

# Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy

Community Summary

# Turning the tide on waste

There is a growing understanding that waste is everyone's issue, and in turn, everyone has a role to play in reducing waste and its impacts on our communities, our environment and our economy.

Queensland is home to more than five million people and the amount of waste we produce is growing faster than our population.

This will have a real impact on the lifestyle we enjoy. More waste means more landfill sites in our communities, more greenhouse gases contributing to climate change, and more litter in our environment.

We have a timely opportunity to turn the tide on waste now, for a better, more sustainable future.

The Queensland Government is setting a new course, towards a zero-waste society where:



the natural environment is protected from the impacts of waste



everyone is responsible for taking action to reduce the amount of waste they produce



new products, jobs and industries are created from waste diverted from landfill

Everyone will have a role to play—business, industry and government, and as our greatest assets, Queenslanders will be pivotal in adopting the sustainable behaviours needed to create a less wasteful, more resourceful future, and to inspire our next generation of waste champions.

Our goal is to maximise the value of the resources we use, minimise the waste we create, cut emissions and pollution, and help create a cleaner, greener, healthier planet.

Every positive action, big or small, will make a difference.



# Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy (Waste Strategy) sets the course for Queensland to become a leader in recycling and recovery, where all parties are working together to create sustainable solutions that will deliver lasting economic benefits for Queensland, while also protecting our precious environment and the unique lifestyle we all enjoy.

It outlines the Queensland Government's proposed:

- vision for a zero-waste society by 2050
- short-term and long-term targets
- investment priorities and key programs and initiatives to position the state as a leader in resource recovery and recycling
- actions for encouraging and supporting individuals, businesses, industry and local councils to play their part in reducing waste.

To complement the Waste Strategy, this Community Summary has been developed to provide specific actions for Queenslanders to reduce their own waste production, boost recycling and reduce the impact of rubbish in our natural environment.

To view the full Waste Strategy visit [www.qld.gov.au/wastestrategy](http://www.qld.gov.au/wastestrategy).

# The challenge— our current waste performance

The Waste Strategy provides an opportunity to look at Queensland's current waste performance and how we can improve it.

## Key facts



The amount of waste Queensland produces is growing faster than our population



While Queensland's recycling rate has improved slightly over recent years, there is certainly more that can be done. By continuing to build on achievements—such as the plastic shopping bag ban and container refund scheme—we can all work together to achieve real change.



# The opportunity—our vision for a more resourceful, less wasteful future

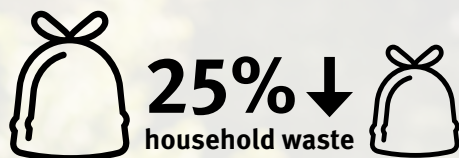
## Vision

Our vision is for Queensland to become a zero-waste society, where waste is avoided, reused and recycled to the greatest possible extent.

The Waste Strategy provides a long-term plan for improving the way waste is managed in Queensland.

## Waste reduction targets for 2050

By 2050, the Waste Strategy proposes the following targets:



Full details of interim targets between 2025 and 2050 can be found in the full Waste Strategy.

## Queensland Government action

To support the transition to a zero-waste society, the Queensland Government proposes to take the following key actions:

- Work with councils to raise awareness about recycling options available locally.
- Deliver information and education programs that support waste avoidance, repurposing, reuse, recycling, and litter and illegal dumping prevention.
- Support councils to improve waste and recycling collection services and tackle problem wastes.
- Set minimum recycled-content standards for products.
- Work with businesses to reduce excessive packaging and make packaging waste recyclable.
- Make government purchasing decisions that avoid waste and support products containing recycled materials.
- Support research into new uses and markets for recycled materials.
- Support infrastructure investment in locations to help improve community access to recycling.

For a complete list of the detailed actions that will be delivered to support the community, business, industry and local governments see the full version of the Waste Strategy.

# What you can do now— five simple actions

With every small action we take individually, we can collectively make a huge difference.

Queenslanders are encouraged to take up the challenge of reducing their own waste, in any way they can, through five simple actions:

# 1

## Reduce your food waste

Nearly half of household waste is organic waste (green waste and food waste) with food waste alone estimated to cost households more than \$2,000 per annum. Here are some simple tips for when you're:

### SHOPPING

- look at what you have in the pantry and fridge before you go shopping
- plan your meals ahead
- shop with a list and only buy what you need
- check the use-by-date and use it before it goes off

### COOKING

- keep fruit and veg in the fridge so it lasts longer
- cook more and freeze meals and leftovers for later
- freeze food if it's getting close to its use-by date
- get creative with your left-overs

### COMPOSTING

- try composting or worm farming at home, even if you live in an apartment
- check local council websites to see if there are home composting programs or options for composting at community gardens



# 2

## Buy better

Take a minute to think before you buy, this simple action can lead to more sustainable choices.

- where possible, buy quality goods that will last or that are easy to repair
- choose products with little or no packaging, like loose fruit and vegetables as opposed to pre-packaged
- choose goods made from recycled materials or with recycled material in them
- take action and tell retailers how you would like things to change

# 3

## Choose to refuse and reuse

Ask yourself, do I really need it or are there more sustainable options?

- avoid disposable items altogether like opting for balloon-free events, or asking for no straw with your drink
- choose reusable over disposable items particularly single-use items such as plates, cutlery, bags, drink bottles, coffee cups etc.
- fix the products you have, instead of buying replacements
- choose products with reusable packaging
- donate your quality goods to charity, or buy and sell second hand goods to keep them in use
- take action and tell businesses how you would like things to change



## Recycle right

Recycle as much as you can and make sure you recycle right.

- find out from your local council what is accepted in your kerbside recycling bin
- find out what other options are available in your area for recycling other items (like e-waste, batteries, container refund points, tyres, paint, mattresses etc.)  
[www.recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au)  
[www.containersforchange.com.au](http://www.containersforchange.com.au)
- do not put your recyclables into the recycling bin in a plastic bag
- clean out your recycling items to make sure they are accepted for recycling—a quick rinse or a scrape out of left-over food can make all the difference
- fill up a bag each week with soft plastics and drop them into a REDcycle bin at your nearest participating supermarket

# 4

# 5

## Respect people and the environment

Having an environment free from rubbish and litter makes our great outdoors, cities, towns, public transport and shared spaces much more enjoyable to be in. We should respect that other people, and wildlife, all use and live in these same spaces.

Litter and illegally dumped rubbish ruins our built and natural environment and endangers our waterways, wildlife and public health. Some simple ways to keep it clean:

- hold onto your rubbish until you can put it in a bin
- take larger items to a transfer station or landfill, or use your local council kerbside collections services when they come to your area
- if it's in good condition, donate to charity or take it to a council tip shop
- ensure your donated items go into a charity shop or bin, not left outside to be damaged or end up as litter—costing charities to clean up
- if you see litter, pick it up and put it in a bin
- only use licenced and regulated waste and recycling companies
- report littering from vehicles and vessels, and illegally dumped rubbish at [www.qld.gov.au/litter](http://www.qld.gov.au/litter)

