

RECYCLING SERVICE **FACT SHEET**



FAST FACTS

7,500

Maribyrnong residents recycle around 7,500 tonnes each year.



Recycling bins are collected once a fortnight for houses and complexes with 10 or less residences.

For complexes of more than 10 residences, bins and waste management (including hard rubbish collections) are arranged by the owners' corporation or the building manager.

Contamination (placing items that can't be recycled in the recycling bin) is a significant issue in the municipality.

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%.

The big picture

Recycling bins are collected once a fortnight for houses. Although if you live in a complex of more than 10 residences, your bins and waste management including hard rubbish collections are arranged on your behalf by the owners' corporation or the building manager.

Maribyrnong residents recycle around 7,500 tonnes per year. However, contamination (adding items that can't be recycled) is a significant issue plaguing recycling within the municipality. Adding to this we know that residents only divert 34% of their total waste stream 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.

China introduced its National Sword Policy earlier this year, which saw tighter restrictions on the amount of contaminated recycling it will accept. Our recycling services however, remained unchanged as Council continues to use VISY Recycling as its recyclable material processing service provider. The material collected from our recycling bins is then taken directly to the Visy Recycling Materials Recovery Facility in Banyule, where it is sorted for recycling.

Council is working with the State Government and recycling companies to ensure that our recycling program continues and is financially viable for recycling companies. Council also meets regularly with other municipalities to share information about new programs and trials.

In an effort to increase recycling and decrease contamination, education has been a major focus which has seen us undertake bin audits; provide educational tools for schools and kindergartens; translate our resources; deliver a program for Grandparents and develop an app. More information on each of these initiatives below:

Recycle right

Through the Recycle Right program we have checked 10,000 bins within the municipality. The last round of checks found that 58.3% of recycling bins had at least one item that can't be recycled – with the most common offender being soft plastics.

To tackle this, Council followed up with 1000 households that showed the highest levels of contamination. The households were visited, and provided with educational resources in a face-to-face

visit to enable them to better sort their recyclable waste.

A follow up inspection of houses that received information on recycling, found that 553 households now had less than 10% contamination, with 317 of those households showing no contamination at all.

This is a significant change compared to the start of the campaign where this cohort showed more than 70% contamination.

More information here: <https://bit.ly/2EqTbFI>

Environmental program for schools and kindergartens

Waste and environmental education workshops are available to local schools and child care facilities and is provided by the award winning Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES) who have been contracted to provide the program.

The program aims to teach students how waste and recycling impact the environment, and introduces simple actions that they can take to reduce waste. More information here: <https://bit.ly/2ylxGJY>

Multi-unit dwellings and public housing

Last Year we visited around 900 multi-unit dwellings in Footscray and West Footscray with Hindi and English speaking staff to provide information about recycling and hard waste services available for residents.

This year we plan to visit up to 1000 residents in public housing to provide information about waste, recycling and hard waste services.

We have also translated waste and recycling

brochures into 13 of the most common languages in our community and have distributed them through our home visits and other events.

Grandparents program

The Grandparents program promotes recycling services in an environment where multiple generations can share an educational program in English, and their own languages at the Braybrook Hub homework club, and in Greek at the Yarraville St. Anthony's Church Greek School.

Waste and recycling app

The Maribyrnong Bins and Recycling waste app provides reminders about your recycling collection day. It also lists up to date information about what can be recycled in Councils bins and where to recycle items that our contractors does not recycle. More information here: <https://bit.ly/2RVQcr9>

