

Waste Education Guide

Introduction

In February 2020, the Victoria Government released Recycling Victoria (RV), a policy that is supported by a \$300 million investment, to transform our recycling sector and drive investment in world-class infrastructure and technology, create cutting-edge local industries and support thousands of new local jobs.

With the introduction of RV, the Victorian Government's priorities for waste education have been reset.

The policy outlines the Government's direction and priorities for waste and recycling, including waste education, over the next 10 years.

As a result, the Victorian Waste Education Strategy (VWES) is no longer the reference document for State Government priorities. RV has superseded the strategy and will provide a strategic, coordinated approach to waste education, building on the actions and objectives identified in the VWES.

The VWES was first developed as part of a suite of strategies that, together with the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan, aimed to prioritise and deliver waste and resource recovery initiatives in Victoria.

Sustainability Victoria (SV) values the work and contribution from the community, schools, businesses and government in creating this strategy, and will reference its purpose, vision and guiding principles in new programs.

This guide presents SV's transition from the VWES to the delivery of RV actions.

Corresponding Recycling Victoria programs

RV's waste education priorities can be found under Statewide Education Programs (2.3) in the policy. These include:

- › avoid minimise waste, and reuse, repair and share products
- › kerbside waste and recycling services
- › Love Food Hate Waste
- › support more informed consumer decisions.

Under RV, SV will continue to:

- › support best practice programs so the Victorian community is well informed and taking practical action to reduce waste
- › increase understanding of the importance of effective waste management and recovery of valuable resources.

Key components of the Strategy

SV will continue to utilise the VWES strategic directions to guide its resource recovery and waste education programs under RV.

Purpose: To provide a statewide coordinated approach to waste and resource recovery education that supports best practice programs.

Vision: The Victorian community is well informed and taking practical action to reduce waste, minimise its environmental impact and maximise its value. The Victorian community understands the importance of effective waste management and recovery of valuable resources.

Strategic directions				
1 Increase the Victorian community and business perception of waste management as an essential service	2 Increase community awareness of waste and support and encourage waste avoidance	3 Improve resource recovery and reduce contamination	4 Reduce litter and illegal dumping	5 Strengthen Victoria's waste and resource recovery education capabilities
Goals				
Waste management is seen as an essential service by the community and businesses	Reduce Victoria's waste generation rates	Improve resource recovery and reduce contamination of waste streams	Reduce littering and illegal dumping	Efficient and effective program delivery with our delivery partners
Outcomes				
<p>Best practice community engagement approaches identified</p> <p>Understand the components of the social licence to operate theory for the resource recovery and waste sector</p> <p>Waste management is seen as an essential service by community and business</p>	<p>Programs to reduce food waste from households and businesses</p> <p>Programs to increase business efficiencies to reduce waste generation</p>	<p>Major contaminants identified for waste and resource recovery streams</p> <p>Targeted interventions and programs to reduce contamination from high risk contaminants and associated behaviours</p>	<p>Regional and local strategies to target litter and illegal dumping identified and tested</p> <p>Increased awareness by waste generators of their obligations to the disposal of industrial waste</p> <p>Strong evidence base for litter and illegal dumping interventions</p>	<p>Work with delivery partners in local government, the waste industry and other organisations to deliver on Victoria's waste and resource recovery education priorities</p> <p>Deliver effective statewide programs and campaigns</p>

Guiding principles

We have six guiding principles that underpin our approach to project and program design.

Principle	Description
Environmental justice	Environmental justice is based on the concepts of equity and participation. Environmental benefits and impacts should be distributed proportionately and affected communities should be able to participate in decision making. This principle underpins all other principles and will be incorporated into how we design and deliver projects.
Form partnerships	Bring together diverse skills and resources from different organisations for more effective project and program delivery. Adopt an open and inclusive process of collaboration with stakeholders to find solutions for issues/problems.
Be transparent	Be open about decision making, share what is happening and provide progress updates. Communicate to stakeholders on our successes and failures.
Lead by example	<p>As part of environmental management systems already in place, state government will lead on waste management and waste and resource recovery education within all departments and agencies.</p> <p>The portfolio sets the agenda and direction for waste and resource recovery education programs for the state and coordinates with our partners for project and program delivery.</p>
Research and innovate	Ensure all projects are evidence based. Use research to understand the behaviour change process and drive innovation. Pilot and test new ways of working. Evaluate and learn from what does and does not work.
Support and facilitate others	Support and facilitate others to continuously improve. Recognise and build on the achievements of partners. Share what has worked well and what has not.