City of STONNINGTON

DRAFT

Circular and Resource Conscious Action Plan

Action Plan 2026-2029

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Statement of commitment to Australia's First Peoples

Council acknowledges that the people of the Kulin Nations are the Traditional Custodians of the land now known as Stonnington, and that they have strived to retain their identity and cultures through more than two hundred years of dispossession and colonisation.

We recognise and accept our responsibility to learn from, and promote the intrinsic value of, First Peoples cultural values, knowledges, heritage, and contemporary aspirations to the wider Stonnington community. We understand that doing so will enrich our shared heritage, culture, and the health of community and Country.

Council respects the special relationship the people of the Kulin Nations have to Country in Stonnington, and we recognise and commit to protecting sacred sites and significant places.

Why are we planning for a circular and resource-conscious Stonnington?

The products and materials we use every day draw on natural resources, energy and water. Too often, they are used briefly and then discarded. This creates waste, contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and places growing pressure on finite resources.

In Stonnington, these impacts are visible in the amount of material sent to landfill and through litter and dumped rubbish in our streets, parks and waterways. Other impacts occur well beyond our municipality, through the extraction, manufacture and transport of the things we buy and use. While they are much harder to measure, the greenhouse gas emissions associated with lifecycles of the things we buy and use every day are likely to be greater that the more obvious emissions associated with electricity, gas and fuel.

A circular and resource-conscious approach aims to avoid waste from the outset and keep products and materials in use for longer. It means making thoughtful choices about what we buy, designing things to last, and sharing, maintaining, repairing and reusing what we already have. When materials can no longer be used, we need to recover their value wherever possible and dispose of what remains responsibly.

The Victorian Government's waste and recycling reforms provide an important foundation for recovering more materials and reducing landfill. However, recycling alone will not create a circular economy. It also depends on the choices made long before products and materials reach our bins.

Council has an important role to play through how we manage our operations, what we purchase, how we construct our buildings and infrastructure, and how we deliver waste services and community programs. Many decisions about product design, packaging, manufacturing and recycling systems sit outside our direct control. Progress depends on governments, businesses, community organisations and households all playing their part.

Sustainable Stonnington 2040 establishes our long-term direction for a circular and resource-conscious Stonnington. This Action Plan sets out the steps we will take over the next three years to reduce waste through Council operations and services, embed circular thinking in our assets and infrastructure, and help our community make more sustainable and resource-conscious choices.



Delivering Sustainable Stonnington 2040

This Action Plan is one of five that support delivery of our environment strategy, Sustainable Stonnington 2040.

Alongside this Action Plan, the suite includes:

- Resilient, Adaptable and Empowered Stonnington 2026-2029
- Climate Positive Stonnington 2026-2029
- Water Sensitive and Flood Ready Stonnington 2026-2029
- Biodiverse, Green and Connected Stonnington 2026-2029

These five Action Plans are designed to work together – actions delivered through one will often support the outcomes in others.

What do we mean by circular and resource-conscious?

Our economy has traditionally followed a **linear model** – resources are extracted, made into products, used and then discarded. A **circular approach** seeks to prevent waste and keep products and materials in use for as long as possible. This includes designing things to last, sharing, maintaining, repairing, reusing and repurposing them, and recovering materials through recycling or composting when they can no longer be used.

Being resource conscious means considering the resources and impacts involved in the choices we make. It includes questioning whether something is needed, choosing durable and lower-impact options, making the most of what we already have and disposing of unwanted items responsibly.

The two ideas work together: resource conscious decisions help create a more circular, sustainable system.

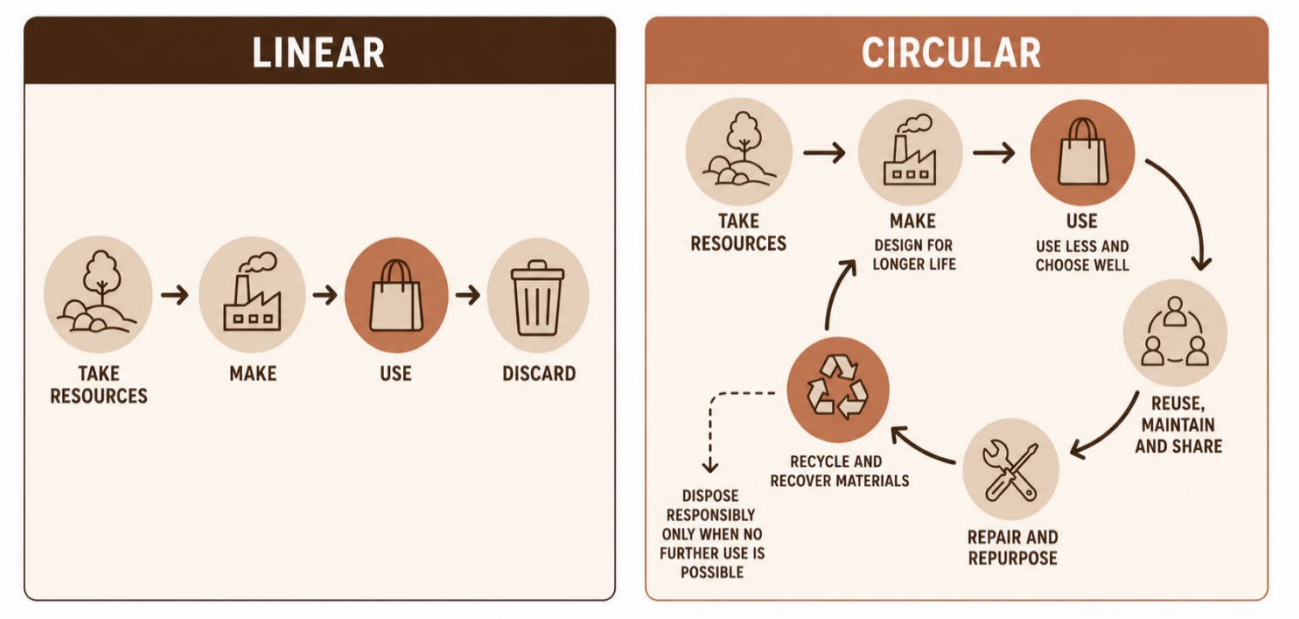


Figure 1. *The difference between a linear and circular economy.*

Materials that matter

All materials have value, but some waste streams warrant particular attention because of the amount generated, their environmental impacts, the resources embedded in them or the difficulty of recovering them. These examples show where circular and resource conscious choices can make a particular difference.

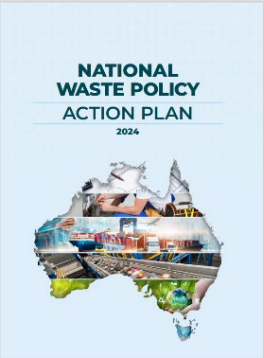


Waste and circular economy reforms

Australia is undergoing significant change in how waste and resources are managed, with greater emphasis on preventing waste, recovering valuable materials and creating more consistent and reliable recycling systems.

Across Australia

The **National Waste Policy** and its 2024 Action Plan guide Australia's transition towards a circular economy. Current priorities include:



- Reducing the amount of waste generated
- Increasing resource recovery and the use of recycled materials
- Phasing out problematic and unnecessary plastics
- Strengthening local recycling infrastructure and markets
- Making businesses more responsible for the products and packaging they place on the market

National controls on the export of unprocessed waste materials are also intended to encourage greater recycling and processing within Australia.

In Victoria

The ***Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*** is driving major changes to household waste and recycling services. These include:



- A standard four-stream system covering rubbish, mixed recycling, glass, and food and garden organics
- Consistent bin-lid colours and accepted materials
- Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme
- Regulation and investment intended to strengthen recycling and reduce reliance on landfill

What this means for Stonnington

For Stonnington, these reforms will reshape how household materials are collected and recovered.

This Action Plan also addresses the decisions and systems that sit before collection – what we buy, how long products and materials remain in use, and whether waste can be avoided in the first place.

Who contributes to circularity and sustainable consumption in Stonnington?

Creating a circular and resource conscious Stonnington is a shared responsibility. Decisions made throughout the life of a product, from its design and manufacture to how it is bought, used, reused and eventually discarded, determine how many resources are consumed and how much waste is created.

Australian Government

Sets national policy, legislation and standards that influence how products and packaging are designed, manufactured, sold and managed when no longer needed. It also regulates waste exports, supports recycling infrastructure and can make producers more responsible for the products they place on the market.

Victorian Government

Sets the legislation, standards and policy direction for waste, recycling and the circular economy in Victoria. It regulates the waste and recycling sector, establishes requirements for household services, manages the Container Deposit Scheme and invests in infrastructure and market development.

Local government

Provides household waste and recycling services, community drop-off facilities and education, and manages litter and dumped rubbish. Councils can also reduce resource use through procurement methods, buildings, infrastructure and service delivery, support local circular initiatives and advocate for broader system change

Developers

Influence how resources are used across the design, construction, operation, refurbishment and demolition of buildings and precincts. Their decisions affect material use and waste, building durability and adaptability, and whether materials can be recovered and reused.

Businesses and industry

Influence what products and services are available, how they are designed and packaged, and the resources used throughout supply chains. Businesses can reduce waste through purchasing and operational choices and by offering durable, repairable, reusable and shared products and services.

Community

Community organisations, groups, households and individuals help keep products and materials in use through everyday purchasing choices, sharing, maintaining, repairing, reusing and recycling. They also lead and participate in local initiatives such as repair cafés, libraries of things, food growing, composting and litter clean-ups.

Where we are now

Waste and recycling in Stonnington

Stonnington provides household rubbish, mixed recycling, food and garden organics (FOGO), hard waste and a range of specialist recycling and drop-off services. Stonnington's universal FOGO service is being introduced in stages. The service was extended to standalone homes in 2026, with rollout to apartments and other multi-unit dwellings planned for 2027.

The Stonnington Waste Transfer Station, community recycling stations and FOGO drop-off points provide additional options for materials that cannot be collected through standard household bins. These services are particularly important given so many people in Stonnington live in apartments or homes with limited space for bins.

7,600 tonnes
Mixed recycling collected (2025)

5,608 tonnes
FOGO collected (2025-26)
↑11% from previous year

912 tonnes
Hard waste collected, with 77% sent to landfill (2021-2025)

94 tonnes
E-waste and other materials recovered (2025-26)

40.7%
Kerbside waste diverted from landfill (2025-26)

27%
Recycling contamination rate - standalone homes (2024)

29%
Recycling contamination rate – apartments/units (2024)

7.4%
FOGO contamination Victorian average: 3.7% (2024)



Stonnington now has a broad network for collecting and recovering unwanted materials, but access to services is only part of the picture. Most kerbside waste is still sent to landfill, contamination reduces what can be recovered from mixed recycling, and much of the material collected through booked hard waste could potentially be reused or recycled. Materials left outside these services can also become litter or dumped rubbish in streets and other public places.

Dumped rubbish

Dumped rubbish affect the cleanliness, safety and amenity of Stonnington's streets, parks and public spaces. It can enter drains and waterways, harm wildlife, obstruct footpaths and divert potentially reusable or recyclable materials from appropriate services.

Furniture, mattresses, e-waste and other bulky household items are among the materials commonly left on streets, nature strips or beside public and charity bins. Some of these items remain usable or contain materials that could be recovered, but exposure to weather or damage can quickly remove opportunities for reuse.

86%
Increase in reported dumped rubbish (2018-2025)

6,000+
Dumped rubbish requests (2025)

$430,000
Spent each year responding to reports (2025 estimate)

Not all incidents have the same cause. Some dumping is deliberate and requires investigation and enforcement. Other incidents may reflect confusion about hard waste services, uncertainty about what can be left on a nature strip, or a lack of awareness of available drop-off and recycling services.

Council responds to reports, removes dumped material and provides hard-waste and drop-off services to make correct disposal easier. Information, investigation and enforcement are also used where appropriate.

More consistent information about the materials being dumped, recurring locations and contributing factors is needed to distinguish between different causes and understand where prevention, service improvements, education or enforcement could be most effective.



THE IMPACT OF LITTER

Small items can cause big problems for our environment

Litter has impacts on our environment far beyond the location where it is first dropped. Wind, rain and stormwater can carry litter from our streets, shopping centres, parks, and construction sites into our drainage system, waterways, habitat areas, and other parts of our local environment.

Over time, materials break down into smaller pieces that can remain in soil and water for decades, leach toxic chemicals, and impact ecosystem health. Wildlife can also become entangled in litter, or confuse it for food or nesting material, which can cause injury, illness, and even death.

The most littered items in Stonnington include polystyrene and cigarette butts, followed by food and drink containers. These quickly turn into microplastics in the environment.

Many of these items could be reused, recycled through kerbside bins or via the container deposit scheme (CDS). Many should be avoided in the first place.

Community groups and local environmental organisations such as Love Our Streets, the Port Phillip EcoCentre, the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration, and the Yarra Riverkeeper are doing extraordinary work to pick-up litter, track trends, and identify sources to build our collective understanding of potential interventions.

However, preventing litter from entering the environment is the most effective solution in the long-term.

The challenges of managing waste in apartments

Almost three-quarters (74.6%) of Stonnington's housing is medium or high density, which makes apartment waste and recycling a central consideration or Stonnington. This proportion is likely to grow with the Victorian Government's activity centre planning program and target of 50,000 additional homes in Stonnington by 2051.

Waste and recycling can be more difficult in apartments and other multi-unit developments because of:

- Limited space for bins and bulky item storage
- Shared bins and waste rooms
- Different building layouts and collection arrangements
- Private waste services in some developments
- Frequent changes in residents
- Greater difficulty providing information and feedback to everyone using the bins

These conditions can contribute to contamination and make introducing additional collection streams more complex. Services and information need to respond to the layout, management arrangements and needs of each building.

Conscious consumption

Most environmental impacts associated with the products and materials we choose to buy occur long before the item is discarded or needs repairing. Energy and water, and other resources are used all throughout an item's lifecycle, from extraction and manufacturing, to transport, packaging, and storage.

As a result, the choices we make about what we buy, use and consume can have a significant influence on waste generation, greenhouse gas emissions, natural resource use, and the health of ecosystems far and wide. By making conscious decisions about what we do and don't buy in the first place, and by choosing sustainably made products made from responsibly sourced materials, and which are locally made, durable, reusable and repairable, we can:



Reduce our environmental impact



Conserve natural resources



Save money



Support local circular economies



Keep materials in use for longer



Limit what we send to landfill

CONSUMPTION SPOTLIGHT

Australia's fast fashion problem

According to Australian Fashion Council, every year Australian's purchase an average of 56 new items and discard an average of 23kg of clothing - each. This puts us among the highest consumers of clothing, and the highest generators of textile waste, in the world.

The production of textiles has a huge environmental impact, requiring significant amounts of water, energy, raw materials, and chemicals. Many synthetic fabrics like polyester and nylon are made from fossil-fuel based plastics, which can also shed microplastics when washed.

Tackling this issue requires action from everyone. Consumers can buy less, choose durable products and embrace repair and second-hand options, while governments, producers and retailers can support product stewardship through better product design, repairability, take-back schemes and transparent textile recycling programs.

Local repair, reuse and sharing

Waste and recycling services deal with products and materials once they are no longer wanted. A circular approach starts earlier, by avoiding unnecessary purchases and helping people share, maintain, repair, reuse or repurpose what they already have.

These practices are already taking place across Stonnington. Council and community organisations provide activities covering waste reduction, repair, reuse and recycling.

34

Council-supported events in 2025-26

→

4,000 +

Participants engaged in waste reduction, repair, reuse and recycling

Local repairers, second-hand retailers, charities, online marketplaces and informal sharing between neighbours also help keep products in use. However, Council does not yet have a complete picture of the amount of material circulating through these channels or the products for which local repair and reuse options are most limited.

Current participation shows there is community interest in circular practices, but these activities remain modest compared with the volume of products and materials moving through Stonnington. Affordability, convenience, access to information, practical skills, storage and transport can all affect whether repair, reuse and sharing are realistic options for different households.

CIRCULARITY IN PRACTICE

Phoenix Park Repair Café

Repair cafés are part of a global movement that brings people together to share skills, knowledge and tools to repair everyday items rather than throw them away. By helping people repair and reuse household items, repair cafés reduce waste, save money and strengthen community connections.



In 2024, we trialled a series of six repair events through our libraries that brought together skilled volunteers and community members to repair clothing, electronics, jewellery, household items and more. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Across six events, volunteers repaired 104 items and diverted more than 100 kilograms of material from landfill.



The program also helped recruit and train a new generation of repair volunteers, creating the foundations for a lasting community-led initiative.

Building on this success, Phoenix Park Neighbourhood House took over the program in 2025 with support from Council. Between August 2025 and June 2026, 148 items were successfully repaired across nine events, preventing almost 175 kilograms of waste from entering landfill.

Today, the Phoenix Park Repair Café is fully operated by Phoenix Park Neighbourhood House and runs regularly supported by a passionate team of local volunteers who continue to help residents repair, reuse and rethink waste – one item at a time.

Circularity and sustainable procurement in Council operations and projects

Council manages a diverse portfolio of buildings, roads, footpaths, parks, drainage infrastructure and public spaces. We also purchase products and services and operate workplaces, community facilities, venues and events. The choices we make through these activities influence how many resources we use, how long products and assets remain useful, and what happens to materials when they are no longer needed.

Sustainability is already considered through Council's procurement, asset management and project delivery practices. This can include use of recycled and lower-impact materials, maintenance and repair of existing assets, and recovery and reuse of materials during construction and renewal works. Waste separation and resource recovery measures are also in place across Council's operations, buildings, venues and events.

Initiatives such as enhanced standards and guidance for choosing circular and resource conscious materials, as well as central databases of materials and equipment available reuse in Council projects, can further strengthen Council's approach to circularity in our operations.

Cost, availability, technical performance, safety and maintenance requirements all influence which materials can be used. Clearer information and more consistent standards will also help Council identify where circular choices offer the greatest practical and environmental benefit.



What we heard from you

Through the Sustainable Stonnington 2040 engagement process, community members and local stakeholders shared how they currently reduce waste and use resources more consciously, the actions they would like to take and the support that would help them do more.

Reducing waste and using resources responsibly was among the leading priorities raised at community pop-ups. Most survey respondents said they already used FOGO (68%), bought locally made, ethically produced or second-hand items (70%), avoided single-use plastics (82%), and took difficult-to-recycle materials to collection points (87%).

There was strong interest in sharing and repair initiatives and renting, hiring or borrowing instead of buying new. The needs of apartment residents and renters were raised repeatedly, particularly around access to FOGO, storage, shared waste systems and understanding available services.

Common priorities and action ideas



Reduce food waste and use FOGO, composting or worm farms



Reduce single-use plastics and choose products with less packaging



Choose locally made, ethically produced or second-hand products



Repair, reuse, swap, share and borrow household items



Recycle correctly and use collection points for difficult materials



Prevent and report litter and dumped rubbish

Barriers	How Council can help
Unsure where to start or where to find information	▶ Provide clear, practical and accessible information, including step-by-step advice and simple actions, through channels people are already using. ▶ Use consistent signage and guidance across recycling, FOGO, hard waste and specialist services.
Lack of time, inconvenience and competing priorities	▶ Provide services, programs and resources that are convenient and easy to fit into everyday life. ▶ Make collection points and local opportunities easy to find and use.
Limited space or ability to make changes at home	▶ Tailor information and support for renters, apartment residents and people using shared waste systems. ▶ Improve awareness of services that do not depend on having space for additional bins or storage.
Affordability	▶ Provide free or low-cost programs, resources and incentives. ▶ Promote affordable ways to repair, reuse, share and borrow.
Limited awareness of opportunities	▶ Promote local repair, reuse, sharing, donation and specialist recycling options, including existing community-led initiatives.

Where we're headed

A circular and resource-conscious Stonnington is one where we use less, choose well and keep products and materials in use for as long as possible. Sharing, maintaining, repairing and reusing are part of everyday life, useful materials are recovered, and less is lost to landfill, litter and dumped rubbish.

Sustainable Stonnington 2040 sets our long-term direction for how we will care for our environment and support a sustainable, resilient Stonnington. Over the next three years, we will strengthen waste and resource recovery services, improve how Council buys, uses and manages materials across its operations and assets, and make it easier for our community to repair, reuse, share and dispose of unwanted materials responsibly.

We will also advocate for the policy settings, infrastructure and industry action needed to improve product design, reduce unnecessary packaging and strengthen resource recovery systems beyond Council's direct control.

Some initiatives in this Action Plan are expected to provide direct benefits within its three-year timeframe. Others will strengthen the evidence, planning, processes and partnerships needed to guide future investment and ensure our response becomes more targeted and effective over time. Both are important.

Part of a bigger picture

A circular and resource-conscious Stonnington relies on work across the wider Sustainable Stonnington 2040 suite.

- Our **Resilient, Adaptable and Empowered Action Plan** strengthens community preparedness and connections, helping people respond to disruptions and rising costs
- Our **Climate Positive Action Plan** tackles the emissions and energy use at the root of a changing climate, including across supply chains.
- Our **Water Sensitive and Flood Ready Action Plan** guides how we use water wisely and keep litter and pollution out of drains and waterways.
- Our **Biodiverse, Green and Connected Action Plan** strengthens canopy, habitat and biodiversity – the natural systems that resource use and pollution can affect.

These plans reinforce one another and deliver shared benefits for our environment and community.

Our approach

Our approach is guided by Victoria's waste management hierarchy. It ranks ways of managing waste from most to least preferred: avoiding waste first, followed by reuse, recycling, energy recovery and safe containment, with disposal as the last resort.

The three focus areas in this Action Plan apply this thinking by prioritising options higher in the hierarchy wherever practical.



Figure X: source xx

Ongoing activities

Circularity and resource-consciousness are already embedded across a range of Council services, plans, partnerships and programs. The activities below reflect the work we already deliver as part of our core business. They provide an important foundation for the new actions in this Action Plan and will continue alongside them.



Sustainable and circular assets and procurement

We apply circular economy and sustainability principles in the maintenance, renewal and replacement of Council facilities and other assets and in our procurement of goods and services.

We use recycled, recovered and sustainably sourced materials in our capital works projects where possible, while also working to maximise reuse, recycling and recovery of materials as part of demolition works.

Our approach includes embedding sustainability and circularity requirements in our service and supply contracts and purchases and encouraging innovation and continuous improvement in our supply chains.



Quality services

We deliver a range of waste and resource recovery services that help residents, businesses and visitors manage materials responsibly and reduce waste sent to landfill.

This includes kerbside general rubbish, recycling and FOGO collections, food waste drop-off sites, hard waste services, public place waste and recycling bins, recycling station for hard-to-recycle items, street cleaning, dumped rubbish and litter management, and the operation of our Waste Transfer Station.

We continually track international, national and local innovations and trends, community needs and emerging technologies to identify opportunities to improve resource recovery, reduce waste and deliver better community and environmental outcomes.



Encouraging sustainable and circular development

We consider circularity and overall sustainability outcomes when making decisions about the use and development of land. This includes promoting building and precinct design that incorporates recycled, low-carbon and sustainable materials, good design, and responsible construction management practices.

Through participation in collaborations such as Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) we share knowledge and resources and collectively advocate for stronger planning and building requirements where controls sit with the Victorian Government.



Working with partners to extend our influence

We regularly collaborate with other Victorian councils, community organisations, state government agencies, research institutions and industry groups to advance circular economy and sustainable consumption outcomes in Stonnington and beyond.

This includes collaborative advocacy, joint research and grant projects, shared education and behaviour change initiatives, knowledge sharing, and participation in regional and state-wide programs and networks.



Supporting our community

We encourage residents, businesses, schools, community organisations and local groups to reduce waste, litter and pollution, recycle and recover resources, consume more consciously and participate in the circular economy through delivering educational events, resources and programs.

This includes supporting local community-led repair, reuse, sharing, composting, food growing, litter collection and other circular economy initiatives.



Understanding our impact through data

We monitor and report on service performance, including landfill diversion, resource recovery rates, contamination, and overall volumes. Our approach includes a combination of contractor and inhouse data, bin inspections and audits.

Over time, this will expand to include improved monitoring and tracking of circular and resource conscious outcomes across our capital works projects, procurement, and service contracts.

What you can do

Alongside the work of governments and organisations, there are practical actions people can take in their homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

We recognise that not every action is possible for every person, household or group. The suggestions below are options people can choose according to their circumstances.



In your home

Whether to purchase something, what we choose, how long we use it and what we do when it is no longer wanted all make a difference. You can:

- Research what you buy and where you buy it from to ensure you can make conscious purchasing decisions that balance needs with impacts
- Plan meals, use leftovers and place unavoidable food scraps in a home composting system, FOGO, a food-waste drop-off
- Choose durable, reusable and repairable products, and consider second-hand, borrowed or rented options before buying new
- Avoid unnecessary packaging and single-use products by choosing reusable or refillable alternatives, and buying products in bulk
- Repair, donate, swap or sell items before using hard waste or disposing of them
- Use Council's online Waste and Recycling Guide and specialist services to dispose safely and recover batteries, e-waste, paint, chemicals and other difficult materials.



In your neighbourhood

Sharing products, knowledge and services locally can save money, reduce storage needs and keep useful items circulating. You can:

- Share, swap or borrow items with neighbours and through local sharing groups
- Use local repair, donation and recycling services before choosing disposal
- If you live in an apartment, learn how your shared waste system works and help others find clear information about available services
- Use public litter bins and report dumped rubbish, overflowing bins or other waste issues to Council.



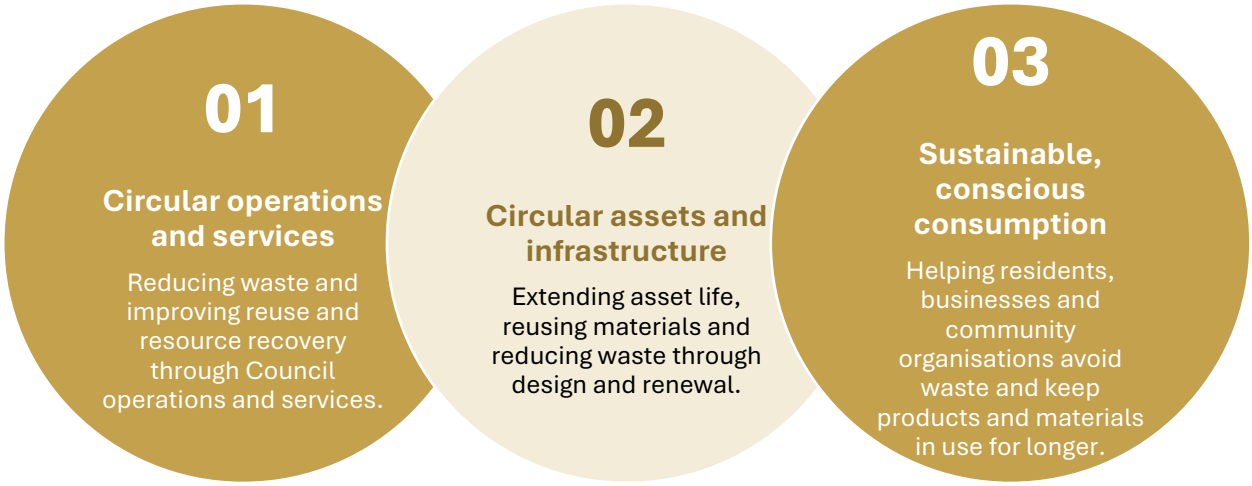
In your community

Community groups, businesses and collective action can make circular choices easier and more accessible. You can:

- Visit or volunteer with a Repair Café, toy library, community garden or other local sharing initiative
- Take part in swap events, repair workshops, community clean-ups and waste-education activities
- Support businesses that offer durable, repairable, reusable or low-packaging products and services
- Encourage workplaces, schools, sporting clubs and community organisations to avoid waste, reuse equipment and recycle correctly
- Advocate to governments and businesses for less unnecessary packaging, better repair options, and products designed to last and be reused or recycled.

Our focus for the next three years

Creating a circular and resource-conscious Stonnington requires action across Council operations, businesses and community. This Action Plan is organised around three connected focus areas that support circularity and sustainable consumption within Council operations and services, assets and infrastructure, and across the community.



Reading the action tables

Each focus area includes an action table setting out what we will deliver over the next three years. For each action:

TIMING shows when an action is expected to begin, progress or be completed during the Action Plan. Key:

- ● Active years
- ○ Years where the action is not yet underway or has been completed

Note: Years refers to financial years, with 'Year 1' of this plan being financial year 2026-27.

COST provides a high-level indication of the likely scale of investment required. Key:

- Deliverable within existing staff resources
- **$** Low - less than $50,000 per year
- **$$** Medium - approximately $50,000 to $250,000 per year
- **$$$** High - greater than $250,000 per year, generally associated with capital works or multi-site delivery programs

Note: Cost estimates are indicative and intended to guide planning. Funding decisions are considered through Council's annual budget process and actual costs may vary depending on scope, design, delivery timing and opportunities to secure external funding.

CO-BENEFITS identifies where an action is expected to also contribute to another priority of Sustainable Stonnington 2040. Actions have been assigned to the Action Plan where they are most directly delivered; however, environmental outcomes are interconnected, and many actions will support more than one priority at the same time. Key:

Resilient, Adaptable & Empowered | Climate Positive | Water Sensitive & Flood Ready

Biodiverse, Green & Connected

Focus Area 01: Circular operations and services

Reducing waste and improving circularity through Council operations and services.

Council's workplaces, facilities, venues, events and waste services influence what is purchased and used, how materials are separated and recovered, and how easily people can dispose of unwanted items responsibly. Improving these everyday systems provides practical opportunities to avoid waste, recover more resources and deliver clearer and more consistent services.

Over the next three years, we will reduce avoidable waste through Council operations, expand food-waste recovery and review how our kerbside services operate. We will also strengthen our approach to litter and dumped rubbish, trial additional recovery infrastructure and carefully assess responsible alternatives to landfill.

Together, this work will help keep useful materials out of landfill, reduce contamination and make Council's operations and waste services more efficient, accessible and aligned with the waste hierarchy.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Stonnington's Sustainable Events

Council's festivals and events showcase how we don't need to sacrifice sustainability to deliver high-calibre and engaging events.

By collaborating with suppliers, contractors, artists, musicians, and community partners, we have been on a journey to reduce waste and environmental impacts through initiatives such as water refill stations, composting toilets and, where feasible, closed-loop food service systems using reusable crockery.

We also see our events as catalysts for education and inspiration. We encourage attendees to picnic sustainably (with BYO cups, crockery and cutlery) and choose low-impact travel (walking, cycling, public transport and carpooling). We also celebrate sustainability during events by integrating educational waste stations led by enthusiastic bin fairies, e-bikes and e-scooters try-out stations and information booths.

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
1.1	**Reduce single-use products and waste across Council operations** Review food and drink supplies, packaging, serve ware and giveaways across Council workplaces, venues and major events. Trial more sustainable alternatives and begin implementing priority improvements that improve overall sustainability outcomes, reduce waste, support reuse and improve recyclability.	○●●	$	
1.2	**Expand food-waste collection across Council facilities** Expand FOGO collection to all Council-owned facilities, venues and buildings. Provide practical education to help staff and facility users separate food waste, minimise waste and recycle correctly.	●●○	$	
1.3	**Improve access to recycling and resource recovery services** Work with residents of multi-unit dwellings to improve recycling and reduce contamination. Investigate opportunities to recover additional materials, including textiles and soft plastics, where viable collection and recycling arrangements are available.	●●●	$	
1.4	**Review the kerbside waste-collection schedule** Assess the environmental, financial and service implications of moving to fortnightly rubbish collection and weekly FOGO collection. Use the findings to develop a recommended future collection schedule for consideration.	○●○		

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
1.5	**Improve site functionality at Council's Depot and Waste Transfer Station** Plan and implement coordinated improvements at Council's Depot and Waste Transfer Station to make material recovery, reuse and correct disposal easier, safer and more efficient. Improvements may include site layout, storage, signage, access and supporting infrastructure.	●●●	$	
1.6	**Investigate responsible alternatives to landfill** Work with other councils to investigate emerging alternatives to landfill, including waste-to-energy facilities. Consider the full environmental, climate, social and financial implications and how each option fits within the waste hierarchy.	●●●	$	
1.7	**Strengthen how we prevent and manage litter and dumped rubbish** Develop a Litter and Dumped Rubbish Management Plan that brings together prevention, reuse and repair, correct disposal, service delivery, compliance and enforcement. Establish coordinated oversight and begin implementing priority improvements.	●●○		
1.8	**Expand participation in the Container Deposit Scheme and trial collection baskets** Work with community organisations, sporting clubs and other partners to increase awareness of and access to the Container Deposit Scheme, including opportunities for new collection points and fundraising initiatives. Scope, design and commence a trial of collection baskets on selected public-place recycling bins to improve source separation and make eligible containers easier to collect for refund.	○●●	$	
1.9	**Support community action to reduce waste and prevent litter** Support established litter clean-up groups and help interested community members establish or join local initiatives. Work with sporting clubs and other community organisations to reduce packaging and food waste, encourage reuse, participate in the Container Deposit Scheme, prevent litter and dispose of collected materials correctly.	●●●	$	

Focus Area 02: Circular assets and infrastructure

Extending asset life, reusing materials and reducing waste through design and renewal

Council manages buildings, streets, parks, drainage infrastructure and public spaces that use substantial quantities of materials and remain in service for many years. Decisions made when these assets are planned, designed, purchased, maintained and renewed can lock in resource use and waste – or create opportunities for longer life, repair, adaptation and reuse.

Over the next three years, we will improve how Council records and manages assets and materials, strengthen circular design and material selection guidance, and explore alternatives to purchasing selected furniture and equipment. We will also improve infrastructure for recovering and reusing materials through Council's Depot and Waste Transfer Station.

This will help make circular thinking a more consistent part of asset management, reduce demand for new resources and retain the value of Council assets and materials for longer.

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
2.1	**Improve how we track and reuse Council assets and materials** Develop better systems and information to identify Council assets, equipment, furniture and construction materials that can be maintained, shared, repurposed or reused. Use this information to support more circular purchasing and asset-management decisions.	○●●		
2.2	**Embed lifecycle assessment, circular design and materials into Council assets** Utilise lifecycle assessments to update relevant design standards and guidance to increase the use of durable, lower-carbon and resource conscious materials in Council buildings, streets, open spaces and public infrastructure. Consider opportunities to reuse materials, design for repair and disassembly, and extend asset life.	●●●	$	
2.3	**Explore alternatives to purchasing furniture, fittings and equipment** Investigate where leasing, sharing or service-based arrangements could reduce resource use, support repair and reuse, and extend the life of furniture, fittings and equipment used in Council facilities.	○○●		

Focus Area 03: Sustainable, conscious consumption

Helping residents, businesses and community organisations avoid waste, consume sustainably and keep products and materials in use for longer.

The choices people make about food, products and materials are shaped by what is affordable, convenient and locally available. Information is important, but people also need practical services, skills and local opportunities that make avoiding waste, repairing, sharing, reusing and recycling realistic in everyday life.

Over the next three years, we will improve access to resource recovery services, particularly for people living in apartments, and help our community reduce food waste. We will expand opportunities to repair, borrow and share, and work with businesses and community groups to put circular practices into everyday use.

This will make circular choices more visible and accessible, strengthen local skills and connections, and help keep useful products and materials circulating within our community.

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
3.1	**Help our community reduce food waste and support local food systems** Provide practical programs and information that help people avoid food waste, compost at home and participate in more sustainable local food systems. Investigate the need, benefits, constraints and suitable models for community food growing and local farmers markets and develop recommendations for future initiatives.	●●●	$	
3.2	**Make it easier to share, repair and reuse** Expand practical opportunities for our community to borrow, share, repair and reuse products. This will include engaging the community about expanding the Library of Things (a service through which people can borrow useful household items rather than buying them) and providing activities and information that build skills and keep useful items in circulation.	●●●	$	
3.3	**Support circular practices in local businesses and with developers** Help local businesses and developers understand and adopt circular practices through practical resources, local case studies, peer learning and collaboration. Promote local businesses offering repair, reuse, sharing, refill and other sustainable options, helping the community make more circular choices. *This action will be coordinated with related business-support actions across the companion Action Plans, providing an integrated approach to local business sustainability.*	●●●	$	
3.4	**Advocate for stronger circular and resource conscious requirements in building and planning controls** Advocate to the Victorian and Australian governments for stronger building and planning requirements that improve circularity and sustainable resource use outcome in private developments and new construction. *This action will be coordinated with related advocacy actions across the companion Action Plans, providing an integrated approach to a sustainable built environment in Stonnington.*	●●●		

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
3.5	**Build resource conscious and circular economy knowledge and capability across the community** Provide practical information, education and resources to help schools, sporting clubs and community organisations make more resource-conscious and sustainable purchasing choices, reduce consumption and waste, choose reusable and recycled products, and establish sharing, repair and reuse initiatives. Tailor support to the needs and opportunities of different groups.	●●●	$	

How we'll measure progress

We will track progress at two levels, monitoring both the delivery of actions and the longer-term outcomes they are intended to influence.

Strategic indicators

This Action Plan contributes to the circular economy outcomes established in Sustainable Stonnington 2040. The outcome indicators below will help us understand whether Stonnington is avoiding waste, keeping products and materials in use and recovering more resources over time.

Some of these outcomes are influenced by many factors, including some outside Council's direct control. Change may also take time, with variable progress year to year, so we will consider the indicators together and monitor longer-term trends.

Strategic indicator	Baseline	2040 Target	Data source
Circular materials in Council projects Percentage of major capital projects in design or delivery incorporating circular economy principles	To be established 2026/27	100%	Council data
Household waste sent to landfill Kilograms of kerbside collection waste sent to landfill per serviced household each year	370.6kg (2025/26)	Decrease	Council data
Resource recovery of recycling and green organics Percentage of household recyclables and FOGO diverted from landfill	40.7%	≤20%	Council data
Contamination in household recovery streams Contamination rates for mixed recycling and FOGO	Recycling 27.9% FOGO 7.4% (2025/26)	Recycling ≤5% FOGO ≤1%	Council data

Delivery indicators

The following delivery indicators align with the broader outcomes set in Sustainable Stonnington 2040 but translate them into specific targets for 2026-2029 that are relevant to the actions outlined in this Action Plan.

Delivery indicator	Target (2029)
Actions delivered on schedule	≥85%
Note: additional delivery indicators will be confirmed based on final list of actions adopted	

Evaluating programs and trials: *Community programs, trials and training delivered through this Action Plan will be evaluated as they are developed and implemented. Evaluation will be proportionate to the scale and purpose of each initiative and may include participation and uptake, reach among priority communities, participant feedback or changes in knowledge or confidence following participation.*

Monitoring, review and reporting

Delivery will be monitored through an internal implementation plan, which will track progress against each action and capture relevant program outcomes. Progress will be reviewed internally each quarter to support accountability, identify barriers early and adjust delivery where required.

Progress against this Action Plan, along with progress across the other four companion Action Plans, will be reported publicly through an annual Sustainable Stonnington 2040 update.

This Action Plan reflects our priorities and commitments at the time of adoption. As delivery progresses, new evidence, partnerships, funding opportunities or changes in recycling markets, emerging technologies or other relevant circumstances may require us to adjust our approach. Any material additions or changes will be tracked through the internal implementation plan and reported through annual updates.

This Action Plan will be formally reviewed and updated in the final year of its three-year term, or sooner if circumstances require it.

