

Our Environment

Update on Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Trials

Park Lands Policy & Sustainability
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Update on Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Trials

Purpose



The purpose of this workshop is to discuss a range of trials undertaken by Administration to improve kerbside waste services and resource recovery, as follows:

1. Laneways trial - shared bins
2. Laneways trial - little bins
3. City-wide trial – little bins
4. Soft plastics trial

The workshop seeks feedback to inform potential future waste management service level changes and the City of Adelaide's waste contract negotiations, with the current contract due to expire on 30 June 2027.

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Key Questions



KEY QUESTION

What are Council Members' views on extending the trials to other locations in the city?

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Key Messages



The City of Adelaide (CoA) has strategic targets in place relating to waste and resource recovery which are consistent with State and Federal Government targets.

With a growing population, changes to CoA service levels will be required to meet Council's strategic waste management targets.

Four trials have been implemented in CoA focusing on higher density and residential laneways to test the use of smaller bins and a shared bin system for resource recovery in constrained city environments:

1. Laneways trial - shared bins
2. Laneways trial - little bins
3. City-wide trial - little bins
4. Soft plastics trial

The workshop seeks feedback to inform potential future waste management service level changes and the City of Adelaide's waste contract negotiations, with the current contract due to expire on 30 June 2027.

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Strategic Alignment



Strategic Plan 2024-2028 target:

- *Increase diversion from landfill for residential kerbside waste from 50% (2020) to 80% by 2030.*

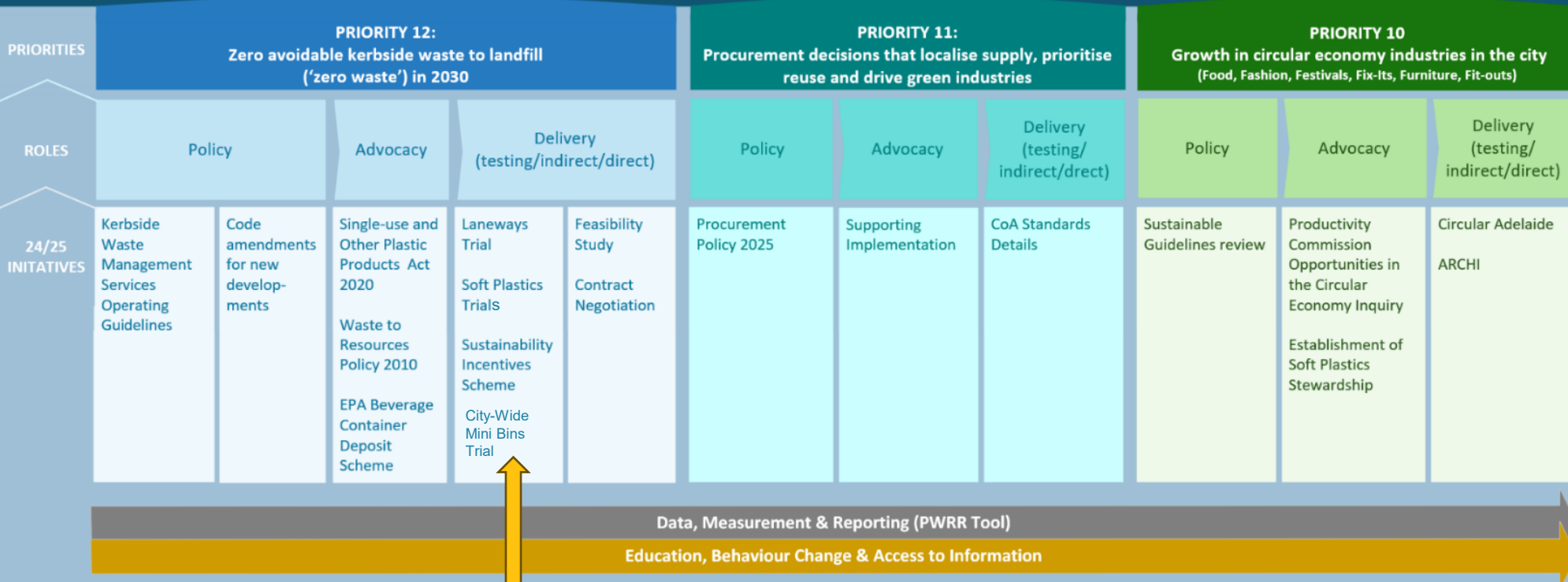
Integrated Climate Strategy 2030: Resilient, Protected, Sustainable Priorities:

- *Achieve Zero avoidable kerbside waste to landfill ('zero waste') in 2030.*
- *Divert 80% of residential kerbside collected material from landfill*
- *Food waste in landfill is below 5% by weight*
- *Reduce waste generation by 15% per capita*
- *Residential kerbside collected recycling bins contain 10% or less contamination.*

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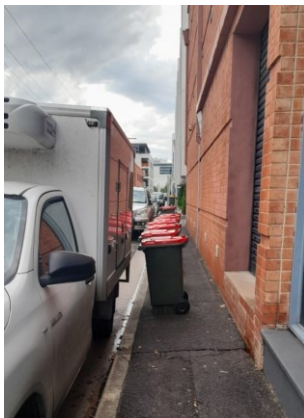
Strategic Alignment

ICS Goal 4: Priorities for transitioning to a decarbonised economy



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Laneways Trial – Shared Bins



What:

- A shared 3-stream station was installed to replace individually serviced bins in higher density laneways with limited for storage of bins on property.

Where:

- Sanders Lane, Adelaide (South Ward between Halifax and Gilles Streets).

When:

- The 12-month trial commenced on Monday 14 April 2025 and concludes on Wednesday 15 April 2026.

Why:

- To understand:
 - Community acceptance of shared bins serviced weekly rather than individual bins.
 - If a shared service improves diversion of organic material and maintains low contamination rates.
 - Changes in amenity of the laneway by removing individual bins.



Image: Ex. Laneway - bins impacting safety/amenity

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Laneways Trial – Shared Bins



Image: Before bin surround installation



Image: After bin surround installation

Budget:

- Supported by Green Industries SA's Council Modernisation Grant (\$40,995 excl. GST) with a 50/50 co-contribution by CoA for Shared Bin.

Stage of Delivery:

- In place and being monitoring over the trial period.

Status:

- Positive feedback on the shared bin trial has been communicated verbally with Administration.

Next Steps:

- Conduct a waste audit of the laneway to understand contamination, and diversion rates.
- Determine whether to operationalise the trial.

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Laneways Trial – Little Bins

What:

- Use of 80L green organics bin in place of the regular 240L bins to access the weekly food and green organics (FOGO) service in higher density laneways with limited bin storage space.

Where:

- Residents in 5 laneways
 - Hallett, Stephens, Corryton and Ada (South Ward between Halifax and Gilles Streets)
 - Murrays Lane (South Ward between Gouger and Wright Streets)

When:

- 12-month trial commenced 26 August 2025 and concludes 27 August 2026.

Why:

- To understand:
 - If size of bin and frequency of collection increases the uptake of the FOGO service.
 - If changing service delivery improves diversion of organic material and resultant contamination rates.



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Laneways Trial – Little Bins

Budget:

- Supported by Green Industries SA's Council Modernisation Grant with a contribution by CoA of \$5,582 for the supply of bins.

Stage of Delivery:

- In place and ongoing monitoring over the trial period.

Status:

- Residents have provided positive feedback on the trial through a consultant conducting on-site education.

Next Steps:

- Engage a consultant to conduct a waste audit of the 5 laneways to understand contamination, and diversion rates.
- Determine whether to operationalise the trial.



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City-Wide Trial – Little Bins

What:

- 200 smaller (80L bins) are available to residents city-wide who wish to opt in to a new fortnightly food and green organics (FOGO) service. Eligible residents receive an 80-litre Little Bin, a Kitchen Caddy Kit and education materials to support them in recycling food and garden waste.

When:

- Bin orders commenced on 5 September 2025 targeting 200 bins to be delivered by December 2025 as a 12 month trial.

Where:

- Available city-wide where residents do not have a standard green organics bin or have limited storage for standard size bins.

Why:

- To understand:
 - If size of bin increases the uptake of the FOGO service.
 - If changing service delivery improves diversion of organic material and resultant contamination rates.



Image: Example of mini bin in laneway

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City-Wide Trial – Little Bins

Budget:

- Supported by Green Industries SA's Council Modernisation Grant with a contribution by CoA of \$5,582 for the supply of bins.

Stage of Delivery:

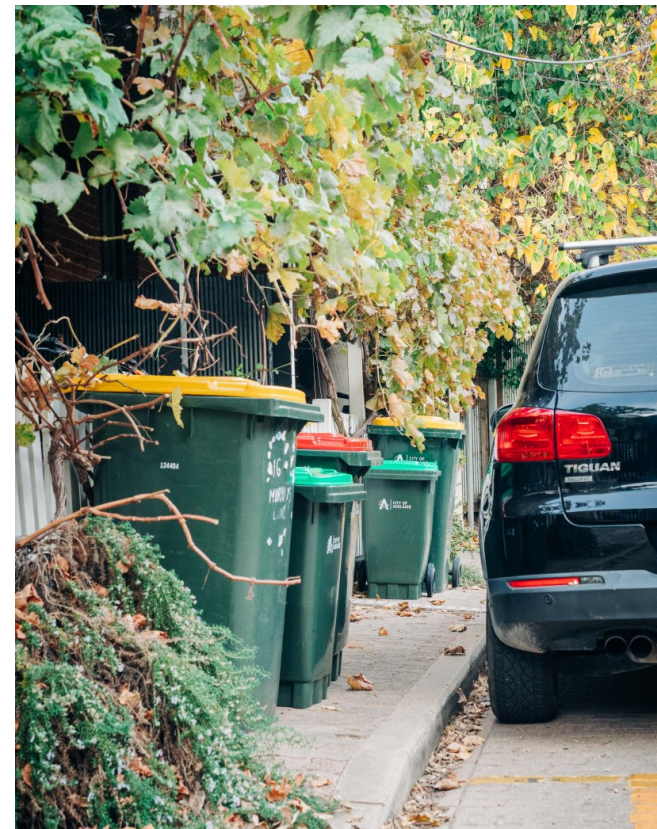
- Online registrations are open on the City of Adelaide website.

Status:

- Orders from residents for bins commenced 5 September 2025 with all deliveries complete before December 2025. Deliveries will be undertaken in multiple tranches.

Next Steps:

- The Council website is live and social media marketing commenced in September 2025 with additional printed flyers on standby for late September pending social media impact.



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Outcomes & Implications



1. **Laneways Trial – Shared Bin**
2. **Laneways Trial – Little Bins**

Diversion: CoA is expecting the recovery of about 13 tonnes of green organic material per year.

Cost: The cost for the trial was \$10,000 for design, build and installation with costs depending on individual site configurations. The shared bins trial replaces the cost of collection of individual bins with a shared bin (similar to apartment collection) which is expected to be slightly higher than regular servicing. The laneways little bins are serviced weekly with average costs for the 5 laneways at about \$780/month. Moving forward, quantified savings from reduced costs (i.e. solid waste levy and/or disposal costs) will be reported in the trial evaluation for each trial.

3. **City-wide Trial – Little Bins**

Diversion: With 200 new green organics service adoptions, CoA is expecting the recovery of about 34 tonnes of green organic material per year.

Cost: Outside of the trial costs, the ongoing cost is expected to be minimal as this is a BAU service, with only the bin size changing.

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Soft Plastics Trial

What:

- CoA has been working with Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority (CAWRA), the Australian Food and Grocery Council and the Cities of Charles Sturt and Port Adelaide Enfield to trial a new approach to collecting soft plastics for recycling: [Soft Plastics Recycling Pilot | City of Adelaide](#)
- A Council Member E-News on the soft plastics trials was provided on 31 January 2025 and 14 February 2025.

When:

- The current trial commenced in February 2025 for 12 months following an earlier phase in December 2022 the outcomes of which supported the approach.

Where:

- Available city wide with 1044 (out of 1500) registrations received at time of publication.

Why:

- To test if soft plastics can be successfully collected for recycling using the yellow recycling bin through various 'bag-in-bin' models.
- To contribute to the development of a soft plastics stewardship scheme.





- Benefit:**

- Stage of Delivery:**

- Status:**

- ### Next Steps:

- Update on Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Trials | 7 October 2025

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Key Questions



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What are Council Members' views on extending the trials to other locations in the city?

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Next Steps



- Administration has delivered a series of workshops with Council Members to provide details of activity to improve waste management including:
 - Waste Code Amendment update on 5 August 2025.
 - Data and performance toward strategic waste and resource recovery targets on 5 August 2025.
 - Update on current trials (this workshop).
- The next workshop will be on the waste feasibility study outcomes to inform CoA's future waste contract negotiations.