

GENERAL WASTE **FACT SHEET**



FAST FACTS

20K

Maribyrnong residents dispose of over 20,000 tonnes of waste to landfill each year.



The majority of waste going to landfill is made up of food and organic waste; there is also large amounts of recyclable paper, containers and soft plastics.

34%

Currently 34% of the total waste stream is diverted to recycling and green waste services – this is below the state wide average of 46%.



Council's current contractors don't accept some materials that could be recycled (such as polystyrene, CD and DVD covers), meaning they end up in landfill.

The big picture

Maribyrnong residents dispose of over 20,000 tonnes of waste to landfill each year. The majority of this is made up of food and organic waste, but there is also large amounts of recyclable paper, containers and soft plastics.

Adding to this we know that residents only divert 34% of their total waste to recycling and green waste services - which is below the Melbourne average of 46%. Council has set a target to achieve the Melbourne average within the next three years.

The State Government is currently investigating a number of options for waste currently sent to landfill including incineration plants that converts waste to energy.

Currently there are limited markets for soft plastics, and many recyclers, including ours, do not accept them. There are a number of items that are potentially recyclable that end up being placed in landfill bins, as our recycler does not currently have markets for them. For example, polystyrene foam and electronic accessories such as CDs, DVDs and computer storage such as USBs.



Education

Education has been a major focus for Council which has seen us promote waste avoidance through the Food Know How program and encourage residents to compost food waste through the Compost Community program. We also undertake a number of programs to promote the recycling service and to get residents to recycle correctly.

Other steps Council has taken to minimise waste going to landfill includes providing clothing and e-waste recycling hubs throughout the municipality. We also include recycled contents in the evaluation criteria for construction contracts and purchase some recycled content items such as copying paper.

We have also proposed that the feasibility of removing single-use plastics from Council events and facilities be explored, which is currently underway.

Current local law related to waste, states that all contents of garbage bins have to be placed in plastic bags; and specifies that garbage, recycling and green waste must be placed in the correct container.



For further information and to take part in our online survey and ideas generator visit www.yourcityyourvoice.com.au open until 16 December, 2018.