connection to it. Eurobodalla Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land in which we live. Council pays respect to Elders past, present and aspiring. We are on Yuin Country.

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Welcome

Eurobodalla Shire is full of community spirit, determined to overcome local challenges, sharing a respect for our natural environment. Working together, using these strengths, we can win the war on waste.

Community feedback shows a willingness to own the waste each of us generate and a commitment to do better. Our community supports better recycling and waste avoidance and wants accessible services and education encouraging sustainable waste practices.

It's a simple fact that no one likes waste. Finding solutions towards-zero waste is complex and involves many stakeholders to make it achievable. Local, state and federal government, communities and individuals all need to play their part.

This 10-Year Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy is the result of extensive community and stakeholder consultation, aligning objectives with NSW Government waste targets, engaging external expertise and applying local knowhow.

The Strategy is recommending a range of practical solutions, taking sensible steps to make big impacts – and planning for Eurobodalla Shire's future needs. Community engagement, support and leadership is key in achieving our goals to reduce waste and improve resource recovery.

Finding solutions towards zero waste is complex and involves many stakeholders to make it achievable.



Vision and purpose

Our vision for waste services and resource recovery

Facilitating quality and sustainable waste services, supporting our community to own the waste they generate by using avoidance, reuse and recycling practices, embracing local solutions to help the circular economy and protecting our beautiful environment.

We achieve this by:

- consulting with our community
- encouraging a waste wise community
- collaborating with stakeholders on local waste recovery initiatives
- advocating for effective government legislation.

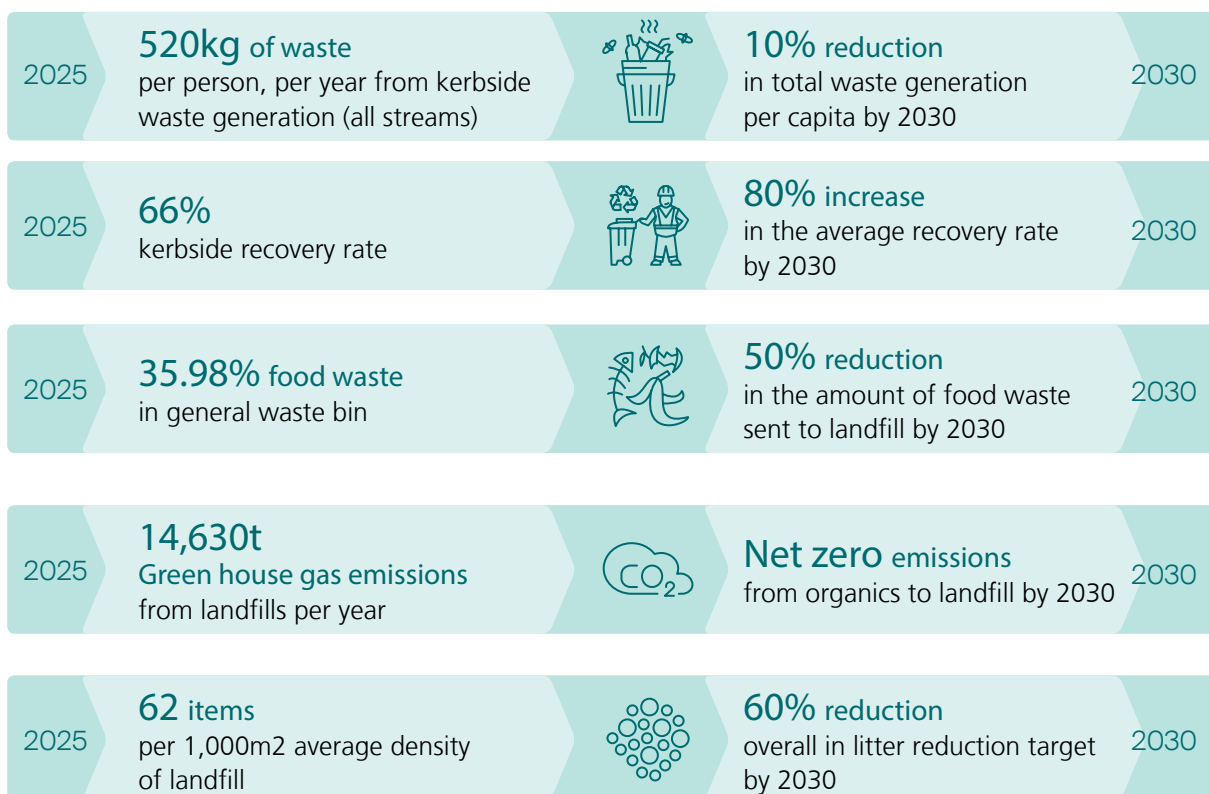
Where we are

- 520kg per person, per year kerbside waste generation (all streams)
- 66% kerbside recovery rate
- 35.98% food waste in general waste bin
- 14,630 tonnes of green house gas emissions from landfills per year
- An average density of 62 litter items per 1,000m²

Where we're heading

- Reduced total waste generation per capita by 10% by 2030
- Increase average recovery rate to 80% by 2030
- Halve the amount of food waste sent to landfill by 2030
- Net zero emissions from organics to landfill by 2030
- Achieve an overall litter reduction of 60% by 2030

Where we are now



Our five strategic themes

Strategic themes serve to focus Council's waste initiatives, resources, and policies and support community enterprise.



Theme 1

Finding local solutions to recover waste



Theme 2

Encouraging community ownership of their waste



Theme 3

Supporting the circular economy



Theme 4

Practicing waste leadership in Council's operation



Theme 5

Planning for the future

Purpose of this document

Eurobodalla Shire's 2025 - 2035 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy aims to secure the best possible waste management solutions for our community and the environment, now and for the future.

A framework for managing waste over the next ten years, the Strategy is a practical roadmap to sustainably manage waste, tailored to our unique local government area.

The recommendations are guided by community feedback, designed to meet government targets and assist in the delivery of Council's Climate Action Plan and our Community Strategic Plan. The Strategy includes contingency planning to deal with natural disasters and changing social and political demands.

What we are aiming to achieve

- Meeting NSW state waste targets and aligning with federal frameworks
- Supporting the community to use less, recover and recycle more
- Listening to the community and continue to provide high quality services
- Supporting the circular economy
- Continuing to improve how we operate
- Planning and adapting for future needs.

... the Strategy is a practical roadmap to sustainably manage waste, tailored to our unique local government area.

Background

About the national framework for waste

The National Waste Policy, *Less Waste, More Resources*, was released by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in 2018 and provides a framework for collective action by businesses, governments, communities, and individuals until 2030.

The policy identifies the following seven targets:

1. Ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, commencing in the second half of 2020
2. Reduce total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030
3. 80% average resource recovery rate from all waste streams following the waste hierarchy by 2030
4. Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry
5. Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025
6. Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030
7. Make comprehensive, economy-wide and timely data publicly available to support better consumer, investment and policy decisions



About the NSW Government waste framework

The NSW Government released the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041: Stage 1 – 2021-2027* (WaSM) as the first stage in a 20-year plan that focuses on the environmental benefits and economic opportunities to reduce waste, improve waste management and increase material recycling.

The NSW Government identified three key areas to focus on – residual waste, organics, and plastics. The WaSM Strategy aims to reduce waste generated and increase recycling through adoption of the targets to halve food waste going to landfill and achieve net zero emissions from organics in landfill by 2030. Councils are required to provide combined food and garden organics (FOGO) collection services by 2030 to assist in meeting these targets.

Growing the circular economy plays an important role in recycling these materials. Ensuring there is adequate infrastructure to support source separation, processing and investigating new and emerging technologies in diverting waste from landfill are considerations in Eurobodalla's Strategy.



Working with local NSW councils

Eurobodalla Shire Council is a member of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO). Council works in partnership with a voluntary group of nine other councils (member councils) and associate members being the ACT Government, Wagga Wagga City Council and Canberra Airport.

CRJO membership provides a unique platform for the local councils to collectively pursue regional benefits and improve outcomes within these locales, including:

- facilitating close regional cooperation
- resource sharing and grant funding
- collaborating on common challenges such as legacy landfills
- disaster and contingency planning
- cultivating shared investment and infrastructure development opportunities.

We are dedicated to supporting the community in reducing, recovering and reusing waste ...

Council's role in waste management

Council's role is to provide fit for purpose, reliable, accessible and importantly, safe waste services while facilitating better environmental and social outcomes.

We are committed to delivering value for money for our community.

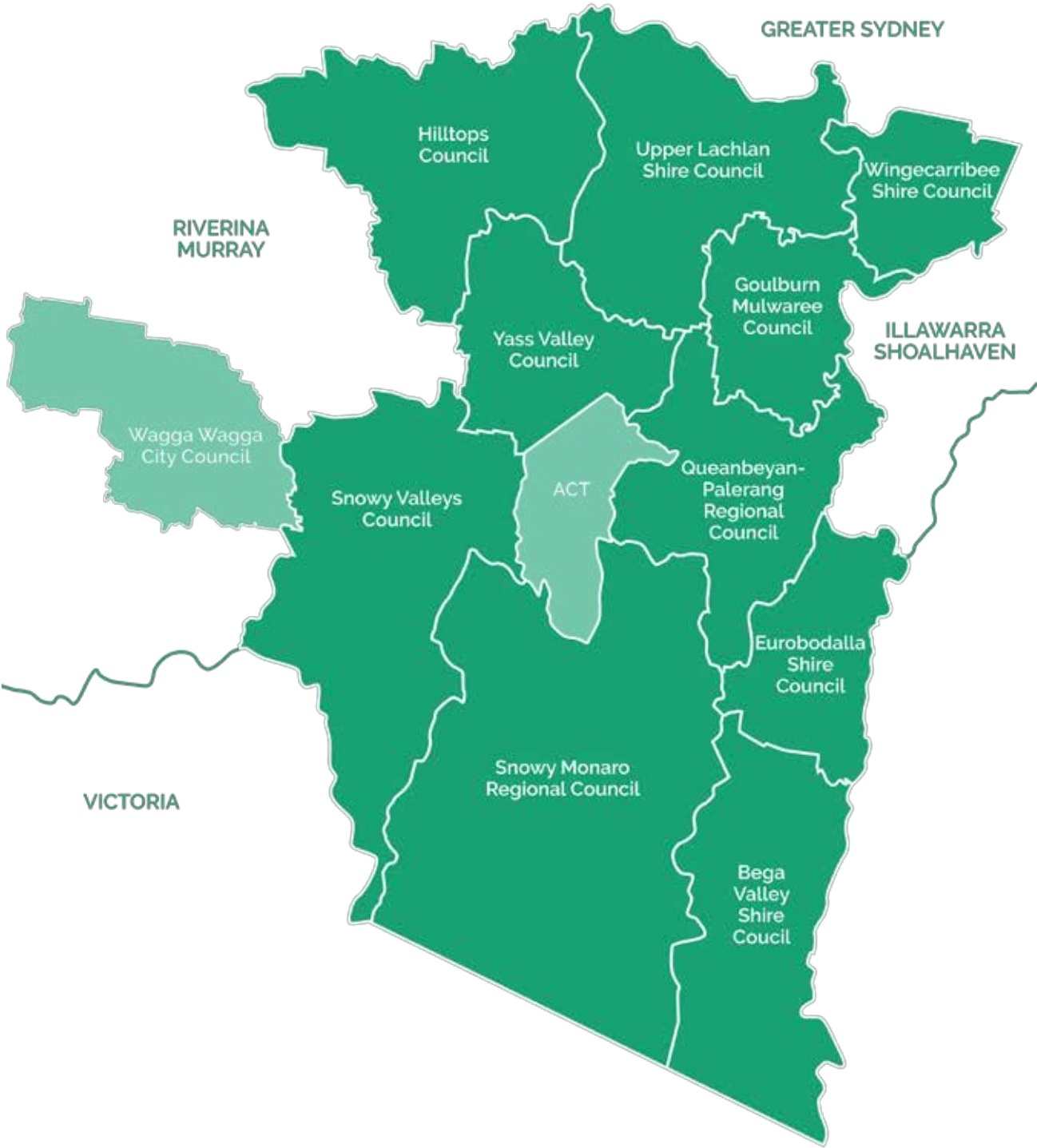
Our operational responsibilities include negotiating the best available contracts for collection services and processing, managing risk, planning for the future, and promoting sustainable waste practices.

Listening and involving our community is a vital part of our role. We are dedicated to supporting the community in reducing, recovering and reusing waste through education, providing accessible recycling services and new diversion of waste opportunities.

We are engaging with government, community, other councils and commercial stakeholders to help source and secure the necessary processing capability, reuse initiatives and infrastructure.

On behalf of the community, we are advocating all levels of government on policy, legislation and grants to advance waste management and resource recovery in our region.

CRJO member council boundaries



Understanding the challenges

We need to acknowledge and share with our community the challenges which must be considered when forming our 10-Year Strategy.

Like many regional councils providing waste services across large and diverse geographic areas, we need to secure adequate landfill capacity for disposing waste as a last resort. We require access to recycling and processing solutions for an increasingly broader range of materials, reduce our carbon footprint and meet changing legislative requirements.

Some of the challenges in developing and delivering this Strategy are:

- available local infrastructure – maintaining adequate services and preserving landfill life, feasible access to a materials recycling facility (MRF) and local processing for food and garden organics
- sourcing and encouraging local industries which support a viable circular economy
- balancing priorities with limited resources
- managing a broad range of, sometimes conflicting, community expectations

- servicing a large geographic local government area with relatively smaller population to disperse costs
- managing the impacts of tourism, including increased waste volumes and non-compliant waste behaviours resulting in contamination of recycling and litter
- planning for and mitigating the severe impacts of natural disasters
- rising costs of providing services
- distance to markets for recyclable materials and any waste services to be implemented
- limited end markets for recyclable materials – national issue.

Council is optimistic that some of these challenges can be overcome by working with the community, commercial suppliers and our neighbouring councils.



Kindergarten students Sophia Ingersole Kelsey Lucas and Ebony Frazer NPS

Our community

Our community in profile

Eurobodalla's estimated resident population is 40,129 (Australian Government Census 2022), with Council providing waste services to around 28,250 households. Based on current projections, the population is expected to reach more than 45,500 by 2036.

Eurobodalla is a vibrant and resilient community with strong rural and coastal heritage and Indigenous culture. The Walbanga people of the Yuin Nation are recognised as the first people of our region who have lived in this area for thousands of years and have an enduring custodianship and connection over the land and waterways.

Our local government area covers 3,428 square kilometres, comprising a total of 29,783 residential properties. We provide waste services to 20,651 single unit dwelling (SUDs) and 7,602 multi-unit dwellings (MUDs).

Our population is spread along the coastline, with the main town centres of Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma and smaller villages and rural areas.

Our local economy is diverse; built around agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, construction, retail and health industries. Located relatively close to Canberra and Sydney, Eurobodalla Shire is an increasingly attractive place to call home.

Eurobodalla attracts around 1.2 million visitors annually with higher visitation during the peak holiday seasons. The seasonal increased population due to tourism creates challenges for waste management and resource recovery. This includes providing extra services to handle waste volumes in peak times, litter management and tailored education. The impact of tourism is considered in this Strategy.



41,933

Population (ERP 2024)



21.4%

of population volunteer



1.2M

annual visitors



3,245

local businesses



29,783

residential properties

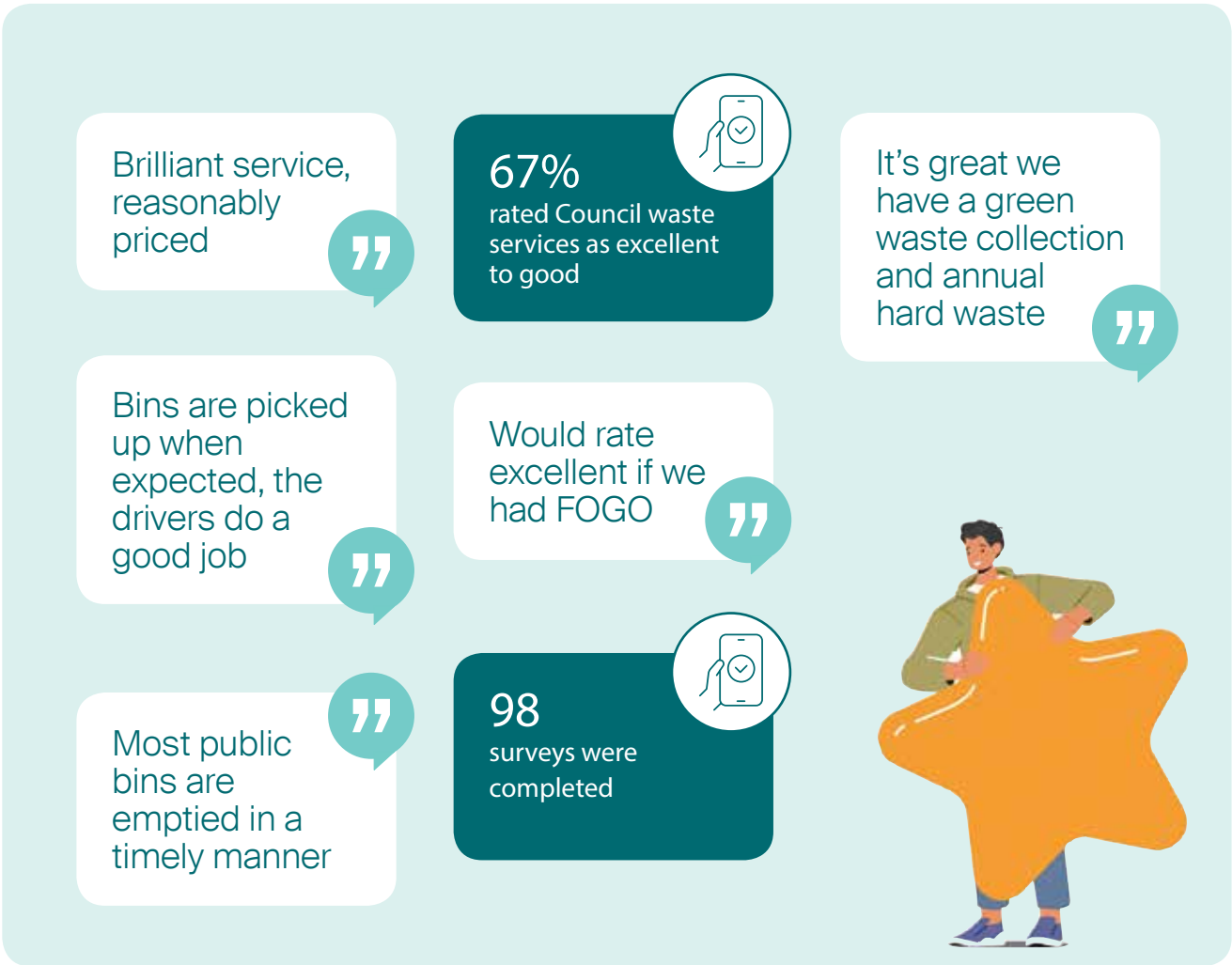
69% single-unit
26% multi-unit
5% other (caravan, cabin,
houseboat, vacant lot)

What's important to our community

In developing this Strategy, Council followed an extensive community engagement process from May to October 2024, inviting representatives from a range of stakeholder groups to two strategy workshops, one-on-one discussions at community events and a community survey. The Strategy is also open for public feedback before it is finalised 2025.

The community online survey was available from September to October 2024, and promoted through social media, local media, the Festival of Sustainable Choices and Council's website. 98 surveys were completed.

67% of respondents rated Council waste services as excellent to good, with 6% rating services as poor and bad.



How residents rated Eurobodalla Shire's waste Services

Comments from the community about Council's current performance mainly focused on proposing differential landfill fees for source separation, reinforcing the need for a combined food and garden organics (FOGO) collection service and compost production.

The community was asked its opinion about future waste management and what is most important for Council to deliver. These insights helped inform the initiatives of this Strategy.

The survey results particularly convey the desire to avoid and reduce waste, protect our natural environment and practice better recycling. The secondary themes relate to cost, more accessible services for resource recovery, processing garden organics into compost and separating food organics through a FOGO service.

From the survey, the community priorities are:

- supporting individual ownership of the waste generated
- reducing waste, especially food organics going to landfill
- pricing incentives for source separated waste
- producing compost from household garden organics
- providing clear source separation instructions for better recycling
- supporting the community to use sustainable waste practices
- community recycling facilities such as repair shops and recycling centres
- finding local and accessible resource recovery solutions
- preparing for the future waste and resource recovery needs.



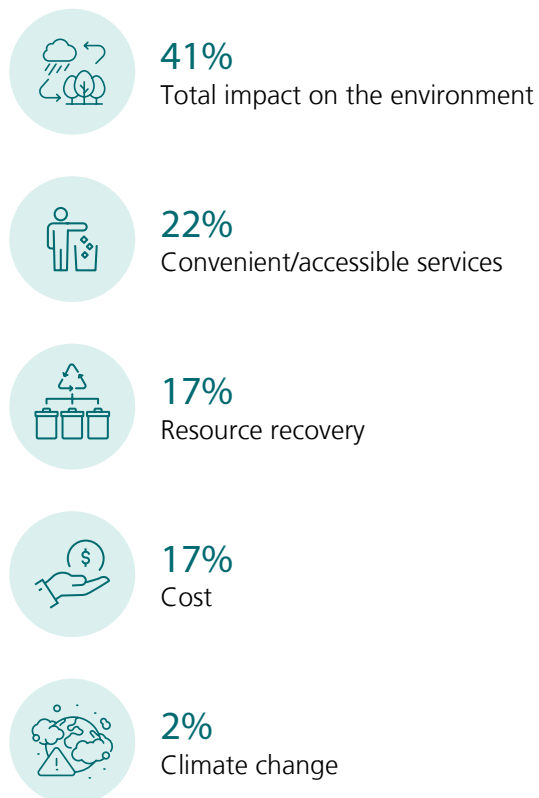
Brett Hudson, Surf Beach waste facility site supervisor

The results

How you rate Council's waste services



What is most important to residents regarding their waste services



How you believe Council can best support the community to reduce waste going to landfill





DRAFT

Local business feedback

Council also surveyed commercial food and beverage retailers and the construction and demolition industry to understand how they are currently managing waste and what might assist to these businesses to recover and reuse waste.

Most respondents in both categories are motivated by:

- reducing the environmental impacts of their business waste
- pricing incentives for source separated waste at landfills
- more convenient source separation (particularly drop off locations)
- increasing education and awareness.

This information from local business influenced the recommendations in this Strategy.

Local businesses surveyed by Council are motivated by:



Reducing the environmental impacts of their business waste



Incentives for separated waste at landfills



More convenient drop off locations



Increasing need for education and awareness

Our waste services

DRAFT



14,630t
of greenhouse gas emissions
from landfill each year



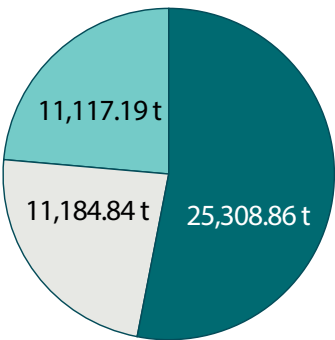
520kg
waste generated per person, per year
from kerbside waste (all streams)



81kg
food generated per household, per year
collected in waste (all streams)

Current waste volumes

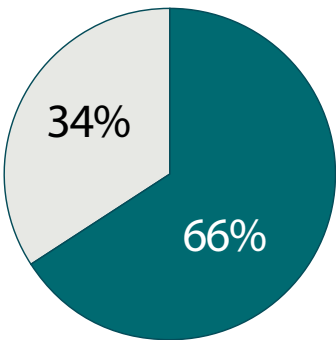
Waste created by Eurobodalla



Brou and Surf Beach Waste Management Facilities
2023-24 waste recieved (tonnes/year)

- Municipal 25,308.86 tonnes
- Commercial and industrial 11,184.84 tonnes
- Construction and demolition 11,117.19 tonnes

Percentage of waste diverted from landfill



2023-24 waste diverted from landfill (tonnes/year)

- Recycled 66%
- Landfill 34%

Bin composition





Waste services we provide

Household waste services

Council provides around 26,000 households in the domestic collection area with three bins:

- a red-lidded general waste bin collected weekly
- a yellow-lidded recycling bin collected fortnightly
- a green-lidded garden organics bin collected fortnightly.

Residents paying for the domestic collection service can take part in our annual hard waste collection, where junk items too bulky for the household bin are collected from each property. Council also provides the annual household chemical clean out where residents can dispose of household chemicals and hazardous materials.

Council helps manage the recovery and disposal of problematic types of materials including asbestos, Construction and Demolition (C&D) Commercial and Industrial (C&I), disaster waste, E-waste, mattresses, solar panels, soft plastics, and tyres.

Landfills

Council operates two landfills at Surf Beach and Brou. Both facilities accept solid waste and recyclables, with incentivised fees applying at both sites for wastes that have been separated and are deemed recoverable for recycling.

Waste transfer stations

A waste transfer station is located at Moruya and accepts solid waste and recyclables with fees applying for delivery to the site. Smaller loads are accepted of up to two cubic metres.

Community recycling centres and buy back shops

Surf Beach facility hosts a community recycling centre (CRC) for hazardous waste which is funded by the EPA. All three waste facilities host buy back shops where the community can purchase recovered items from the waste stream. Fees are not charged for dropping off problem waste for recycling such as paint, smoke detectors, and household and car batteries.

Council is increasing its capability for managing waste and organics at the Surf Beach Waste Management Facility. Improvements to the sites' access will allow for the possibility of expanding the community recycling centre, buy back shop and make room for other future resource recovery initiatives.

Upgrades are also planned for the Brou Waste Management Facility to ensure that it continues to provide services to meet community need.

Other recycling items accepted for free

Clean and separated items are accepted for free at Surf Beach and Brou waste facilities and Moruya Transfer Station. These include:

- expanded polystyrene
- steel and metals
- fridges and whitegoods
- hot water systems
- empty chemical drums (drumMuster)
- vehicle and household batteries
- soft plastics
- co-mingled recycling (paper, cardboard, plastic containers, bottles, cans etc)
- motor oil and empty motor oil containers
- cooking oil
- TVs, DVD and video players, gaming machines etc
- computers (including computer peripherals)
- sound systems
- mobile phones
- fluorescent light globes/tubes.

Surf Beach and Brou waste management facilities also accept cars, motors, trailers and caravans.



Household Chemical Cleanout

Eurobodalla Shire residents can rid their homes of unwanted chemicals for free at the Household Chemical Cleanout. Residents are encouraged to take their unwanted chemicals to designated drop-off locations in Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma.

Annual hard waste collection

Council provides one kerbside hard waste collection each year for households that receive a domestic waste collection service. The pick-up takes place from mid-July to mid-September.

Each household is allowed a maximum of two cubic metres of material. In the 2024 FY residents disposed of 1,022 tonnes of hard waste and we recycled 461.1 tonnes of recoverables.



Textiles

Council's waste audits indicate that textiles make up 5% of household waste. Currently in Eurobodalla, there is no simple solution to reduce textiles going to landfill, however, Council encourages the community to responsibly reuse, donate and reduce consumption of textiles. Increasing product stewardship will also reduce textile waste.





Battery recycling

Batteries are found in appliances that we use every day. They contain a range of metals including lead, mercury and lithium which can be hazardous to the environment when disposed of incorrectly.

Batteries should never be thrown into household bins because they contain chemicals that contaminate waste, pollute the environment and can cause fires in council garbage trucks and waste facilities.

The good news is that batteries can be recycled. Council has partnered with B-cycle to ensure the safe and effective recycling of batteries in Eurobodalla.

Residents can drop off batteries at Council's waste facilities for recycling or at the main council administration building in Moruya or the Narooma and Batemans Bay libraries.



Residents can recycle batteries for free at the following drop off locations:

- Council's waste facilities.
- Council's admin building in Moruya.
- Narooma or Batemans Bay libraries.



Soft plastics recycling

Council partners with Recycle Smart to redirect soft plastics from landfill. We aim to reduce, educate, reuse, and recycle to help work towards zero waste-to-landfill.

Recycling soft plastics is challenging. They are usually made of a mixture of materials for flexibility and durability. This includes additives and petrochemicals such as polyethylene and/or polypropylene.

APR Plastics in Dandenong Victoria are processing the soft plastics from Eurobodalla using a method called pyrolysis to produce reusable oil. The Biofabrik WASTX pyrolysis plant breaks waste plastic down to its chemical compounds which can be used again to make plastics.

Public place waste collection

When residents were asked what they value most 56% mentioned the natural environment, including cleanliness and natural scenery. (2023 Survey).

To maintain cleanliness and reduce pollution from entering stormwater drains, waterways and bushland environments, Council Parks and Gardens staff provides an extensive public place litter picking and waste services organises the public place litter bin collection service that includes 654 bins throughout the shire. This helps manage waste and litter across our public places including parks, shopping centres, sporting fields and tourist areas.

Illegal dumping and littering

Illegal dumping and littering mean the unauthorised tossing, tipping or depositing waste on land and in water. Illegal dumping and littering, pollutes the environment, damages ecosystems and can harm human health. Council employs an Illegal Dumping Ranger to monitor and assist in reducing illegal dumping in the Eurobodalla.

Dumping illegal waste in public reserves, roadside verges, bushland areas and vacant lots creates a major problem for our community. Removing litter and illegal dumping is costly for the community with Council spending about \$73,000 each year.

Community Education

The highest priority is to avoid and reduce the amount of waste generated. We can avoid unnecessary consumption through responsible behaviours such as:

- selecting items with the least packaging or that require the fewest resources to produce
- avoiding disposable goods and single-use materials
- buying products that are re-usable, repairable, refillable, recycled or recyclable
- using leftover food rather than throwing it away.

Waste diversion includes reducing the overall waste households generate and improving resource recovery in the different waste streams.

Council delivers a range of education and awareness programs to manage waste more sustainably, including Environmentors in schools, food waste diversion and reuse workshops.



Repair Cafe in Moruya

Developing the Strategy

How this strategy fits in Council planning

The 10-Year Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy supports Eurobodalla Shire's Community Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan.

The Community Strategic Plan

Our Eurobodalla 2042 emphasises the importance of fostering a thriving economy while protecting and enhancing our natural environment. It reflects the central role that sustainability, resilience and collaboration plays in strengthening our community identity. Likewise, the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy encompass these values with a grass roots, inclusive approach.

The Climate Action Plan 2022-2032

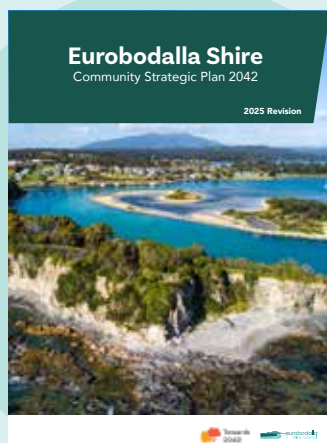
Eurobodalla Climate Action Plan is the next iteration to progress our response to mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts. It sets out some longer-term ambitions for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions from landfill contribute to 48% of our total emissions.

Relevant waste objectives for this Strategy:

- Reduce the total volume of putrescible waste to landfill
- Reduce methane emissions
- Prepare for new waste issues associated with other aspects of the low-carbon transition.

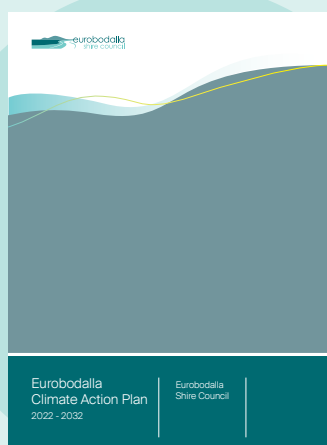


We divert green waste from landfill, adding to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions



The Community Strategic Plan

- Move together for a sustainable future community.
- Value, protect, and enhance our natural environment community.
- Respond to our changing climate and natural hazards.
- Work together in the management and use of our valuable resources.



Eurobodalla Climate Action Plan

- Reduce emissions from the 2005-06 baseline by 80% by 2030.
- Net zero emissions by 2050 with 50% reduction by 2030.
- Reduce green house gas emissions.



Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

- Reduce household waste.
- Increase recycling.
- Increase resource recovery.
- Reduce methane emissions.
- Prepare for new issues related to low carbon transitions.



Stakeholder engagement process

Stage 1: setting the strategic framework

Engaging with key stakeholder representatives to help set the strategic vision and themes was an important step in developing the Strategy. Once the strategic framework was proposed, Council promoted community online surveys to get feedback on the framework, and to understand community waste priorities and views on possible initiatives.

Stage 2: feedback on the draft strategy

The Waste Strategy is released on public exhibition, allowing time for the community to comment on the draft strategy, to review community feedback and adjust the Strategy before Council endorsement.

Evaluating possible solutions using multiple criteria analysis (MCA).

MCA is a method for making decisions about waste management that can help identify the best options among a set of alternatives. To objectively appraise the range of potential initiatives to meet the objectives of this Strategy, Council engaged technical expertise to conduct analysis using multiple criteria. Each criterion is weighted according to the importance it represents in delivering the Strategy, delivering the most value to our residents and the environment.

Strategic recommendations

Summary of key targets

2025

- Phase out problem and unnecessary plastics and
- Plastic litter reduction of 30%

2030

- Reduce total waste generated by 10% per person
- 80% recovery rate from all waste streams
- Triple the plastics recycling rate
- Food and garden collections provided to all households
- Halve the amount of organic waste going to landfill
- Net zero emissions from landfill
- Overall litter reduction of 60%



Council staff divert food waste from landfill and make compost in the big worm farm at Moruya Transfer Station

Our strategic themes

The strategy is based on five strategic themes.

1. Finding local solutions to recover waste
2. Encouraging community ownership of their waste
3. Supporting the circular economy
4. Practicing waste leadership in Council's operations
5. Planning for the future

Each theme has an outcome supported by actions with timeframes. Collectively, these work together to achieve key targets by reducing waste, promoting reuse, recovering resources and encouraging investment in our communities and businesses.



Theme 1

Finding local solutions to recover waste



Theme 2

Encouraging community ownership of their waste



Theme 3

Supporting the circular economy



Theme 4

Practicing waste leadership in Council's operation



Theme 5

Planning for the future



Theme 1

Finding local solutions to recover waste

Outcome: A strong community network, working together to avoid waste and improve recycling.

Eurobodalla Shire is blessed by a strong sense of community, responsible action and pride in our natural environment. By thinking and acting local, we can work together to find ways to manage waste and resource recovery within our area, reducing our carbon footprint and boosting the local economy.

This Strategy encourages local engagement and local solutions that are achievable and practical. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach or relying on large infrastructure to be delivered, many small scale, local initiatives can be implemented in a relatively shorter time frame and more cost effectively.

By encouraging local networks to share ideas, stories, expertise and leveraging resources, we are supporting the ingenuity and passion of community enterprises and commercial businesses to recover and reuse waste.



Shanna presenting composting workshop

Composting and worm farming workshops

Council is providing residents with useful hints and tips on how to divert food waste from the red lidded garbage bins. Since 2013, over 3,000 residents have learnt how to compost or worm farm at home, taking ownership of diverting food waste from going to landfill.

Council hosts free workshops twice a year, usually in March and September, where residents learn how to start, or improve, composting at home.

- All participants receive a free home composting kit upon completion of the workshop
- The kit includes a compost bin and kitchen bench top caddy to help you start composting at home.

Free worm farming workshops are also hosted by Council, for helpful tips on how to get started or improve an existing worm farm

- All participants are eligible for a free worm farm at the conclusion of the workshop for their household
- Council follows up residents periodically to ask if further assistance is required after the workshop.

By encouraging local networks ... we are supporting the ingenuity and passion of community enterprises and commercial businesses to recover and reuse waste.



Theme 2

Encouraging community ownership of their waste

Outcome: An informed community, proactive and engaged in waste avoidance behaviour.

Nobody likes creating waste. We all need to take responsibility to avoid, reuse, recycle and renew materials in the waste stream as much as we can. This sentiment is true for most of the community, however, we can all do better.

Challenges are presented every day – like supermarket packaging, purchasing more food than we need, buying fast fashion, and disposing of items instead of sharing or repairing them. Convenience often drives unsustainable wasteful behaviours.

Clear understanding about what to do with different types of waste, tailoring information to connect with a range of people, and a few reminders along the way can help reduce household waste.

Ownership of the waste we generate is an important step to reduce waste going to landfill. Some simple measures we can all take include:

- avoiding food waste by planning menus, storing food to last, using what is in the fridge
- avoiding single use items and using reusable coffee cups, water bottles and food containers
- reducing problem waste by repairing, swapping or donating clothes and furniture
- taking the time to understand and practice how to source separate.

Relying on major infrastructure is possibly not the best answer for the Eurobodalla. Working together and finding ways to manage waste more sustainably will make a big impact on waste going to landfill. Our collective steps result in giant leaps.

This Strategy supports targeted, interactive and more expansive education for the community. Supporting waste-wise behaviour change is a priority for Council.



Community ownership of waste in action

The Zero Heroes formed in 2023 by dedicated community volunteers and Council's waste and sustainability teams, the group works with event organisers to eliminate waste and increase resource recovery at events.

The focus is on education and engagement, and collaboration with community and stakeholders. The key objectives of the Zero Heroes are:

- Increase resource recovery at events
- Educate event goers on correct disposal of items and reduce bin contamination
- Explore opportunities to move towards zero waste events

In 2024, the Zero Heroes achieved excellent outcomes at the Narooma Oyster Festival, with:

- 3,500 Return and Earn containers and 1.2 tonnes of oyster shells diverted from landfill
- less than 1% contamination in Return and Earn bins and oyster bins



Theme 3

Supporting the circular economy

Outcome: A community where we produce, assemble, sell and use products to minimise waste, benefit the environment, boost the local economy and reduce cost for residents.

A healthy circular economy creates resilience in our Shire; it's good for business, residents and the environment.

The circular economy is where all materials and products are treated as precious resources and continually used for as long as possible through sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling. Resources are valued and products are designed for their durability, repairability, and recyclability aiming to throw nothing away.

The world mainly operates in a linear economy (take, make, take, waste) which is using resources and creating waste 'at a rate that is estimated to be 1.7 times what the earth can support on a long-term basis'. (Clean Up Australia).

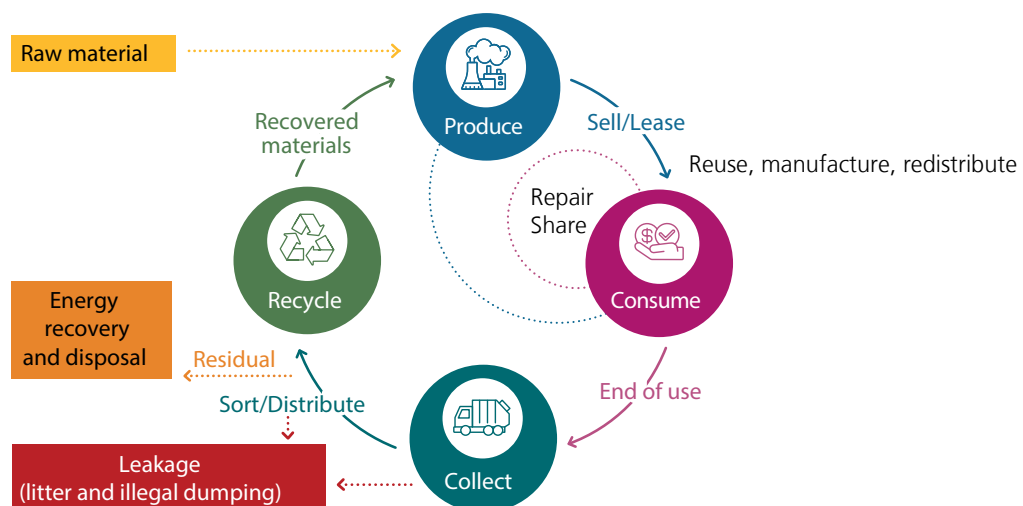
Council can be part of the circular economy by using recovered materials and extending the use of products where possible in its operations. We will work to support, enterprising businesses and community groups reusing or recycling materials as part of their business model.



Circular economy projects in action

Repurposing for Resilience Eurobodalla (RfR) is a volunteer working group passionate about reducing waste and creating a circular economy. They have a number of projects on the go, with one of their project being:

Community Solar Reuse Centre is located at the Moruya Transfer Station, it showcases how waste and discarded materials can be reused and repurposed. They host workshops for the community and is also a collection point for solar panels and associated industry waste.





Theme 4

Practicing waste leadership in Council's operations

Outcome: Leading by example and empowering the community to avoid waste and engage in better recycling and circular behaviour.

Council is committed to demonstrating waste leadership through its people, policies, and operations in our Shire.

As an employer of over 600 people, Council and its staff can lead the way in waste minimisation and inspire others in the community to responsibly manage waste.

Council policies enable change by banning avoidable waste streams in its operations and encouraging the use of recycled products where possible. This means working together across Council's various function to collaborate on practical solutions to reduce our waste.

For example, all Council events and events held at Council venues will introduce a zero-waste approach through agreed event guidelines. Hopefully, this inspires private venues to adopt this blueprint.

Applying composting from the garden organics collections, diverting food waste from Council buildings, promoting businesses managing waste responsibly, exploring new technologies, and creating partnerships to recover waste are some ways we can lead through action.



Council's big worm farm

With over 600 employees, Council is committed to diverting its waste from landfill and leading the way in recovering food waste.

Our objective was to divert all food waste that Council generates. We have installed source separation bins to most council buildings and in 2016 green lidded food waste bins were introduced. The objective was to divert all food waste that Council produced from landfill.

Council workshop staff built two large worm farms that staff use to process the food waste into a useful compost product that is used in garden beds and topping grassed areas at the Moruya Transfer Station where the composting and worm farming workshops are held.

Hopefully this inspires private venues to adopt this blueprint.



Theme 5

Planning for the future

Outcome: A resilient supported community ready to respond to future waste management challenges.

Managing risk, securing adequate capacity for resource processing and waste disposal and preparing for unknown events is a strategic imperative for Council.

Climate change presents the likelihood of more extreme weather events and natural disasters.

Understanding and predicting population growth, waste volumes and the infrastructure required to support future waste management relies on sound data and risk assessment.

Council is exploring a range of delivery models, commercial partnerships, local collaborations and contracting arrangements. We are researching waste technologies and learning when it is beneficial to use them.

Preparing for the future management of waste is a crucial component of this Strategy. The following projects are recommended:

- Phasing out problem and unnecessary plastics by 2025
- Reducing plastic litter by 30% by 2025
- Reducing the total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030
- 80% recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030
- Halving the amount of organic waste going to landfill by 2030.



Bushfire Recovery Program

The Council successfully applied for the NSW Environment Protection Authority, Bushfire Recovery Program for Council Landfills that is funded under the State's Disaster Recovery funding arrangements. The program provided grant funding for infrastructure projects at bushfire impacted landfill sites.

Repair and replacement of the Surf Beach landfill cell and organics acceptance areas are being undertaken 24/25, to meet the current operational requirements and to enhance our resilience to the impacts of future natural disaster events and to offset and repair the impacts that the 19/20 bushfires have had at the waste management facilities.

Investigation works and new cell design is currently 24/25 being done at the Brou Waste Management Facility to ensure that we are able to continue to meet the current operational requirements and the continuity of waste services via completing the planning process, inclusive of amendments to the Eurobodalla LEP and associated investigations to gain development consent for the expansion of waste operations including a new landfill cell.

Everyone has a part to play

Eurobodalla Shire is a vibrant resilient community with strong support for reducing waste and to achieve real change, requires community, business and government at all levels to share the responsibility to avoid waste and rethink how we design, regulate, make, purchase and use products, materials and services. Together we can achieve great things.





Everyone has a part to play Phasing out problem and unnecessary plastics by 2025

What we will do

- lead by example through advocacy, policy and action e.g. Waste Minimisation for Event Policy, Single Use Plastic Policy, advocating for improved product design.
- Work with the whole of community to incentivise and support the transition away from problem and unnecessary plastics through education and behaviour change programs.
- Engage with tourism/hospitality providers to investigate additional opportunities for industry specific recycling and organics recovery education programs.

What you can do

- Use a keep cup for your morning coffee.
- Use reusable containers when taking or buying your lunch.
- Shop wisely and try to avoid unnecessary packaging and look for alternative more sustainable product choices.
- Buy in bulk.

What business can do

- Encourage your staff to use reusables.
- Establish Champions to fight the War on Waste.
- Support customers who bring reusable cups and containers.
- Establish a mug library.
- Talk to suppliers about products with more sustainable packing.
- Get on board with reducing waste, increasing recycling and avoiding single use plastics (We Care Eurobodalla).





Everyone has a part to play

Plastic litter reduction target of 30% by 2025



What we will do

- Measure and monitor litter hotspots and identify long term road map for prevention.
- Advocate on behalf of community for government to phase out single use plastics and introduce.
- Extended Producers Responsibility Schemes for problem wastes, often illegally dumped in the Shire.
- Review the network of water fountains/ bubblers on public land to encourage the use of reusables.

What you can do

- Avoiding litter is a shared responsibility.
- You can ensure that waste is disposed of thoughtfully, trailer loads are securely covered and tied.
- Use reusables and say no to unnecessary packaging.

What business can do

- Rethink your business and work with others in your community to generate ideas on how to reduce your reliance on plastics.
- Avoid making, selling or giving away single use plastic items.
- Provide alternatives to single use plastics.
- Support the use of reusables by customers.



Everyone has a part to play

Reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030

What we will do

- Update and maintain Council's Site Waste Minimisation and Management Code linked to council's planning and decision making processes.
- Work with, educate and incentivise the community and local businesses to reduce waste, and create a culture of responsible consumption.

What you can do

- Buy products that are designed to last, can be repaired or sold or donated if no longer wanted.
- When buying, consider if you really need it and look for second hand alternatives.
- Donate quality items that are no longer needed to a charity or a friend in need.
- Get a compost bin or worm farm and recycle your food scraps.
- Plan your meals and use your leftovers - saves money too.

What business can do

- Consider the full life cycle of products that you make sell or give away. Are there more sustainable options?
- How do I avoid or minimise packaging?
- Audit your operations to identify opportunities to reduce your waste.
- Look for opportunities to share and reuse materials.





Everyone has a part to play

80% recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030



What we will do

- Provide fit for purpose, reliable waste services, responsive to changes in population, markets, infrastructure and the climate, and have the capacity to endure unforeseen disruptions and natural disasters.
- Accessible collection and drop off options for the community for 'problem' wastes such as household chemicals, e waste and textiles.
- Investigate new systems, technologies and approaches that have the potential to significantly improve circular economy outcomes reductions waste disposal and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Investigate differential pricing policies across the landfill and transfer station network to drive recycling outcomes from all sectors.
- Test the idea and trial/ adopt the installation of a 'cool seat' styled seat compost garden in main village spaces to engage and encourage businesses to compost.

What you can do

- Be informed about how to correctly use your waste services and special collection events.
- Ensure that all materials are separated and placed in the right bin to maximise recovery rates.
- Practice responsible consumption
 - Can this be repaired and reused when it is no longer needed?
- Use Council's Resource Recovery Centre to dispose of problem wastes.
- Investigate options for unwanted items such as local charities, second hand traders for reuse.
- Sell online.

What business can do

- Build partnerships and share stories that support data collection and celebrate local circular economy achievements.
- To optimise recovery the construction and demolition industry is encouraged to segregate valuable materials, prior to their collection and/ or disposal.
- Identify opportunities for offtake of unwanted materials by other businesses, buy back centres and second-hand traders.
- Employ sustainable design and building practices.
- Encourage businesses to identify opportunities for reuse.



Everyone has a part to play

Halve the amount of organic waste going to landfill by 2030

What we will do

- Continue to deliver accessible and engaging education and behaviour change programs that empower the community to recover organics and avoid food waste.
- Investigate the most suitable option for our community for the collection of food and garden organics and provide a road map for Eurobodalla Shire to assist in the delivery and pilot the service by 2030. This will require behaviour change, new or refurbished bins, kitchen caddies' bins.
- Continue to provide home composting and worm farming options.
- Advocate for funding opportunities to assist the community with new services.
- Test the idea and trial/adopt the installation of a 'cool seat' styled seat compost garden in main village spaces to engage and encourage businesses to compost.

What you can do

- Come along to Council's workshops.
- Get a compost bin and/or worm farm and dispose of your food scraps responsibly.
- Shop wisely to avoid food waste and share recipes for leftover food with family and friends.

What business can do

- Get a compost bin and/or worm farm and dispose of your food scraps responsibly.
- Identify opportunities for food donations.
- To minimise organic waste going to landfill the construction and demolition industry is encouraged to segregate valuable materials, prior to their collection and/or disposal.



Implementation plan

The implementation plan is a guide to the delivery of planned actions. Several actions are a continuation of the current programs while others reinforce the themes of the Strategy and support federal and state government targets.

The Plan is an evolving document where proposed actions and current programs are evaluated monitored and reported to Council. This will influence next steps. Community feedback will play an important role in this process.

Transparent reporting against verifiable metrics will help engage community and rationalise future waste initiatives. Council will review the progress of the Strategy and agreed actions are published annually, evaluating success and considering future priorities.





Theme 1

Finding local solutions to recover waste

Outcome: A strong community network, working together to avoid waste and improve recycling.

Implementation action	Stakeholders	Planned start	Planned finish
Investigate regional collaboration, advocacy and program funding and delivery opportunities	ESC CRJO State government Federal government	2025	2034
Conduct FOGO collection and processing feasibility study	ESC	2025	2026
Implement Council's preferred collection system for food and garden organics (FOGO) by 2030	ESC	2029	2034
Optimise existing waste infrastructure (landfill and Resource Recovery Centres) and services to ensure accessible drop off locations and improved resource recovery	ESC	2026	2028
Annually review differential landfill pricing (gate fees) to encourage and drive the separation of materials across all sectors including C&I and C&D	ESC	2025	2034
Promote event based and alternative drop off solutions to recover/ reuse targeted materials e.g. textiles, e-waste, problem wastes	ESC CRJO	2027	2034



Theme 2

Encouraging community ownership of their waste

Outcome: An informed community, proactive and engaged in waste avoidance behavior.

Implementation action	Stakeholders	Planned start	Planned finish
<p>Develop and brand a suite of education and behaviour change programs designed to engage with the whole of community to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the proper use of the waste services. • Increase the recovery of food and prepare the community for FOGO. • Encourage greater source separation and resource recovery. • Encourage the use of reusables and avoid single use items. • Encourage reusing, repairing and refurbishing items. • Expand composting and worm farming in the community. • Combat littering and illegal dumping. 	ESC CRJO	2026	2034
Work with industry, not-for-profits and local enterprises to increase number of small businesses engaged in reducing waste, increasing recycling, and avoiding single use plastics (We Care Eurobodalla)	ESC Industry	2025	2034
Test the idea and trial the installation of a 'cool seat' styled seat compost garden in main village spaces to engage and encourage businesses to compost (not included in FP)	ESC Industry	2027	2029
Continue to engage with local schools to use alternatives to single-use plastics. Develop Champions and share stories to encourage more sustainable outcomes (Not included in FP)	ESC Business Schools	2027	2034
Engage with tourism/hospitality providers to investigate additional opportunities for industry specific recycling and organics recovery education programs and the use of reusables . Develop a visitor "pledge program"	ESC CRJO Industry	2027	2034



Theme 3 Supporting the circular economy

Outcome: A community where we produce, assemble, sell and use products to minimise waste, to benefit the environment, local business, and residents.

Implementation action	Stakeholders	Planned start	Planned finish
Consider circular economy working group/ network to work with business to understand opportunities and barriers	ESC Community	2027	2034
Consider mapping businesses (C&I and C&D), materials and processes to identify circular economy opportunities and build local capacity including links with the greater CRJO region	ESC CRJO Industry	2027	2034
Explore initiatives and programs underpinned by the principles of a circular economy, such as implementing a 'Library of Things'	ESC Community	2026	2034
Evaluate business case options for introducing/ upgrading/ expanding the operations of Buyback facilities, supported by online platforms such as "The Super Yard"	ESC	2027	2027
Implement approved business case options for introducing/upgrading/ expanding the operations of Buyback facilities	ESC	2029	2032
Investigate opportunities for collaboration and federal and state funding to pilot CE projects such as the CE Hubs supporting micro businesses, repair café/men's shed, skills enterprise, share library, op shops and upcycling programs.	ESC CRJO Industry	2027	2029



Theme 4

Practicing waste leadership in Council's operations

Outcome: Leading by example and empowering the community to avoid waste and engage in better recycling and circular behaviour.

Implementation action	Stakeholders	Planned start	Planned finish
Lead, develop, implement and promote Council best practise waste avoidance, resource recovery and policy initiatives at Council events and facilities	ESC	2025	2034
Develop and Implement a Circular Economy Policy and Framework linked to Council planning, decision making and operations, including auditing and reporting Council uptake of reprocessed and recycled materials in their projects	ESC	2026	2034
Establish a sustainable product supplier panel and sustainable procurement policy with internal mechanisms to ensure consideration of recycled products and local suppliers	ESC	2027	2029
Advocate on behalf of community for government to phase out single use plastics and introduce Extended Producers Responsibility Schemes for problem wastes, often illegally dumped in the Shire	ESC	2026	2034
Auditing litter and illegally dumped waste to benchmark, identify long term road map for prevention and review	ESC CRJO	2028	2029
Incorporate CE into Council's employee and contractor induction programs	ESC	2026	-
Incorporate the principles of good design in the construction and refurbishment of Council's buildings incorporating recycled materials where possible	ESC	2027	2028
Expand the network water bubblers on Council land, especially in areas impacted by tourism, promoting information on how reusing water bottles reduce waste and litter	ESC	2028	2029
Explore feasibility and timing of EV waste collection vehicles	ESC	2027	2028



Theme 5 Planning for the future

Outcome: A resilient community ready to respond to future waste management challenges.

Implementation action	Stakeholders	Planned start	Planned finish
Plan infrastructure upgrades to meet population growth forecasts and address an increased recovery and processing of C&I and C&D wastes	ESC	2027	2029
Plan for Council's long term waste collection and infrastructure contracts and services, including review of key performance indicators, including data collection and review	ESC	2028	2029
Review of public place litter bin infrastructure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audit to identify opportunities and challenges • Suitability of placement • Asset condition • Identifying smart technologies to minimise contamination and optimise service delivery 	ESC	2025	2029
Investigate digital technology and data management systems that deliver service efficiencies and facilitate monitoring and quality reporting outputs	ESC CRJO	2028	2029
Plan for expanded landfill gas capture including exploring generating green energy with third party to reduce GHG emissions and potential source of revenue	ESC	2027	2029
Evaluate feasibility for shared regional infrastructure, technology solutions and services	ESC CRJO	2027	2029
Natural disaster waste contingency planning for services and infrastructure	ESC CRJO	2026	2028
Review response to emerging wastes, e.g. PV, batteries, vapes	ESC CRJO	2027	2029

Glossary

B

Buy back shop

Retail outlet which sells used materials that have been rescued from landfill.

C

Chemical waste

Any excess, unused, or unwanted chemical and waste may be classified as hazardous waste.

Construction and demolition waste (C&D)

Waste generated from construction, renovation, repair, and demolition of houses, large building structures, and civil works. C&D waste is typically made up of wood, steel, concrete, gypsum, masonry, plaster, metal, and asphalt.

Commercial and industrial waste (C&I)

Waste generated by manufacturers, shops and businesses of all sizes and varieties. While some of this waste can be processed or recycled, the majority of C&I waste that ends up in landfills in NSW is made up of organic, degradable materials that emit greenhouse gases as they break down.

Community recycling centres (CRC)

Permanent drop-off centres for common household problem wastes that can't be collected via council kerbside waste and recycling collection services.

Circular economy

Aims to sustainably reuse materials through reuse, repurposing, recycling and remanufacturing. Closing the loop as a circular economy reduces the number of materials we extract from our lands and seas.

CRJO

Canberra Region Joint Organisation.

E

ESC

Eurobodalla Shire Council

F

FOGO

Combined source separation, kerbside collection and processing of food and garden organic wastes.

G

GHG

Greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change.

H

Hard waste

Items that cannot fit in a regular bin and are usually quite large such as fridges, washing machines, couches, cupboards, wardrobes, televisions, furniture, computers, mattresses, and similar items.

Hazardous waste

Any solid or liquid substance that results from human activity and that, if not properly stored or disposed of, can present a danger to the life and health of people and the environment because they are toxic, chemically reactive, flammable, or corrosive.

I

In vessel processing

Organic materials are fed into a drum, silo, tunnel, box or similar container where the initial, intensive composting process takes place in controlled environmental conditions (temperature, moisture, and aeration).

L

Linear economy

An economy in which finite resources are extracted to make products that are used - generally not to their full potential - and then thrown away ('take-make-waste').

M

Methane

A colourless, odourless and highly flammable gas composed of carbon and hydrogen. It is also a potent greenhouse gas, meaning it affects climate change by contributing to increased warming.

MUDs

Multiple unit dwellings.

O

Organic waste

Organic waste refers to food waste, but it also includes green waste from garden cuttings, paper, wood, sewage and manure.

P

Putrescible waste

Matter that rots or decays rapidly. It can be characterized as soft organic material which usually have high moisture content, are readily degradable, generate odour and attracts vermin

R

Recycling

The process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as garbage and turning them into new products.

Resilience

The capacity to cope with new conditions that may arise in the future as our climate changes, and to adapt if needed. Resilience can come from:

- the types of physical assets we have such as housing, water supply, roads and other infrastructure
- the health of the natural environment around us
- our financial capacity, linked more broadly to the health of our economy
- our individual skills and capacities, as well as our basic health and level of education
- our social assets, such as networks which provide the connectivity between people that we all draw on for support at different times, as well as our access to social services like education, health and welfare support.

Resource Recovery

The activity of separating materials from waste that can be recycled into new products or used as an energy alternative with the aim of diverting as much waste from landfill as possible.

S

SUDs

Single unit dwellings such as houses

Single use plastics (SUPs)

Products which are often designed to be used once and thrown away.

Source separation

Separating waste into common material streams or categories for separate collection, reuse or processing. This may be achieved using separate bin services or through direct delivery to drop-off facilities.

T

Textile waste

Any undesirable or discarded piece of fabric or clothing.

DRAFT