

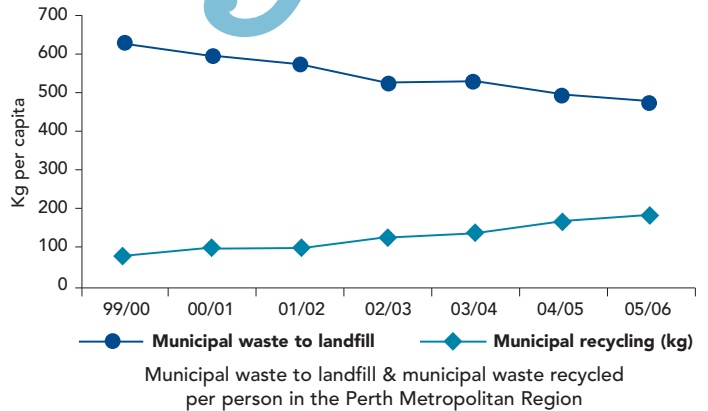


# recycle

## How are we doing in recycling?



Since 1999 our municipal recycling rate\* has jumped from 12 per cent to 27 per cent in 2005/2006. This also means that the amount of municipal waste we're sending to landfill per person is actually falling. We're doing OK, but we could be doing better. **So, Act Now for the Future and RECYCLE.**



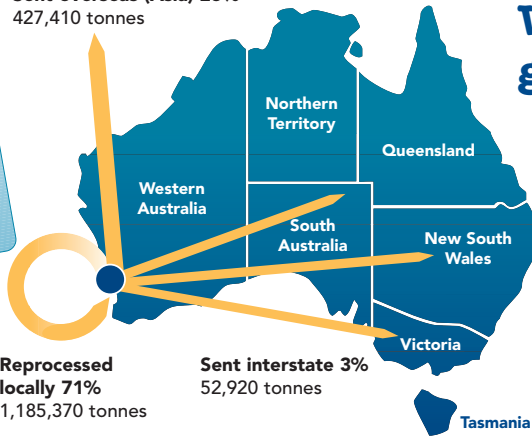
Source: Department of Environment and Conservation 2006

### Did you know...

that in a recent survey 52 per cent of West Australians claim if they were unsure if an item could be recycled, they would put it in their regular rubbish bin?

**If in doubt, check with your local council!**

Sent overseas (Asia) 26%  
427,410 tonnes



Source: Review of Total Recycling Activity in Western Australia 2005/06 (2007)

## Where do our recyclables go anyway?

In 2005-06, 71 per cent of recovered material remained in Western Australia for reprocessing (largely construction and demolition material and food and garden waste) and 26 per cent was sent overseas. 93 per cent of metal recovered in Western Australia is sent to Asia for reprocessing as well as a large amount of paper and plastics.



**Did you know...**  
plastic drink containers can be recycled into new drink containers, warm fleecy clothing, carpet underlay and lingerie?

**Who said waste isn't sexy?!**

Source: Planet Ark

## So what happens to my recyclables?

Just about every material can be recycled either here in Western Australia, interstate or overseas. **Here are some of the products** that your household recyclables are made into.



Material type	Household items	Recycled into
<b>Aluminium</b>	Soft drink cans, aluminium cooking foil	Soft drink cans, aircraft skins, roof guttering, car body panels, bikes, barbecues and furniture
<b>Steel</b>	Food and pet food cans, paint and aerosol cans	Steel cans, fridges, washing machines and car parts
<b>Glass</b>	Clear, green and amber/brown bottles and jars	New glass jars and bottles, sand-substitute in concrete used to make footpaths, road base, kerbing and guttering
<b>Paper and cardboard</b>	Newspapers, magazines, junk mail, office paper, stationery, telephone books	Cardboard packaging, newsprint, toilet paper, insulation and cat litter pellets
<b>LPB (Liquid Paper Board)</b>	Milk cartons, UHT and long-life milk containers/tetra-packs	Top quality range of office paper and notepads, envelopes and egg cartons

Plastic type	Household items	Recycled into
<b>PET</b> (Polyethylene terephthalate) PETE	Soft drink bottles, fruit juice bottles, water bottles	Beverage bottles, fleecy clothing, lingerie, sleeping bags, carpet fibres /underlay & laundry scoops
<b>HDPE</b> (High density Polyethylene) HDPE	Milk bottles, milk crates, freezer bags, shampoo, detergent and bleach bottles	Plastic wheelie bins, compost bins, agricultural pipes, crates, household bags and pallets
<b>PVC</b> (Polyvinyl Chloride) v	Clear cordial and fruit juice bottles	Pipes, flooring, shoes, electrical conduit and ducting, detergent bottles and watch straps
<b>LDPE</b> (Low Density Polyethylene) LDPE	Bread bags, squeeze bottles, cling wrap	Black irrigation tubes, concrete lining and bags, squeeze bottles, garbage and shopping bags
<b>PP</b> (Polypropylene) PP	Plastic plant pots, ice-cream, butter and margarine containers, plastic outdoor furniture	Traffic cones, compost bins, worm farms, rake heads, garden furniture and edging, plant pots and crates
<b>PS and EPS</b> (Polystyrene and Expanded Polystyrene) PS	Take-away food and drink containers, meat and poultry trays, drinking cups, yoghurt containers	Plastic cutlery, plastic glassware, coat hangers, rulers, CD cases and printer cartridges. Synthetic timber, picture frame mouldings, panel insulation and packaging
<b>Other Plastics</b> OTHER	Includes all other plastics or mix of plastics (eg. laminates), such as acrylic, nylon and polyurethane	Currently, code 7 plastic can't be recycled in WA. Elsewhere it can be recycled into agricultural piping, furniture fittings, wheels, furniture and marine structures

Plastic types 4 - 7 are currently not collected for recycling through council kerbside collection. However, technologies for recycling them now exist in Western Australia.

\* these figures refer to metropolitan Perth

# recycle

**Did you know...**  
a piece of ceramic the size of a 10c coin can contaminate a tonne of recyclable glass causing it to end up in landfill instead of being recycled?  
**Recycle right!**

**Did you know...**  
every tonne of paper recycled saves almost 13 trees, 2.5 barrels of oil, 4100 kw of electricity, 4 cubic metres of landfill and 31,780 litres of water?  
**Is your office recycling paper?**  
Source: PNEB



**So what can I do?** There are many simple things you can do at home, work or school that will benefit the environment including minimising greenhouse gas emissions. **Here are just a few.**

**DO:**

- DO** remove the lids from plastic bottles.
- DO** collect your recyclables when you are away from home and place them in your household recycling bin.
- DO** rinse your steel and aluminium cans before putting them in the recycling bin. Metal lids, bottle tops and jam jar lids can also be recycled.
- DO** flatten plastic bottles, cartons, boxes and cans to conserve space in your recycling bin.
- DO** set up a worm farm at home or work. Composting your (non-meat/dairy) food scraps and garden waste or worm farming can reduce your waste to landfill by 40 per cent. Visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au) for more information.
- DO** reuse your plastic bags instead of throwing them away. Better still, return them to those retailers that provide a plastic bag recycling service.
- DO** take your unwanted plastic plant pots to your local collection depot. To find out where they are accepted, visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)
- DO** buy goods made from recycled material.

**DON'T:**

- DON'T** put recyclables in plastic bags. Place them loosely in recycling bins instead.
- DON'T** put ovenproof glass, broken window panes, drinking glasses, ceramic mugs or plates in with your glass recycling.
- DON'T** put pizza boxes in the recycling bins unless all food scraps have been removed.
- DON'T** put paint, oils, chemicals and any batteries in your general waste or recycling bin. Contact your local council to check how to safely dispose of these.
- DON'T** throw away your old mobile phone. To find out more about recycling mobile phones visit [www.mobilemuster.com.au](http://www.mobilemuster.com.au) or [www.arp.net.au](http://www.arp.net.au)
- DON'T** throw items in your recycling bin if you are unsure whether they can be recycled. In doubt, contact your local council to check.
- DON'T** accept paper bags at newsagencies, delis, chemists or fast food outlets unless necessary.
- DON'T** buy goods that are excessively packaged.

**Did you know...**  
that in Western Australia our recycling is currently saving more than one million tonnes of carbon dioxide being emitted every year?  
**Act Now... RECYCLE**

## What's recycling got to do with climate change?

Household kerbside recycling is making a big contribution to the improvement of our environment by

**cutting greenhouse gases.** Each time we recycle we need to mine fewer virgin materials or chop down fewer trees and this saves energy, which in turn saves greenhouse gases from being released.



If you would like to receive a complimentary 'No Junk Mail' or 'No Advertising Material' plaque for your letterbox and be in the running for an Aerobin home and garden composting system, visit: [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au) and sign up for the Waste Management Board's e-newsletter 'Zeroing In'.



If you want to read about some great recycling success stories, then visit:  
[www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)

MATERIAL	TOTAL RECYCLED in WA last year * <small>(All figures are in tonnes - approx.)</small>	ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS of Recycling Material Last Year **		
		Total CO <sub>2</sub> not emitted because material was recycled	Trees required to be planted to get same CO <sub>2</sub> benefit as recycling the material	Recycling the material equates to taking this many cars off the road
<b>METALS</b>				
Aluminium cans	1,400	23,000	34,000	4,000
Aluminium (other)	13,000	230,000	340,000	38,000
Batteries	5,300	5,700	8,000	1,000
Steel	300,000	510,000	790,000	85,000
<b>PAPER/CARDBOARD</b>				
Cardboard/paper packaging	95,000	29,000	57,000	5,000
Newsprint/magazines	87,000	40,000	70,000	7,000
Printing & writing paper	13,000	7,000	13,000	1,200
<b>ORGANICS</b>				
Timber (other than packaging)	10,000	3,000	5,000	600
Garden organics	580,000	130,000	170,000	22,000
<b>GLASS</b>				
Glass containers	18,000	11,000	16,000	1,800
<b>PLASTICS</b>				
PET (Type 1)	10,000	11,000	17,000	1,800
Mixed plastics	3,000	4,000	6,000	700
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,135,700</b>	<b>1,003,700</b>	<b>1,526,000</b>	<b>168,100</b>

\* Source: Review of Total Recycling Activity in Western Australia 2005/06 (2007)  
\*\* Emission factors used to estimate these benefits were produced for Sustainability Victoria (2005). Actual benefits for Western Australia may vary slightly.