

Emissions Reduction Fact Sheet – Circular Economy

Waste to landfill accounts for only 5% of emissions within the City of Charles Sturt community, however further emissions are generated upstream through the extraction of raw materials (mining), manufacturing new products and transporting these to the community. In addition, recycling processes also generate emissions. Understanding that materials and resources are finite, and some will never breakdown in the environment, encourages the global trend towards a 'Circular Economy'. This concept is in contrast to the current linear model of 'take-make-dispose' and encourages the community to reduce and avoid consumption in the first instance.

Residents and Businesses can support the transition to a Circular Economy, reducing waste and wider emissions associated with the consumption of materials, through the following initiatives:

1. Reduce

Avoid overconsumption and purchasing new items. Re-evaluate what you really 'need' and what you can do without. Purchase items with minimal packaging to avoid waste.

2. Reuse

Appreciate the material value in items that already exist and look for ways to retain this value by reusing and repurposing products before disposing in landfill or purchasing new.

Online 'buy, swap, sell' Marketplaces

Utilise online marketplaces such as Gumtree and Facebook to purchase and sell items second-hand.

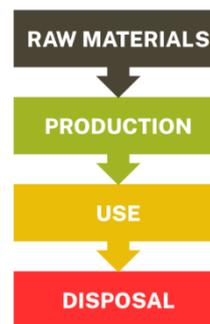
Local 'Buy Nothing' groups

Join a local 'buy nothing' group to share or gift items.

Op Shops and Second-Hand Stores

Buy and donate items through second-hand shops, supporting the community through charity.

LINEAR MODEL



CIRCULAR MODEL



3. Repair

Give broken products a second life by repairing and mending. There are many Repair Cafes around Adelaide (see resources) run by volunteers with varying skills that can assist in repairs of electronics, clothing, jewellery, shoes and furniture.

4. Recycle

Where items cannot be reused or repaired, look for ways to recycle before disposing in landfill.

E-Waste

Officeworks and Bunnings stores have electronic waste recycling collection.

Low-Cost Quick Wins

- Buy second-hand items from online marketplaces, stores and 'buy nothing' groups
- Utilise Repair Cafes to mend/fix broken items rather than purchasing new
- Carefully separate recyclables and food/garden waste into the correct bins

Plastic bottles, cans, cardboard and paper

Many of these common items can be recycled in the yellow lidded bin for kerbside collection. Bottles and cans can also be taken to local recyclers for a 10-cent refund under the Container Deposit Scheme.

Hard-to-Recycle items

A group of residents have created a hard-to-recycle collection point at 19 on Green Community Centre in Brompton and Hindmarsh Library for eyeglasses, mobile phones, x-rays, writing items, oral hygiene, e-waste and polystyrene. In addition, blister packs from medications can be recycled at National Pharmacies stores.

5. Food and Organic Waste

Food waste accounts for 3% of Australia's total emissions and 7.6 million tonnes of food is wasted each year, of which 70% of this is perfectly edible. Utilise the green lidded organics bin to dispose of food and garden waste and other certified compostable items including packaging.

6. Contamination

A key barrier to recycling and the recovery of resources is contamination, which makes the sorting and separation of different waste streams difficult, resulting in recyclable items ending up in landfill. 53.3% of waste placed in the red lidded landfill bin could be recycled or composted. Utilise the 'Which Bin SA' website to ensure that waste items are placed in the correct kerbside recycling bin to maximise recycling and composting opportunity.

EXAMPLE: Using the Kitchen Caddy and green lidded bin for all food scraps and organics, including garden waste.

Emissions Reduction: If every household diverted food and organic waste from landfill, utilising the green lidded organics bin, 115,000t CO₂-e total emissions reduction can be achieved by 2030.



More Resources

Which Bin SA

<https://www.whichbin.sa.gov.au/>

Adelaide Repair Café

<https://makerspaceadelaide.org/making/adelaide-repair-cafe/>

Sustainable West

<https://www.sustainablecommunitiessa.org.au/projects/sustainable-west/>

Adelaide Sustainability Centre

<https://www.adelaidesustainabilitycentre.org.au/projects/repair-cafes/>

