

## Have Your Say Knox

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# Draft Waste and Resource Strategy

A huge transformation of the waste and resource recovery sector is underway. You've told us that reducing environmental impact is important and this is one of the key directions in the *Knox Community Plan (2021-2031)* and the *Knox Council Plan (2021 – 2025)*. The state government also requires us to change some of our services, with targets to reduce waste and divert as much from landfill.

Across the state, change to waste management is being driven by the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria policy released in February 2020. This policy describes the most substantial changes to waste management across the state in decades, including changes to Council kerbside bin services. This policy applies the new principle of a circular economy to waste management, where the value of material is recognised and kept in use as long as possible.

The purpose of the Waste and Resource Strategy 2023 – 2030 is to set a clear direction and vision for the future of waste and resource recovery across Knox. The strategy seeks to strike a balance between the community's future priorities, regulatory requirements and targets, the need to deliver waste services which are both financially and environmentally sustainable, and navigate the challenges and opportunities facing the sector. It includes goals, aims, targets and high-level commitments for Council and community to drive the future direction of waste and resource management.

It supports delivery of the Knox Council Plan 2021-2025, and Knox Community Plan 2021-2031 goals. In developing the strategy feedback was sought from the community in August 2022 on current and future waste and resource recovery services in Knox. The draft Implementation Plan further details the specific actions for Council for each of the goals identified in the Strategy.

### Challenges and opportunities

The waste sector faces complex challenges, but they provide opportunities to change how we have been operating.

This includes:

- Landfill capacity in Melbourne's southeast expected to reach capacity within 5 years. We need to investigate options on how to best manage this waste stream.
- Implement changes to kerbside bin services
- Contamination of resource streams poses a hazard, impacts quality of recycled products or compost, and in some instances has financial impacts.
- Financial considerations such as increased costs to transport, process and dispose of waste and resources.
- Climate change considerations

To have your say on the Draft Waste and Resources Strategy please visit [knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay](https://knox.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay) call us on 9298 8000 or email [talkingrubbish@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:talkingrubbish@knox.vic.gov.au) for a hard copy of the survey to be mailed to you.

|               | <b>Goal 1<br/>AVOID WASTE</b>   | <b>Goal 2:<br/>RECOVER MORE<br/>FROM OUR WASTE</b>   | <b>Goal 3:<br/>ENGAGE AND<br/>EMPOWER OUR<br/>COMMUNITY</b>  | <b>Goal 4:<br/>CARE FOR OUR<br/>ENIRONMENT</b>                                    |
|---------------|---|--|--|---|
| <b>AIM</b>    | Avoid waste where possible and reduce how much waste we generate            | Maximise resource recovery and minimise waste to landfill  | Engage and empower our community to make informed decisions about waste and resource recovery  | Keep our local environment clean and manage our closed landfills                  |
|               |   |  |  |   |
| <b>TARGET</b> | Cut total waste generation per capita in Knox by 15% between 2020 and 2030* | Divert 80% of waste collected in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030: interim target of 72% by 2025*                             | Increase the number of recycling bins with no contamination from bin inspection program to 80% by 2030; interim target of 72% by 2025                  | By 2030 reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and litter complaints by 20% |
|               |   | By 2030, reduce the volume of organic material going to landfill to 50% of 2020 levels; interim target of 20% reduction by 2025* | Increase the number of food and garden bins with no contamination from bin inspection program by 25% from 2023 levels; interim increase of 10% by 2025 | Annually complete all required monitoring and reporting at closed landfill sites  |
|               |   | Every household in Knox has access to a separate food and organics recovery service by 2030*                                     |  |   |
|               |   | Every household in Knox has access to either new glass bin or service by 2027 (option TBC)*                                      |  |   |

|                             | <b>Goal 1<br/>AVOID WASTE</b>   | <b>Goal 2:<br/>RECOVER MORE<br/>FROM OUR WASTE</b>  | <b>Goal 3:<br/>ENGAGE AND<br/>EMPOWER OUR<br/>COMMUNITY</b>  | <b>Goal 4:<br/>CARE FOR OUR<br/>ENIRONMENT</b>         |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| <b>WHAT COUNCIL WILL DO</b> | Promote & support the use of reusable products including nappies, sanitary items & incontinence products                      | Transition kerbside services to align with household recycling reforms in RV policy                 | Provide our community with easily accessible information & data on waste & resource recovery services  | Take steps to reduce litter & illegally dumped rubbish |
|                             | Support National Plastics Plan 2021 & phase out problematic & un-necessary single-use plastics in Council offices & buildings | Identify opportunities to maximise the recovery of resources  | Educate our community, local businesses & staff on waste avoidance, waste reduction & resource recovery with easily accessible & engaging programs | Manage our closed landfill sites                       |
|                             | Support local business, community groups & organisations to avoid & reduce waste  | Build capacity to increase the use of recycled content in goods purchased by Council                |  |  |
|                             | Advocate to national and state governments for a focus on improved waste outcomes for Knox residents                          | Work with other councils & government agencies on purchasing & resource recovery initiatives        |  |  |
|                             |   | Secure long term options for residual waste collected throughout Knox as an alternative to landfill |  |  |

\*RV policy targets