



CITY OF BALLARAT

Waste as a Resource

Our Circular Economy Strategy
2024-2028





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The City of Ballarat acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

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Contents

Message from the Mayor	4
Circular economy and Country	5
Executive summary	6
1. Drivers of Change	7
Victoria's waste management transformation	7
Guiding principles	7
Sustainable Development Goals	7
Waste hierarchy	8
Circular economy	8
Precautionary principle	8
Intergenerational equity principle	8
Shaping resource recovery and waste in Australia	9
Waste legislation and policy. Who is responsible for what?	9
Circular economy targets	14
2. This is Ballarat	15
Our city	15
Our services	16
Where our waste goes	18
Our waste and resources	19
What's in our bins?	19
Challenges and opportunities	26
Our local waste challenges	26
Community engagement	27
3. The Strategy	28
Overview	28
Goal 1 – Create less waste	29
Goal 2 – Increase reuse and recycling	30
Goal 3 – Deliver circular waste and recycling services	32
Goal 4 – Protect our environment	33
Goal 5 – Empower our community	35
4. The Action Plan	36
Delivering the Strategy	46
Implementation	46
Funding	46
Monitoring and reporting	46
Evaluating target delivery	47



Message from the Mayor



“Waste not, want not.”

Discarding and burying waste in landfills is unsustainable in the face of our growing environmental challenges.

Viewing waste as a resource means recognising the potential

value embedded in what we throw away. Materials such as plastics, metals and food organics can be reused, recycled and repurposed.

We must view waste as a resource in order to benefit our environment, economy and our overall quality of life.

The City of Ballarat is committed to reducing waste going to landfill and creating a circular economy, that keeps materials in use for as long as possible.

We are focussed on reducing waste, recycling materials and seeking local opportunities for product development and support for local innovations.

The transition to a circular economy is not just an environmental necessity but an economic opportunity and a pathway to a more sustainable and prosperous future.

By rethinking our approach to waste and recognising it as a valuable resource, we can create a resilient, innovative and thriving community for generations to come.

‘An environmentally sustainable future’ is Goal One of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and is a key priority for the City of Ballarat and our community.

We look forward to implementing the Waste as a Resource: Our Circular Economy Strategy and achieving outcomes that will ensure waste becomes a thing of the past, and, instead, resources are continually cycled back into our economy.

Cr Des Hudson
Mayor, City of Ballarat



Circular economy and Country

The Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples have a connection to Country, called *Dja* and *Djandak* respectfully, that means they view natural resources differently, only taking what they need and ensuring they give back to *Dja* and *Djandak* to keep it healthy.

Historically, tools and materials were made from the earth and able to be returned to the earth. They were biodegradable, often after being used and reused over multiple generations. There was no waste. As a result, Country was kept healthy, sustainable and resource rich.

In contrast, since European settlement, much of the Ballarat's wealth and ongoing prosperity comes from taking resources from Country at unsustainable rates in a non-regenerative fashion, making Country sick.

When Country is sick, the community is sick.

This simple but poignant fact is evidenced in the enduring damage caused by the Gold Rush, turning Country upside down and leaving watercourses laced with heavy metals in the quest for gold.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation's Country Plan *Paleert Tjaara Dja*, and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation's Country Plan *Dhelkunya Dja* speak to circular and regenerative ideologies.

Ensuring the correct disposal of waste, chemicals and mining contaminants to minimise pollution of waterways, groundwater and Country are key priorities, as is active collaboration to remediate contaminated land.

Furthermore, opportunities are encouraged that support enterprise and increase capacity for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation to restore Country, safely practice culture, recognise women as the holders of relevant cultural knowledge and support Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People.

Executive summary

The City of Ballarat is proud to present Waste as a Resource: Our Circular Economy Strategy 2024-2028.

This Strategy provides a practical framework for how the City of Ballarat and the community will work together to advance our shared goal to reduce waste and support Victoria's transition to a circular economy.

The Strategy outlines a future waste management vision that reflects community attitudes and expectations for sensible and sustainable practices that move away from traditional 'take – make – waste' patterns and embrace the full potential of a circular economy.

Our Strategy aligns with global waste principles, Victorian Government policy and local priorities to deliver a circular economy to the City of Ballarat.

This is an important and exciting transition happening across the state. Here in Ballarat, it will lead to some big changes to the services the community relies on the City of Ballarat to provide in the future.

The City of Ballarat recognises that it will take new learning, behaviour change, mindset shifts, adaptation and innovation for this Strategy to be implemented successfully. Fortunately, we are a local government organisation and a community of caring, resilient and resourceful people who will be key in its successful rollout.

This Strategy contains specific aims and targets as well as an Action Plan that clearly identifies how we can work together over the next four years to achieve five key goals:

1. Create less waste
2. Increase reuse and recycling
3. Deliver circular waste and recycling services
4. Protect our environment
5. Empower our community.

The City of Ballarat acknowledges the climate emergency and the threat that climate change poses to our local community and environment. Our current unsustainable patterns of consumption with high levels of resource extraction, production and waste generation contribute to excessive greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. Addressing the climate challenge requires a fundamental shift towards a more sustainable consumption model where resource use is avoided, where possible, and where resources are reused and recycled.

The way we think about waste, consumption and the future is changing as we become more aware of the consequences for the generations set to inherit the planet and consideration of the unequal burden globally on women and girls as a result of climate change.

The way we manage waste must change.

This Strategy is the City of Ballarat's commitment to change – for good.



1. Drivers of Change

> Victoria’s waste management transformation

The Victorian Government’s *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* strengthens oversight and regulation of Victoria’s waste and recycling services. It’s the foundation for the state’s transition to a circular economy and is the legislative framework for *Recycling Victoria: A new economy*.

The City of Ballarat’s existing *Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy (2018-2022)* was written prior to the release of the Recycling Victoria policy and action plan in February 2020.

The Recycling Victoria policy and action plan outlines a new four-stream waste and recycling system, a Container Deposit Scheme, a stronger waste and recycling industry and new recycling laws and governance. To achieve its targets, the City of Ballarat must make changes to its waste services to better support a circular economy.

In line with the Act, the City of Ballarat will introduce a four-bin system to sort general waste, comingled recycling, glass, and food organics and garden organics (FOGO) separately.

Despite Victorian Government direction on circular economy and waste (including kerbside collection), there is still a need for a local Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy to cover other waste issues important to our community including:

- Local waste reduction and diversion targets

- Waste education
- City of Ballarat waste service offerings, including hard waste collections
- Litter and illegal dumping

> Guiding principles

The management of waste in Australia is guided by several principles designed to minimise environmental impact, promote sustainability and embrace resource recovery. These principles are used to shape national, state and local policy and strategy.

> Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. At the heart of the goals is the need for a global partnership to ensure our collective future.

Waste management and resource recovery support the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular ‘Gender Equity’ (Number 5), ‘Sustainable cities and communities’ (Number 11), ‘Responsible consumption and production’ (Number 12), ‘Climate action’ (Number 13), ‘Life below water’ (Number 14), ‘Life on land’ (Number 15) and ‘Partnerships for the goals’ (Number 17).

The City of Ballarat recognises the importance of realising these goals and will use them as a reference in future planning.



> Waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy prioritises waste management practices with an emphasis on avoiding waste and maximising resource recovery.



- Avoid creating waste in the first place.
- Keep waste to a minimum. Consider waste when purchasing.
- Reuse or repurpose items.
- Repair items rather than replacing.
- Process waste into something new.
- Turn waste into energy.
- Dispose of waste to landfill.

> Circular economy

At the heart of this Strategy is the concept of a circular economy: an economy that is restorative and regenerative by design, and aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times. A circular economy follows the above waste hierarchy, prioritising management practices that avoid and reduce waste, maximise resource recovery and ensure treatment or disposal options are safe and environmentally responsible.

“The circular economy is a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. Products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling and composting.

In our current economy, we take materials from the Earth, make products from them and eventually throw them away as waste – the process is linear. In a circular economy, by contrast, we stop waste being produced in the first place.”

– Ellen MacArthur Foundation



> Precautionary principle

The precautionary principle states that if a product, an action or a policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, protective action should be supported before there is complete scientific proof of a risk.


> Intergenerational equity principle

The intergenerational equity principle is a fundamental principle of environmental law that states that present generations have a duty to protect the environment for the benefit of future generations. Our current resource consumption should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

> Shaping resource recovery and waste in Australia

Resource recovery and waste management is governed in Australia through legislation and policy across the three levels of government. This Strategy was developed within a framework of the relevant national, state and local government acts, legislation, policies, regulations and plans.

> Waste legislation and policy. Who is responsible for what?



Legislation and policy	Responsibilities
Federal – Australia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Waste Policy</i> • <i>National Waste Action Plan 2019</i> • <i>Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Product stewardship > Waste export regulations • <i>National Food Waste Strategy</i> • <i>National Plastics Plan</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set national policy • Administer product stewardship legislation and schemes
▼ ▼	
State – Victoria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i> • <i>Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021</i> • Statewide Waste & Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plans • <i>Recycling Victoria: A new economy</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste legislation and management (residential, commercial and industrial) • Plan statewide infrastructure • Support investment in the resource recovery and waste • Regional circular economy plans
▼ ▼	
Local – City of Ballarat	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Vision • Council Plan 2021-2025 • Waste as a Resource: Our Circular Economy Strategy 2024-2028 • Circular Ballarat Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource recovery and waste collection, processing and disposal services to households • Advocate to other levels of government on policies and strategies on behalf of residents • Community education and empowerment on a circular economy

In addition to governments, there are other important players in the waste space:

<p>Circular economy industries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate infrastructure and technology to process resource recovery and waste. • Advocate for changes to the industry.
<p>Businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on resource consumption, reuse and recycling for their businesses.
<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide to purchase or not purchase products. Decide how to recycle or dispose of these products. Change consumption habits and waste behaviours for 'small changes-big impact' on the planet.



Do you know how much waste goes to landfill?

> Locally, Ballarat residents and businesses fill a hole with waste each year that is equivalent to filling Mars Stadium almost six metres deep.

> Victorians currently send more than 4.7million tonnes of waste to landfill every year.

Source: Recycling Victoria dashboard 2020-21

> Valuable resources within waste are being lost to landfill while raw materials continue to be sources to make new products (the linear economy), which is not sustainable.



> Federal – Australia

National Waste Policy Action Plan (2019)

The National Waste Policy Action Plan is the national framework for waste and resource recovery in Australia. It outlines five key principles for waste management to transition Australia to a circular economy:

1. Avoid waste
2. Improve resource recovery
3. Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products
4. Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
5. Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

The *National Waste Policy Action Plan* has seven targets:

1. Regulate waste exports
2. Reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030
3. Recover 80% of all waste 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. Provide data to support better decisions.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 (Cth)

This Act provides a national framework for industry to take a greater responsibility for the environmental impact of the products that they produce through the product lifecycle, from design to disposal.

Product stewardship schemes

Product stewardship is an approach to manage the environmental and human health and safety of products and materials over a product's lifecycle. It involves manufacturers, importers, retailers and consumers sharing responsibility.

They can be industry-led voluntary schemes, co-regulatory between industry and government or mandatory under the law.

Under the Act, the Minister provides a priority list of products and materials considered to be most in need of product stewardship action that may need regulatory intervention if industry does not take voluntary action.

Australia has several product stewardship programs for items including oil, televisions and computers, plastics and packaging, mobile phones, tyres and batteries.

Waste export regulations

The Act bans the export of unprocessed waste including glass, plastics, tyres, paper and cardboard outside of Australia. These materials must be ready for further use prior to being exported.

National Food Waste Strategy

The *National Food Waste Strategy* provides a framework to support collective action towards halving Australia's food waste by 2030. It adopts a circular-economy approach to capture food waste as a resource, encouraging food waste avoidance over reuse, recycling, reprocessing, energy recovery and disposal. It has four priority areas:

1. Policy support – Policies are supportive of food waste avoidance, reduction and repurposing.
2. Business improvements – Improvement and adoption of technologies, processes and actions to avoid and reduce food waste.
3. Market development – Development of markets to support the repurposing of food waste.
4. Behaviour change – Practices and attitudes towards avoiding and reducing food waste are adopted and sustained.

National Plastics Plan 2021

The National Plastics Plan outlines ways to increase plastic recycling, find alternatives to unnecessary plastics and reduce the impact of plastic on the environment.

The goals of the plan are to:

- Reduce plastic waste and increase recycling rates
- Find alternatives to the plastics we don't need
- Reduce the amount of plastics impacting our environment.

> State - Victoria

Environment Protection Act 2017

The Act and subordinate legislation take a prevention-based approach to protect and minimise the risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste. The centrepiece of the Act is the general environmental duty which requires all Victorians to take reasonable and practical steps to reduce the human and environmental health risks of their activities.

Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021

The Act strengthens oversight and regulation of Victoria's waste and recycling services. It's the foundation for the state's transition to a circular economy and is the legislative framework for Recycling Victoria: A new economy.

Recycling Victoria: A new economy

Recycling Victoria is the Victorian Government's circular economy plan. It aims to cut waste and increase recycling and reuse. Key actions in the plan that have a strong influence on the City of Ballarat's resource recovery and waste management include:

- A new four-stream waste and recycling system for all households:
 - Combined food organics and garden organics
 - Glass recycling
 - Plastics, paper, cardboard and metal recycling
 - Household waste
- A Container Deposit Scheme offering a 10 cent refund for used cans, cartons and bottles
- Support for a stronger waste and recycling industry
- New recycling laws and governance
- A state-wide ban of single-use plastics.

Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan

A 30-year roadmap to improve Victoria's waste and recycling infrastructure. The aims of the plan are to:

- Reprocess and use recycled materials
- Reduce the need for raw materials
- Send less waste to landfill.

This plan will be replaced by the *Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan* (VRIP) which is currently under development and expected to be released in 2024. Similarly, the objective of the incoming Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan is to provide long-term strategic infrastructure planning to guide and inform decision-making in relation to waste, recycling and resource recovery infrastructure at a state, regional and local level over the next 30 years.

Regional Circular Economy Plan Grampians Central West

The Grampians Central West *Regional Circular Economy Plan* (RCEP) is one of five regional circular economy plans that have been developed for regional Victoria. The *Regional Circular Economy Plans* support the delivery of the Recycling Victoria Policy and outline the circular economy aspirations for each region to 2030 and the priorities to achieve these aspirations. Grampians Central West's circular economy aspirations to 2030 are:

- Local demand and supply of recycled materials is strong.
- Consumers and manufacturers are informed and empowered.
- The circular economy is a key part of life in the region.
- There are clear legislative, policy and funding conditions to drive investment in recycling in the region.
- Regional research and development leads to innovation, pilots and new market entrants in the sector.

> Local – City of Ballarat

City of Ballarat Community Vision

The Community Vision has an outlook of at least 10 years and describes the community’s aspirations for the future of Ballarat.

This is our Community Vision:

Ballarat, Victoria’s heritage city: leading the way as a sustainable, innovative and inclusive community.

In 2031...

Ballarat is a city that has risen to the challenges of climate change. We lead in sustainable practice, development and industry. Our city is well-designed to adapt to changes in weather patterns and our people live in sustainable and energy-efficient homes. Our natural environment thrives and is home to a diverse range of plants and animals.

Ballarat is a city where challenges are faced with a curious and creative eye. We are known for identifying opportunities and delivering innovative solutions to health, social, economic and environmental issues. We are committed to learning from the experiences of others and building on those learnings to deliver outcomes suited to our community.

Council Plan

The plan outlines how the City of Ballarat will achieve Council’s vision and fulfil the Community Vision to shape and deliver:

- an environmentally sustainable future
- a healthy, connected and inclusive community
- a city that fosters sustainable growth
- a city that conserves and enhances our natural and built assets
- a strong and innovative economy and city
- a Council that provides leadership and advocates for its community.

Circular Ballarat Framework

This framework builds the foundations required for Ballarat to transition to a strong circular economy with the aim of a 100% circular economy by 2050. It commits the City of Ballarat to:

- advocate for a circular economy
- support local businesses
- build a supportive consumer base
- circulate Council activities.



> Circular economy targets

Transitioning to a circular economy is a significant shift away from how things currently are. The below table summarises national, state and local targets and outlines how the different levels of government plan to achieve these targets.

Federal – Australia	State – Victoria	Local – City of Ballarat
Target 1: Ban the export of waste, plastic, paper, glass and tyres, commencing in the second half of 2020.	15% reduction in total waste generation per capita between 2020 and 2030.	Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030. *
Target 2: Reduce total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030.	Divert 80% of waste from landfill by 2030, with an interim target of 72% by 2025.	Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.
Target 3: 80% average resource recovery rate from all waste streams following the waste hierarchy by 2030.	Cut the volume of organic material going to landfill by 50% between 2020 and 2030, with an interim target of 20% reduction by 2025.	Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.*
Target 4: Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry.	100% of households have access to a separate food and organics recovery service or local composting by 2030.	Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.*
Target 5: Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025.		100% of City of Ballarat serviced households have access to a separate food organics and garden organics recovery service.*
Target 6: Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030.		Increase City of Ballarat circular economy initiatives by 20% each year to deliver a Circular Ballarat by 2050.
Target 7: Make comprehensive, economy-wide and timely data publicly available to support better consumer, investment and policy decisions.		100% compliance with the operational practices at the Ballarat Regional Landfill and Gillies Street Transfer Station (excluding events outside of the City of Ballarat's control).
		Reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and illegal litter instances by 30% by 2030.

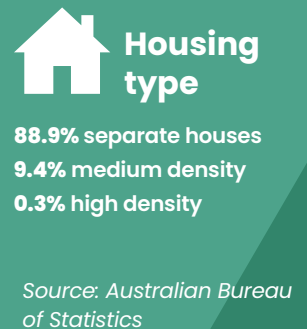
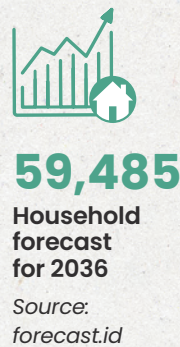
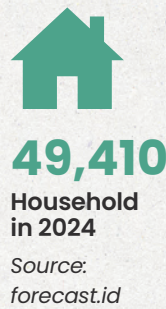
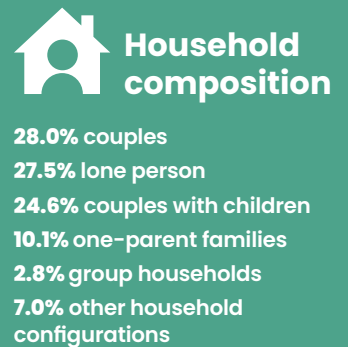
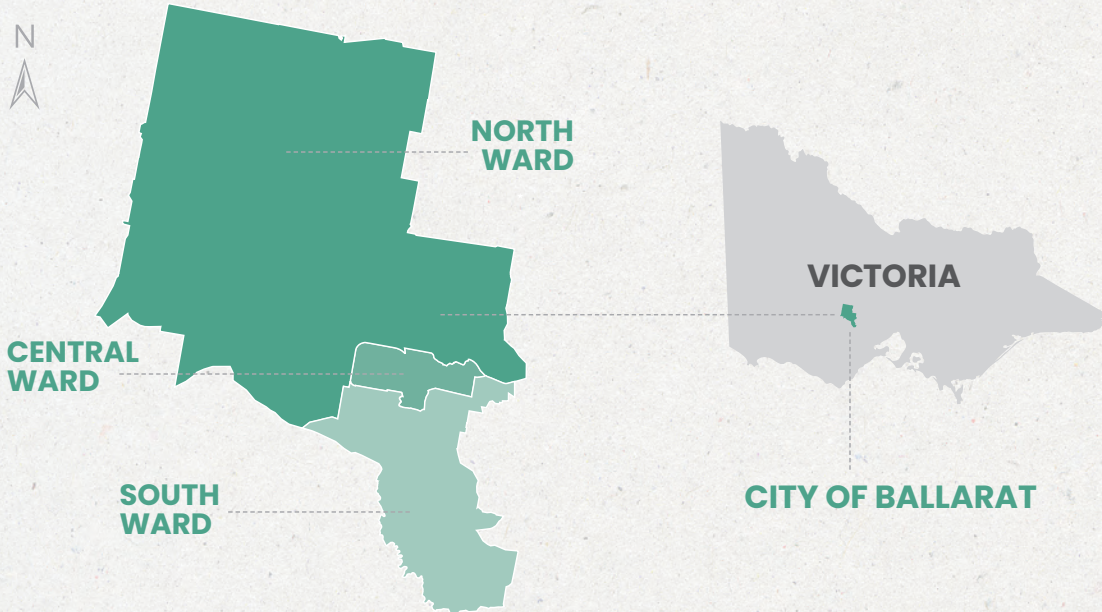
* Adopted from State target

2. This is Ballarat

> Our city

- > **Ballarat or Ballaarat (historical spelling)**
- > **740km2 and the 3rd largest City in Victoria**

'balla' meaning 'elbow' or 'reclining on the elbow' + 'arat' meaning 'place': from two aboriginal words signifying a camping or resting place.



Above: Three ward boundaries correct as of September 2024. The Ballarat municipality will move from three wards to nine wards as part of the 2024 local council elections.



> Our services

In line with the State Government's *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* (the Circular Economy Act), all Local Government areas are required to transition to a separate glass service and a separate food organics and garden organics (FOGO) service.

The State Government's draft Waste and Recycling Service Standards indicate that councils will be required to introduce kerbside FOGO and glass collection services by 1 July 2027.

Following extensive community consultation, at the October 2023 Council meeting, City of Ballarat Councillors endorsed the following kerbside collection services:

1. Introduction of a weekly food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection.
2. Household waste collection frequency changed from weekly to fortnightly.
3. Introduction of a monthly residual kerbside glass bin collection.
4. Comingled recycling collection unchanged (remain a fortnightly frequency).

Preparations are currently underway for the introduction of the new kerbside FOGO service which is planned to commence in May 2025.

After evaluating the community's usage of the Pass on Glass sites, officers are undertaking the early planning to rollout the kerbside glass service in November 2025.

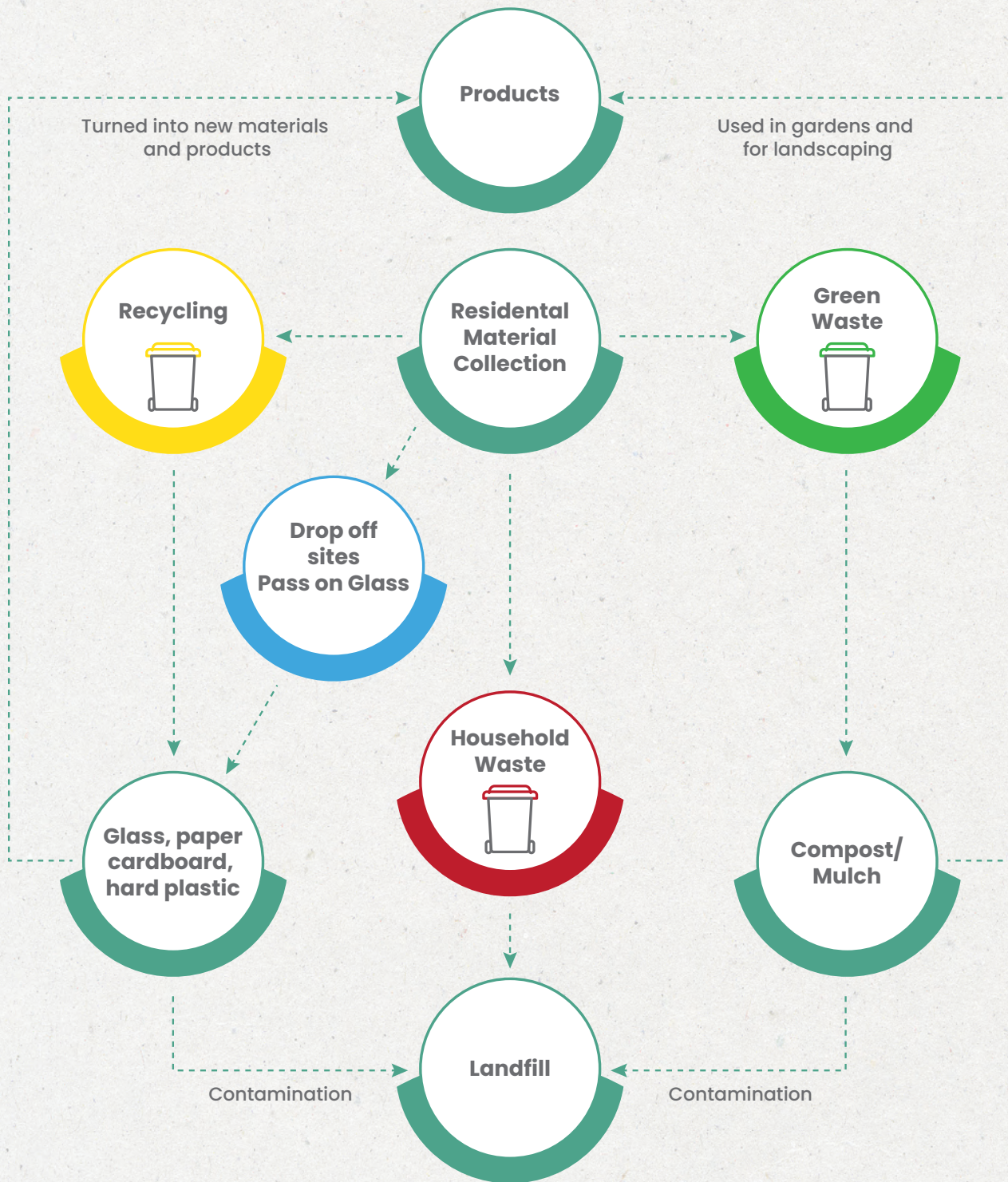
Service	Description
Kerbside comingled recycling collection (yellow bin)	Fortnightly collection and processing.
Kerbside green waste collection (green bin)	Fortnightly collection and processing. ¹
Kerbside household waste collection (red bin)	Weekly collection and disposal. ²
Drop-off residential glass sites	Eight 'Pass on Glass' drop-off sites located across the municipality. ³
Landfill	Management of the Ballarat Regional Landfill in Smythesdale. The site accepts all municipal waste from the City of Ballarat and some municipal waste from Golden Plains Shire, Pyrenees Shire and commercial operators.
Rehabilitation and aftercare of closed landfills	Management of closed landfills at Whitehorse Road, Black Hill, Pennyweight Park, Wendouree, Trekardo Park and White Flat Oval.
Transfer Station	Contract management of the operation and management of the Gillies Street Transfer Station.
Drop-off sites	City of Ballarat offices (The Phoenix Customer Service and Libraries) offer drop-off collection of household batteries, mobile phones, light globes, needles and syringes.
Waste vouchers	Two free waste vouchers each year for residential properties to help with disposing hard waste items.
Street cleaning	Programmed and reactive sweeping of Ballarat's streets and footpaths, along with pressure washing outdoor furniture and public spaces. Maintenance and cleanliness of Ballarat's extensive bluestone gutter and drain network.
Public place waste collection	Collection of waste and recycling from public places across Ballarat including City of Ballarat facilities, sports clubs and caravan parks. Programmed and reactive public place loose litter collection.
Autumn leaf collection	Programmed and reactive collection of fallen leaves throughout Autumn.
Festivals and sporting events waste service	Support for City of Ballarat and community events, providing waste and resource recovery advice, facilities and collection.
Litter and illegally dumped rubbish	Investigation and removal of dumped rubbish from City of Ballarat property. Litter removal.
Waste education	Social media campaigns, workshops and events, bin inspection program, annual waste calendars and A-Z guide.
Planning referrals	Review of waste management plans and assessment of waste services for new development.
Nappy rebate	Rebate for Ballarat residents to claim some of the cost of buying cloth nappies, reusable period products, and reusable maternity breast pads.
Charity and community group support	Transfer Station vouchers and/or on-site collection of waste generated by approved charities and community group clean-up events.
Deceased animal collection	Collection and appropriate disposal of domestic animals, wildlife and livestock.
Free green waste week and half price mattress week	An opportunity for residents to dispose of their green waste for free and mattresses for half price at the transfer station.

¹ Expansion to a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) in 2025, subject to being able to engage a suitable processor in the region.

² Collection frequency change to fortnightly when the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service commences in 2025.

³ A monthly kerbside glass collection service is expected to be implemented, once the impact of the State Government's Container Deposit Scheme has been assessed.

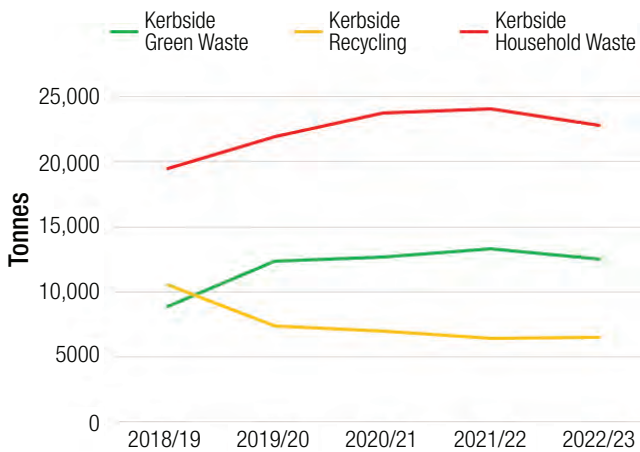
> Where our waste goes



> Our waste and resources

Our kerbside collection

The City of Ballarat currently provides residential fortnightly kerbside collections for green waste and mixed recycling, and a weekly kerbside collection for household waste.



A snapshot of kerbside waste collected 2022/23



Green waste
12,500
tonnes



Recycling
6,500
tonnes



Household waste
22,800
tonnes

> What's in our bins?

An analysis of the yearly volumes of waste and recyclable materials collected by the City of Ballarat kerbside services over the past five years reveals:

GREEN WASTE

The total volume of green waste collected each year is influenced by seasonal conditions and has averaged 12,500 tonnes per year.

MIXED RECYCLING

(paper, cardboard, plastic)

About 6,500 tonnes of mixed recycling is collected from Ballarat residents each year. The volume of materials collected via the kerbside recycling each year declined by over 3,000 tonnes after the introduction of a drop-off glass collection service in 2019. Glass was removed from the mixed recycling collection as a result of our current recycling processor not accepting glass. The removal of glass from the mixed recycling collection has significantly improved the quality of the recyclables collected as they are not contaminated by broken glass.

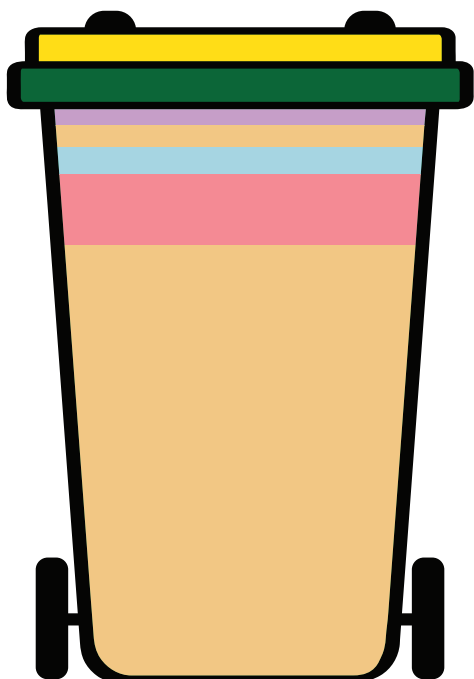
HOUSEHOLD WASTE






Almost 23,000 tonnes of household waste is collected from Ballarat residents each year. The volume of household waste collected increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and began to return to pre-COVID levels in 2022/23.

Our recycling

On average, each Ballarat household sorts 130kg of recyclable materials into their recycling bin each year.

Based on audit data collected since 2019 (when glass was removed from the City of Ballarat’s kerbside mixed recycling service) the average recycling bin in Ballarat contains:

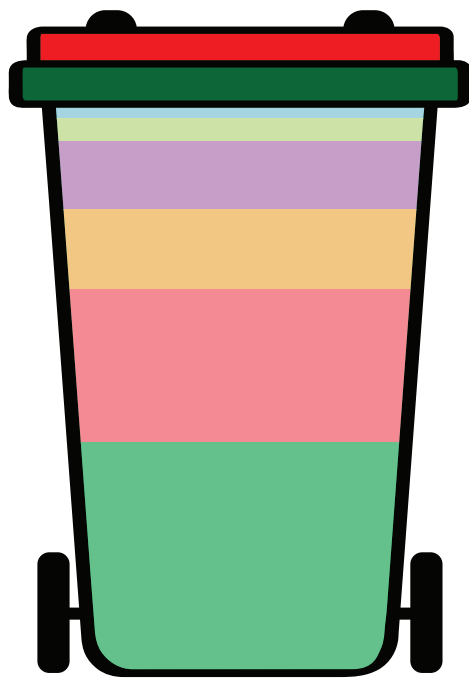







-  **2% DIY waste**
(e.g. concrete, timber, metal, soil)
-  **4% bagged recycling**
-  **5% glass**
-  **9% household waste**
-  **80% recycling**

Our household waste

On average, each Ballarat resident throws out 193kg of household waste each year, which ends up in landfill.

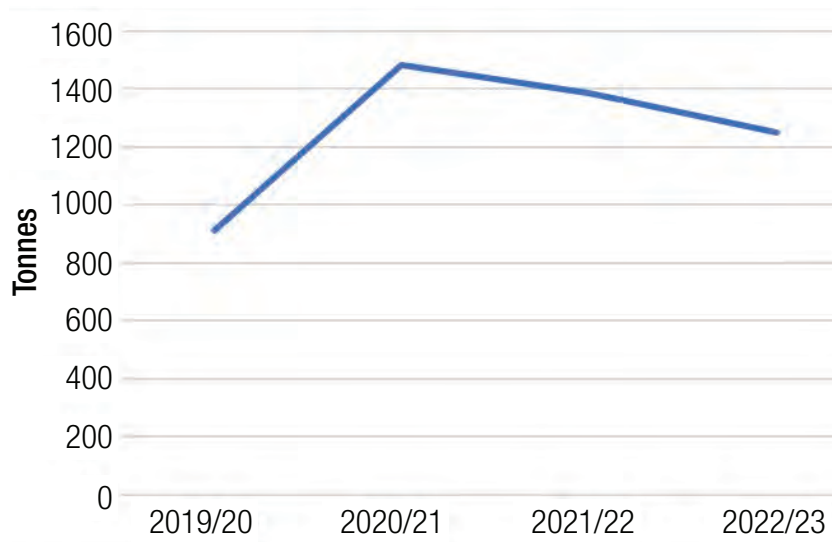
Based on audit data collected since 2019, the average household waste bin in Ballarat contains:



-  **2% glass**
-  **4% garden**
-  **12% DIY waste**
(e.g. concrete, timber, metal, soil)
-  **14% recycling**
-  **27% household waste**
-  **41% food**

In October 2023, Ballarat City Council endorsed the introduction of a weekly residential kerbside food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection. Planning for the introduction of the new FOGO service is underway and the service will be implemented after a suitable regional processor has been engaged.

Drop-off sites Pass on Glass



The City of Ballarat introduced a glass recycling drop-off service for residents in September 2019. In 2022/23, more than 1200 tonnes of glass were collected for recycling via the eight Pass on Glass drop-off sites located across the municipality.

In October 2023, Council endorsed the introduction of a monthly residential kerbside glass collection. During 2024, officers will assess the impact the Victorian Government's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) has on how residents dispose of their glass containers before implementing the kerbside glass collection.



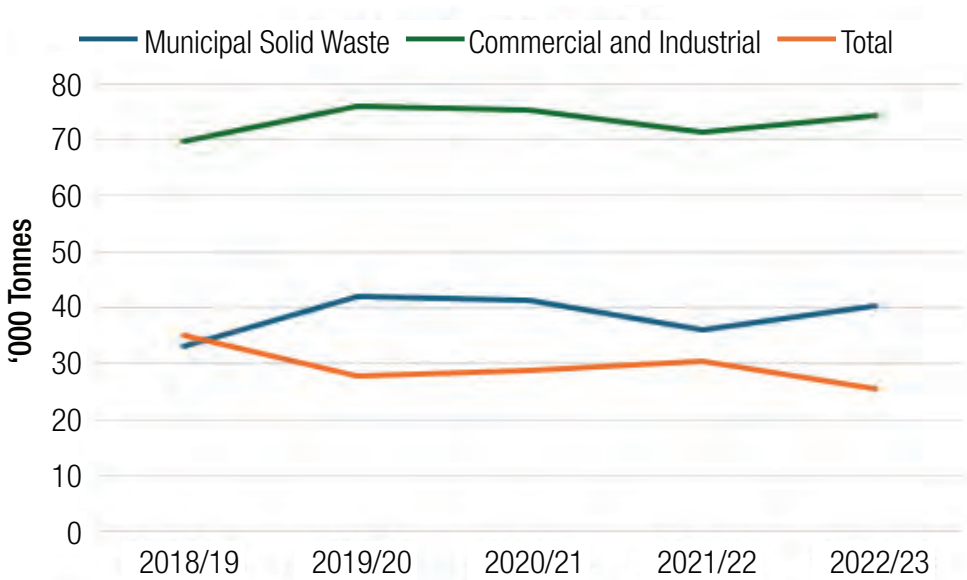
Our public place waste collection

The City of Ballarat provides and services public place waste bins across the municipality in parks, recreational reserves and public spaces.

In FY22/23, 288 tonnes of general waste was collected from public place litter bins.

Our landfill

Ballarat Regional Landfill, located in Smythesdale, is owned by the City of Ballarat. It is operated under a licence issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to ensure compliance with regulatory legislation that mitigates and minimises risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste. The site accepts all municipal waste from the City of Ballarat, Golden Plains Shire, Pyrenees Shire and commercial operators.



Over the past five years, the volume of materials disposed of at the Ballarat Regional Landfill has remained reasonably consistent.

In 2022/23, a total of 74,000 tonnes of material was deposited on-site. The two largest waste streams were 40,000 tonnes of municipal waste (from City of Ballarat, Golden Plains Shire and Pyrenees Shire) and 26,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste.



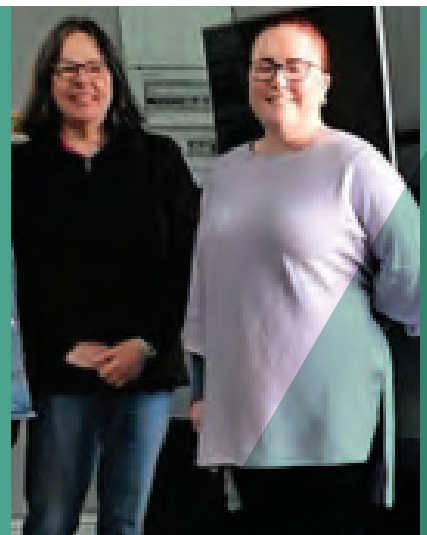
Our closed landfills

Closed landfills can pose a wide range of risks to environmental and human health, and their impacts can remain for a significant period after waste has stopped being accepted. The City of Ballarat considers closed landfill risks during any land use planning decisions. The City of Ballarat manages the closed landfills in accordance with Environment Protection Authority guidelines and the EPA-appointed environmental auditor, an independent auditor who carries out regular environmental audits and verifies monitoring programs and various plans such as the Rehabilitation and Aftercare Management Plans.

Case Study

Rehoming e-waste to those in need

In 2023, volunteers from the Ballarat Repair Café and the City of Ballarat Circular Economy team partnered on a project to retrieve a small number of televisions and computers from the eWaste skips at the Ballarat Transfer Station and, if possible after assessment, repair them. The project team connected with Peplow House and rehomed three televisions that had been returned to full working order. The aim is to further this collaboration to expand the project to rehome more electrical items as well as other household goods.



Our Transfer Station

The Ballarat Transfer Station is located in Gillies Street South, Alfredton, and accepts various waste and recyclable materials from residents and small commercial businesses. Residents are encouraged to sort their loads and make use of all the recycling and reuse services offered at the Transfer Station to minimise waste going to landfill. Current services offered at the Transfer Station include:

Recycling (no charge)	Recyclable (for a cost)	Disposal (for a cost)	Not accepted
Whitegoods (excluding refrigerators and air conditioners)	Rubble Rock, brick, concrete (No metal or plastic)	General waste Hard waste, wood, plastics, household waste, building waste (including plastic, metal, plasterboard), treated timber	Chemicals used by businesses for industrial and commercial purposes.
Empty/dry paint cans, small auto parts	Green waste Prunings, grass clippings, leaves and branches		Farm chemicals
Residential quantities of paints	Timber Clean hard and soft wood (excludes treated, laminated and painted)		Asbestos
Engine/motor oil	Mattresses		Ammunition
Batteries (car and household)	Refrigerators, air conditioners		Soil
Fluorescent tubes	Tyres		Car bodies
Gas bottles (BBQ, household/camping)	eWaste – Commercial loads and non-scheme (small household electrical appliances)		
Household mixed recyclables			
Paper and cardboard (excluding waxed cardboard)			
Glass Drinking bottles/food containers			
eWaste under the National Scheme items e.g. personal computers, tablets, computer monitors, personal computer parts and electrical accessories and printer and TVs (residential quantities)			
Reusable household items in good condition			
Household chemicals			
DrumMuster (drums must be triple rinsed)			

Please visit Council's website for a current list of what can be recycled.

A snapshot of some of the waste and recycling materials collected at the Ballarat Transfer Station in 2022/23:



eWaste
60 tonnes



**Batteries
vehicle**
20 tonnes



**Whitegoods/
fridges/
air con**
700 tonnes



**Household
chemicals**
20 tonnes



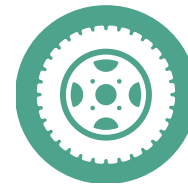
Mattresses
4,800 units



Green waste
5,000 tonnes



Timber
12,000m³



Tyres
3,600 tonnes

Our waste vouchers

Residential properties in Ballarat receive two free waste vouchers each year to help with the disposal of hard waste items. The two vouchers are included in the Waste and Recycling Collection Calendar delivered to residents in July each year. In 2023/24, waste vouchers were issued to more than 50,000 residential properties.



> Challenges and opportunities

Our local waste challenges

Challenges	Opportunities
<p>Population growth</p> <p>The City of Ballarat's population is growing at about 2% per year and is expected to reach 142,624 people by 2036. A growing population increases the volume of waste and recyclable materials that needs to be managed within the municipality.</p>	<p>Community engagement</p> <p>A new and growing population is an opportunity to educate our community about resource recovery and our Circular Economy Targets. Education and behaviour change programs can reduce waste, increase resource recovery and hasten achievement of circular economy goals and targets.</p>
<p>Climate change</p> <p>Our current unsustainable patterns of consumption with high levels of resource extraction, production and waste generation contribute to excessive greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.</p>	<p>A different way</p> <p>Addressing the climate challenge requires a fundamental shift towards a more sustainable consumption model where resource use is avoided, where possible, and where more resources are reused and recycled. It is time to acknowledge that we cannot recycle our way out of this. It is important to consider what we consume and realise that there are opportunities to do things differently, and we do not need to go without.</p>
<p>Contamination</p> <p>Contaminants in recycling streams can reduce the quality and value of recyclable materials. Contamination can lead to unnecessary transport, higher greenhouse gas emissions, higher processing costs and can result in the disposal of recyclables into landfill.</p>	<p>Auditing and community education</p> <p>Education campaigns and behaviour change engagements play an important role in addressing contamination issues in our kerbside bins. Information can be tailored to appeal to a wide range of audiences in a manner that is accessible, engaging and positively reinforces good waste practices.</p>
<p>Litter and illegal dumping</p> <p>Litter and illegal dumping can result in pollution, soil degradation and health hazards for people and animals.</p>	<p>Community surveillance</p> <p>We can all be the eyes and ears for our local environment when it comes to litter and illegal dumping. Education, surveillance and enforcement are opportunities to reduce these issues and unite the community around a common good.</p>
<p>Lack of regional recycling infrastructure</p> <p>A lack of recycling and remanufacturing infrastructure is a challenge for the Grampians Central West region. The majority of recoverable and recyclable materials, and their value, must currently be transported outside of the region for processing.</p>	<p>Bringing it to the regions</p> <p>Facilitate development of local and regional scale recycling and remanufacturing services, new business opportunities and market development for goods made from recycled content.</p>
<p>Capacity of Ballarat Regional Landfill and Transfer Station</p> <p>The Ballarat Regional Landfill is currently estimated to have capacity up until 2040. This timeframe could be reduced with increasing rates of consumption and population growth. The Gillies Street Transfer Station is considered a medium size site and can store a maximum of 10,000m³ of waste at any given time under its EPA permit. When these capacity limits are combined with the region's forecast population growth, the City of Ballarat may be forced to place limits on the types of waste this site can accept.</p>	<p>Expansion and renewal</p> <p>Master planning for the landfill will confirm airspace available and suggested improved operational practices. A new contract for the Transfer Station is an opportunity to implement circular economy strategies. Consideration for a second transfer station or move of the current Transfer Station to the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ).</p>



Community engagement discussions

› Community engagement

During 2023, the City of Ballarat engaged with a cross section of the Ballarat community to understand opportunities and challenges to managing waste and resource recovery across residential and business sectors.

The following engagement was undertaken:

Codesign workshop to develop engagement strategy

A codesign workshop was held with community waste champions from the previous 'Waste to Wellbeing' program and City of Ballarat staff involved in the management of waste. The aim of the workshop was to codesign the community engagement strategy, essentially asking the community to tell us the best way to engage with the community. The following approach was then developed.

Resource recovery and waste management workshops

A series of five workshops asked the community where they thought Ballarat should be focussing their efforts. The engagement centred on several key questions:

- How should we remove waste, that doesn't go into your bins, from residential dwellings?
- What opportunities are there to change the way we reuse, repair and recycle?

- What type of waste and resource recovery services do commerce and industry want from the City of Ballarat?
- How do we effectively manage waste in our public spaces?

MySay survey 1 (entire community)

A survey to understand the waste challenges being faced by the local community.

MySay survey 2 (business)

A survey to understand the waste challenges being faced by businesses.

Key themes and ideas resulting from the community engagement included:

- Additional measures to address litter and illegal dumping
- Greater community promotion, education and behaviour change around recycling and reuse
- A household collection service for hard to dispose of items
- Reducing contamination in comingled recycling bin
- Advocacy for product stewardship
- Engagement with the building industry to reduce litter during construction.

The key themes from the community engagement have been used to form the goals, aims and associated actions of this Strategy.



3. The Strategy

> Overview

This Strategy is intended to be a functional guide to direct the work of City of Ballarat teams and a practical plan that empowers the community to participate and support our future waste management goals.

We are committed to achieving the strategic objectives of our Council Plan (2021–2025) for an environmentally sustainable future with:

- a transition towards zero emissions
- a transition towards zero waste
- improved stewardship of our natural resources and protection and enhancement of our biodiversity
- adoption of more sustainable practices in our core business and operations.

This Strategy outlines how we will expand on and achieve these objectives as they relate to waste and resource recovery.

This Strategy has five key goals:

1. Create less waste
2. Increase reuse and recycling
3. Deliver circular waste and recycling services
4. Protect our environment
5. Empower our community.

Each goal has an associated aim and targets we intend to achieve. We outline what Council will do, what you can do and share some interesting facts, including examples of impressive, innovative things the Ballarat community is doing to reduce waste and increase resource recovery.

The Action Plan will tell you what we will do over the next four years to reach these goals and deliver a circular economy to Ballarat.

Each year we will review and refresh the Action Plan to keep it up-to-date with the latest technology and innovations in the sector.

A mid-term review of the Strategy will be undertaken in 2027.



GOAL 1 – Create less waste

AIM: Avoid generating waste and minimise waste wherever we can.

The first and most important goal is to create less waste in the first place, addressing the issue of waste before it becomes a problem. Creating less waste conserves resources, lessens the impact on the environment, helps to avoid costs associated with waste management and puts much less pressure on waste management systems including landfills.

Avoiding waste generation and minimising waste can be as simple as borrowing an item from a library instead of purchasing one, or as complex as designing products that require fewer resources to manufacture and use.

We all have a role to play in creating less waste and you can have an impact.

What you can do

Residents

Consider alternatives to buying new. Do you really need it? Could you borrow it?

Swap, sell, rent or buy second-hand and save yourself some money!

Consider repairing items.

Try to avoid buying disposable and single-use items.

Businesses

Design for durability.

Reduce packaging.

Promote or incentivise sustainable consumption habits to your customers.

Participate in a take-back program.

Conduct a waste audit. This could save you in waste disposal fees!

What City of Ballarat will do

Continue to offer the reusable nappy, period and sanitary products rebate.

Support the avoidance of single-use plastics at City of Ballarat events and for events on City of Ballarat land.

Deliver a food waste reduction behaviour change program.

Try to avoid buying disposable and single-use items.



Our target

Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030.



Did you know?

Ballarat residents are able to claim some of the cost of buying cloth nappies, reusable period products and reusable maternity breast pads. Visit ballarat.vic.gov.au/reusable-rebate

The Ballarat Tool Library is a volunteer-led initiative that provides access to the tools needed to repair and care for your home and belongings. They have over 1,000 tools!

Visit ballarattoolibrary.org



GOAL 2 – Increase reuse and recycling

AIM: Maximise reuse and recycling and minimise waste that goes to landfill.

Reusing items maximises their lifespan and reduces their immediate need for recycling. When products can no longer be reused, recycling is the next option to ensure materials are recovered and made into new products. Reuse and recycling minimises waste and resource consumption, reduces environmental damage and supports economic development.

There are challenges to reusing and recycling, including contamination of recyclable materials, inadequate local infrastructure to process materials and a lack of consumer awareness.

A staged community engagement and education campaign is currently being rolled out to improve understanding around how to use current kerbside waste and recycling services and to keep the community informed about the upcoming changes to kerbside collection services. The focus of the campaign is to reduce common causes of contamination in the mixed recycling bin. As planning progresses for the implementation of the new FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) service, the campaign focus will shift towards informing the community about how the service will work and how to correctly use the service.

The development of local and regional scale recycling and remanufacturing services is being facilitated by working with six neighbouring councils and Central Highlands Water to release three market processes seeking industry proposals to improve the management of organics recycling and residual waste in our region. The industry proposals have been evaluated and the tender process for the project is expected to be released later in 2024.

The City of Ballarat is supporting the developing market for goods made from recycled content by exploring ways to incorporate recycled materials into City of Ballarat projects and operations. In January 2024, the City of Ballarat commenced a trial to incorporate a locally produced recycled plastic substitute for steel mesh into a 250m footpath in Miners Rest.

A Master Plan of Ballarat Regional Landfill is underway to provide the City of Ballarat with a framework for the long-term management and development of the site. A previous study in 2017 gave the landfill a life expectancy to 2040. The Master Plan will update this study based on changes in the waste industry, updated government targets, tonnage variances on the site and changes in landfill practices.



What you can do

Residents

Find out more about what can go in each of your kerbside bins to maximise recycling and reduce contamination.

Compost your food and garden waste at home to help your garden grow and turn your neighbours green with envy.

Use the Container Deposit Scheme to get 10 cents for your bottles and cans!

There are lots of materials that can be recycled! Get to know the [Ballarat Transfer Station](#).

Businesses

Implement and/or participate in a take-back program.

Design and purchase products for reuse.

Promote and use reusable packaging.

Join the ASPIRE program, an online marketplace where you can exchange your waste as a resource. Excess waste materials can be sold online. This diverts excess waste resources from landfill and can create new revenue streams.

What City of Ballarat will do

Continue to progress the establishment of Circular Economy Precinct, anchored by the Materials Recovery Facility, in the Ballarat West Employment Zone.

Advocate for Victorian and Australian government policy settings that promote practical solutions to improve circular economy outcomes.

Improve resource recovery at the Transfer Station.

Continue to explore regional processing solutions to improve the management of organics, recyclables and residual waste streams.



Our targets

- Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.
- Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.
- Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.
- 100% of City of Ballarat serviced households to have access to a separate Food Organics and Garden Organics recovery service.
- Increase the City of Ballarat's circular economy initiatives by 20% each year to deliver a Circular Ballarat by 2050.



Did you know?

Businesses can join the ASPIRE platform for free!

Join here -

ballarat.vic.gov.au/business/circular-ballarat/aspire-online-platform

Find out what can be recycled within the City of Ballarat with our [A-Z Waste and Recycling Guide](#)

It is possible to drop off toxic household, e-waste, metal, paints, oils, gas bottles, batteries, fluorescent globes, household kerbside recycling (residential quantities), paper, cardboard, glass, and plastic container items at no cost at the Gillies Street [Transfer Station](#).



GOAL 3 – Deliver circular waste and recycling services

AIM: Deliver waste and recycling services that responsibly meet the community's waste needs and lead to a circular economy.

The City of Ballarat plays an important role in the delivery of circular waste and recycling services across the municipality. We are committed to reviewing existing services and investigating the expansion of services to help deliver a local circular economy.

What City of Ballarat will do

Implement a residential kerbside Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service.

Develop Waste Services Guidelines to establish guidance and standards for waste management practices within the municipality.

Complete a Hard Waste Collection Options Assessment and present to Council for consideration, following community requests.



Did you know?

The City of Ballarat collects leaf litter on a street-by-street basis and we also respond to individual enquiries during Autumn. You can make a request for leaf collection, by calling Customer Service on 5320 5500 or by using the Snap, Send, Solve app. snapsendsolve.com

Each Spring you can participate in Free Green Waste Week and Half Price Mattress Week at the Transfer Station. Keep an eye on our social media pages and on our website for more details.

It's not just businesses which have a duty to do the right thing. Under Victoria's environmental laws, we all have a general environmental duty to protect human health and the environment. You can report illegal dumping by calling Customer Service on 5320 5500 or via the Snap, Send, Solve app or to the Environment Protection Authority at epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution.

Our local environmental friends' groups run clean-up days across the municipality. You can find out about local environmental groups at mycommunity.ballarat.vic.gov.au/EnvironmentalGroups



Our targets

- Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030.
- Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.
- Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.
- Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.
- 100% of City of Ballarat serviced households have access to a separate Food Organics and Garden Organics recovery service.
- Increase the City of Ballarat's circular economy initiatives by 20% each year to deliver a Circular Ballarat by 2050.



GOAL 4 – Protect our environment

AIM: A litter and rubbish-free City of Ballarat. Management of Ballarat Regional Landfill and closed landfills.

Protecting our environment is a key focus of the Council Plan and our first Biodiversity Strategy – *Caring for Country*.

Managing litter and illegal dumping is essential to protect environmental health. Waste can harm wildlife and natural habitats and, in the longer term, can pollute soil and water.

Litter and illegal dumping impacts on the liveability and the look and feel of our communities. Litter-free environments improve community wellbeing and encourage more time spent in the outdoors.

Areas of litter and illegal dumping can attract disease-spreading pests such as rodents. These areas can also suffer economically due to decreased property values and reduced business patronage.

Safe and compliant management of active and closed landfills prevents pollutants from leaching into soil and groundwater, minimising unpleasant odours for surrounding residents and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (methane) produced by decomposing organic waste, helping to mitigate climate change.



What you can do

Residents

Participate in community clean-ups. Get to know your local 'Friends of' group.

Report illegal dumping to the City of Ballarat or the Environment Protection Authority

Reduce, reuse and recycle. Get broken items repaired and choose second hand.

Recycle right, check the City of Ballarat's website if you are unsure about what goes in each bin.

Make sure to place your mixed recyclables loose in your yellow lid recycling bin, and not in a bag.

Make use of the Transfer Station.

Make choices to buy items made from recycled materials that are also recyclable.

Recover your food waste – get a compost bin.

Teach your friends about the environmental impact of litter and illegal dumping.

Secure your load when transporting waste and recyclables to prevent them falling off your vehicle.

Businesses

Provide waste disposal and recycling options in and around your business for your customers and employees.

Set up a circular economy culture, educating your customers and employees about appropriate waste disposal. Consider incentives such as discounts and loyalty points.

Secure any skip bins to prevent illegal dumping and scattering of waste.

Participate in community environmental clean-ups.

Maintain a clean business site to prevent litter accumulation.

What City of Ballarat will do

Environment Protection Authority training with City of Ballarat litter enforcement officers, establishing a coordinated approach to investigating litter and illegal dumping.

Education and enforcement program for building sites focussing on litter and stormwater management.

Increase the capacity for stormwater treatment at the Ballarat Regional Landfill to improve and control the quality of treated wastewater discharged into the Woody Yaloak River.



Our targets

- 100% compliance with the operational practices in Ballarat Regional Landfill and Gillies Street Transfer Station (excluding events outside of the City of Ballarat's control).
- By 2030, reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and illegal litter instances by 30%

Did you know?

Landfill gas, leachate and loose waste are the three main challenges for landfills today.

Landfill gas contains many different gases. Landfill gas is typically made up of 99% methane and carbon dioxide. Methane can be formed from biological processes that occur when micro-organisms chemically break down organic matter in the absence of oxygen. This is the type of methane production that commonly occurs in landfills. The Ballarat Regional Landfill generates methane that is captured and turned into energy by two 800kW on-site engines. They can:

- combust 4.47 million m³ of methane (equivalent to 1,800 Olympic sized swimming pools)
- generate about 13,500 MWh. This is equivalent to powering about 2,800 average Victorian homes for a year.



- abate about 96,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (~ 85,000 from methane destruction and 11,000 from green energy offset). This is equivalent to removing about 38,700 average Australian cars from the road for a year.

Leachate is the liquid formed when waste breaks down in the landfill and water filters through that waste. This liquid is highly toxic and if it is not adequately contained and removed from the landfill, it can pollute the land, groundwater and waterways. There can also be odour issues from leachate if it's not managed properly.

Over the past three years, the Ballarat Regional Landfill produced about 30,000m³ of leachate that is contained in two ponds and was transported and treated in another EPA-licenced facility. The City of Ballarat spends more than \$1 million per year to transport and treat the liquid off-site. Options to decrease the amount of the leachate produced include capping the landfill and completing rehabilitation works.

The City of Ballarat's first landfill cell capping project using geosynthetic materials is underway, with more than two hectares of land being capped. Fully-funded by the City of Ballarat, the large-scale \$2.6 million project will cap the closed cells (large spaces dug at a landfill site where waste is compacted and layered within the ground with Environment Protection Authority requirements).

Landfills can attract disease-carrying vermin of all types and loose litter can fly away in the breeze. This is managed by placing a cover over the waste daily, by installing litter fences around the active tipping area and by collecting any rubbish that escapes the tipping area.



GOAL 5 – Empower our community

AIM: Empowering our community to take responsibility for their waste and make informed decisions about what they can do to reduce waste to landfill.

The City of Ballarat is committed to delivering honest, clear and accessible waste and resource recovery education and behaviour change programs.

The success of the Strategy and the transition to a circular economy are everyone’s responsibility. We can do this by understanding the waste and resource recovery options available to us and taking responsibility for the waste that we generate.

What you can do

Residents

Avoid and reduce waste where you can.

Keep informed about the ever-changing local opportunities to reuse and recycle.

Become a waste wise champion in your local community. Share what you know with your family and friends.

Support waste-conscious businesses.

Advocate for buy-back schemes.

Businesses

Advocate for buy-back schemes for your business or industry.

Teach your employees and customers about waste disposal and recycling options relevant to your business.

Offer recycling programs to your customers, such as electronic waste, batteries and other items that are challenging to recycle.

Promote the benefits of reusable products to your customers.

Work with schools and community groups to sponsor waste education, clean-up events and waste-reduction initiatives.

What City of Ballarat will do

Develop and deliver Ballarat Regional Landfill and Transfer Station tours.

Deliver a year-long communication and education campaign promoting local waste and resource recovery services and programs.

Explore implementing an app to provide residents with information about the City of Ballarat’s waste and recycling services and other local waste and resource recovery and upcycling opportunities.



Our target

- Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030.
- Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.
- Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.
- Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.
- By 2030, reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and illegal litter instances by 30%.

Did you know?
















The Hidden Orchard community group finds unloved fruit trees around Ballarat and redistributes the fruit to the community. They are reducing waste, building community connection and improving food security! Over the last year they have harvested over 4 tonnes of fruit!

Find out more here – hiddenorchard.org













Do you need an item repaired or mended? Don’t toss it, fix it! The Ballarat Repair Café can help you fix it with their amazing group of volunteers. Check them out here – facebook.com/ballaratrepaircafe




























4. The Action Plan









Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
GOAL 1 – Create less waste								
	Deliver a food waste reduction behaviour change program for residents.		✓			\$	Sustainable Environment	Neighbourhood Houses Libraries Community Centres
	Continue to support the Central Highlands Water Choose Tap program for drinking water fountains in public places.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Central Highlands Water
	Continue to offer the reusable nappy, period, and continence products and breast pad rebate.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Sustainable Environment	Communications Maternal and Child Health
	Support the avoidance of single-use plastics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement waste-free, sustainable City of Ballarat events Minimise waste at events on City of Ballarat land through event permits Support events on private property to be waste free and more sustainable. 		✓			EOB	Sustainable Environment Circular Economy	Events Communications
	Promote community groups that encourage waste avoidance and resource recovery, including share libraries, repair cafes, food waste reduction and purchasing second hand.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Communications
	Promote City of Ballarat and broader grant opportunities to encourage waste reduction and resource recovery projects.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Economic Development Strategic Grants
	Support the community to run a series of waste reduction workshops for residents.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Local Community Groups
	Continue to explore opportunities to support the community to reduce waste.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	
GOAL 2 – Increase reuse and recycling								
	Provide a home composting/worm farm rebate for residents.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Sustainable Environment	Communications
	Continue to investigate recycling solutions for problematic waste materials, including soft plastics, textiles and polystyrene.	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Circular Economy	Transfer Station Waste Collections Waste and Resource Recovery Industry
	Increase City of Ballarat use of recyclable materials collected from residents, for example old tyres used in asphalt.	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Circular Economy	Infrastructure City Design Major Projects Community Infrastructure
	Advocate for Victorian and Australian government policy settings that promote practice solutions to improve circular economy outcomes and reduce waste at the source including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expand national product stewardship schemes reduce consumer packaging 	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Advocacy
	Investigate increasing community drop-off options for common household items, including batteries, light globes and mobile phones.		✓			\$	Circular Economy	Transfer Station Customer Service
	Continue to progress the establishment of Circular Economy Precinct, anchored by Materials Recovery Facility, in the Ballarat West Employment Zone.	✓	✓	✓		ECB \$\$\$	Circular Economy	Victorian Government
	Continue to help local businesses to develop and implement circular economy practices, including the promotion of the ASPIRE program to businesses, the online marketplace for business to exchange their waste as a resource.	✓				\$	Circular Economy	Economic Development

✓ = for action this year

Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
3. Deliver circular waste and recycling services								
	Explore additional recycling options in public places.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Waste and Environment	
	Kerbside collection route digitisation and optimisation.	✓				ECB \$130000 \$\$\$	Waste and Environment	Software Provider
	Pilot a smart technology kerbside recycling program to improve contamination reporting.	✓				EOB \$15000 \$	Waste and Environment	Software Provider
	Implement In Truck solution to maximise efficiency of collection operations.	✓				ECB \$270000 \$\$\$	Waste and Environment	Hardware Provider
	Develop Waste Services Guidelines to establish guidance and standards for waste management practices within the municipality.	✓				EOB	Waste and Environment	Local Laws Finance Governance Community Inclusion
	Complete a Hard Waste Collection Options Assessment and present to Council for consideration.	✓				EOB	Sustainable Environment	Consultant
	Continue to explore regional processing solutions to improve the management of organics, recyclables and residual waste streams including waste to energy technologies.	✓	✓			ECB \$\$\$	Circular Economy	Six Neighbouring Councils Central Highlands Water
	Continue to explore ways to improve waste management and resource recovery by small businesses.	✓				\$	Circular Economy	Economic Development
	Investigate the feasibility of a City of Ballarat kerbside collection for small businesses.	✓						Economic Development
	Implement a residential kerbside FOGO service.	✓	✓			\$\$\$	Circular Economy	Communications Environmental Business Support Waste Collections
	Implement a residential kerbside glass service, subject to a review of the impact of the CDS on household glass volumes.		✓			NOB \$\$\$	Circular Economy	Communications Environmental Business Support
	Review and modernisation of transfer station services for the municipality, including a resale shop.	✓	✓	✓		ECB \$\$\$	Circular Economy	Transfer Station Major Projects

Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
4. Protect our environment								
	Advocate for bans on products such as polystyrene.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Advocacy
	Advocate for the Environment Protection Authority levy (a levy collected at landfills) to be reinvested by the Victorian Government into the regional circular economy.	✓				EOB	Circular Economy	Advocacy
	Environment Protection Authority training with City of Ballarat litter enforcement officers, establishing a coordinated approach to investigating litter and illegal dumping.		✓			EOB	Compliance Waste and Environment	EPA
	Investigate CCTV options for illegal dumping hot spots.		✓			EOB	Compliance Waste and Environment	Suppliers
	Education and enforcement program for building sites focussing on litter and stormwater management.			✓		EOB	Compliance Waste and Environment	EPA
	Make information on land management publicly accessible.	✓				EOB	Waste and Environment	Information and Communication Technology
	Investigate and define position on supporting charity and community groups' clean-up events.	✓				EOB	Waste and Environment	Information and Communication Technology
	Deliver an education campaign on illegal dumping of soil, including how to report soil being dumped.			✓		EOB	Compliance Waste and Environment	Environment Protection Authority
	Continue to provide and expand on key industry programs at the Ballarat Transfer Station such as DrumMaster.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB Transfer Station \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Sustainability Victoria DrumMaster and other programs that may take place in the future
	Develop and implement the Master Plan actions for the Ballarat Regional Landfill.	✓	✓	✓	✓	ECB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Major Projects Waste and Environment Team Contractors Consultants EPA appointed auditor Other Stakeholders
	Complete landfill works including capping of used cells and the design of new cells.	✓	✓	✓	✓	NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Major Projects Team Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Improvement of the operational practices of the landfill to maximise airspace of the landfill.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Modernise and automate of environmental data systems of the Ballarat Regional Landfill to report against compliance service delivery.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants
	Implement the recommendations of the Leachate Management Plan, reducing the need to transport leachate off-site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Increase the capacity for stormwater treatment at the landfill to improve and control the quality of water discharged in the Woody Yaloak River.	✓	✓	✓	✓	NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed auditor

Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
4. Protect our environment								
	Implement the recommendations of the biannual compliance Landfill Operation Audit.		✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB – BRL and Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Maintain the environmental monitoring investigations in the closed landfills that are not under EPA notice but are considered City of Ballarat land.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB – BRL and Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants
	Implement the procedures of Operational Manual and Risk Management and Monitoring Program (RMMP) – Landfill and Transfer Station – and implement the procedure of the Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) – closed landfills.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB – BRL and Closed Landfills NCB – BRL and Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Design for a new entrance bridge at the Ballarat Regional Landfill to ensure access to the site and meet OHS requirements.			✓	✓	NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Infrastructure Team Contractors Consultants
	Control and ongoing management of vegetation including revegetation and removal of noxious weeds at all landfill sites.			✓	✓	EOB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants
	Continually address the aftercare and rehabilitation plans of the closed landfills.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Major Projects Team Contractors Consultants
	Improve the management and facilities and increase resource recovery at the Transfer Station as part of the new management contract.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB Transfer Station \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants
	Transfer Station contract management and facility improvements to increase the number of resource recovery streams.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB Transfer Station \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors and Consultants Other Stakeholders
	Undertake a resource plan review that responds with the operational requirements of the Landfills and Transfer Station team to meet current and future demands for the project's delivery.	✓	✓	✓	✓	NOB BRL; Transfer Station; Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	People and Culture
	Install gross pollutant traps along the Yarrowee River to remove litter and improve water quality.		✓	✓	✓		Sustainable Environment	Major Projects

Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
5. Empower our community								
	Develop and deliver Landfill and Transfer Station tours.	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Landfills and Transfer Station Sustainable Environment	
	Collaborate with the Victorian Government in the delivery of school waste education initiatives.	✓				EOB	Sustainable Environment	Circular Economy Communications
	Explore implementing an app to provide residents with information about the City of Ballarat's waste and recycling services and other local waste and resource recovery and upcycling opportunities.	✓				EOB \$	Circular Economy	
	Promote Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB \$	Circular Economy	Communications
	Share the City of Ballarat's waste advocacy stance with the community and local Members of Parliament.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Advocacy and Communications
	Deliver a year-long communication and education campaign promoting local waste and resource recovery services and programs (Transfer Station, Landfill, free drop-off days, opportunity shops, community waste reduction initiatives).	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB \$	Waste and Environment	
	Work with leaders from diverse and First Nation communities, facilitating information sharing and service linkages.	✓	✓	✓	✓		Waste and Environment	Engaged Communities
	Undertake contamination reduction campaigns to address key contaminants in waste and recycling streams managed by the City of Ballarat.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Waste and Environment	Communications

EOB – Existing Operational Budget

ECB – Existing Capital Budget

NOB – New Operational Budget

NCB- New Capital Budget

\$ <\$50,000

\$\$ <\$100,000

\$\$\$ >\$100,000

Delivering the Strategy

> Implementation

The Strategy has goals, aims and targets to help us shape the future direction of waste management and resource recovery and to put us on the path towards a circular Ballarat.

The four-year Action Plan details what we will do and what you can do to help us meet our circular economy goals. The Action Plan will be reviewed annually based on the previous year's successes and learnings. It will be refreshed to keep it up-to-date with the latest policy changes, technology and innovations in the sector.

> Funding

Funding for actions will be subject to the City of Ballarat's standard budgeting process, with the cost of many actions wrapped into existing operational budgets.

The City of Ballarat will take a proactive approach to applying for external grant opportunities to improve waste and resource recovery services.

Future residential waste charges will include the cost of implementing actions from the Strategy where appropriate.

> Monitoring and reporting

Progress on action will be reported to Council annually along with industry trends. A mid-term review of the Strategy will be undertaken in 2027.



> Evaluating target delivery

We will monitor and evaluate the delivery of the Strategy and achievement of targets using the below information.

#	Target	Data Source	Baseline	2030 Target
1	Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030.	Kerbside collection data	196.3 kg/person (2019/2020 baseline)	166.9 kg/person (15% lower than 2020 baseline)
2	Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.	Kerbside collection data	43% diversion (2019/20 baseline)	80% diversion of waste
3	Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.	Waste Audit data Kerbside collection data	44% of organic material (2019/20 baseline)	22% of organic material
4	100% of City of Ballarat serviced households have access to a separate Food Organics and Garden Organics recovery service.	Rates data	0% (2020 baseline)	100%
5	Increase the City of Ballarat's circular economy initiatives by 20% each year to deliver a Circular Ballarat by 2050.	No. of circular economy initiatives undertaken by City of Ballarat per year	11 initiatives (2023/24 baseline)	33 initiatives
6	100% compliance with the operational practices in Ballarat Regional Landfill and Gillies Street Transfer Station (excluding events outside of City of Ballarat control).	Number of penalties issued by the EPA	0 penalties (2023/2024)	0 penalties
7	Reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and illegal litter instances by 30%.	Customer service requests	982 requests (2022/2023)	687 requests
8	Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.	Waste audit data	20% (2021/2023 average baseline)	Less than 15%



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