



Recycling in Australia

An accountant's perspective

Kerbside Recycling

- Cardboard/Paper
- Glass
- Aluminium
- Steel
- Plastic
- Green Waste
- Food and Organics

Drop-off Recycling

- Mattresses
- Polystyrene
- E-Waste
- Tyres
- Batteries
- Chemicals

Return to Manufacturer (close the loop)

- Printer Cartridges

Cardboard/Paper

1. First in process (backbone of industry)
2. Ease of Recycling
3. Cost savings over raw material (wood pulp)
4. Finite Recycling life
5. Once huge export markets, now reduced
6. Domestic capacity
7. Commodity value \$50-250/t

Plastics

1. By-product of petroleum manufacturing
2. 7 common types, 3 common in packaging
3. Difficult to recycle/low rates of recycling
4. Few downstream recyclers in Australia
5. Recovered last in the process
5. Environmental catastrophe!
7. Commodity value – almost worthless

Glass

1. Infinitely recyclable
2. Mature Local industry
3. Cost savings over raw material (silica/soda ash)
4. No export market
5. 56% of consumer glass recycled
6. Easily contaminated
7. Commodity value \$0-70/t

Steel and Aluminium

1. Infinitely recyclable
2. Mature Local industry
3. Cost savings over raw material (silica/soda ash)
4. High demand for exports (aluminium)
5. 88% of consumer packaging recycled
6. High commodity value: \$1,000t for aluminium

FOGO

1. Successful pilot completed
2. Removing food and organics from Landfill (50% of waste bin)
3. Processed into compost and used in commercial landscaping and agriculture
4. Cost savings and better environmental outcomes

The Eden Project

1. Reclaiming coal mine for environmental tourism
2. Highly successful eco-tourism attraction based in Cornwall, England
3. Currently out for community consultation

Our industry challenges

1. National problem needs national solutions
2. Parliamentary inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management
3. Lack of competition in recycling industry/rising costs
4. Lack of product stewardship and downstream industries
5. Increasingly complex & costly management of Landfills
6. No political mandate
7. No Container deposit scheme in Victoria