

Sustainability Fund Activities Report

Investing in a more sustainable future.



2024



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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ISBN 978-1-76136-453-2 (print)

ISBN 978-1-76136-453-2 (pdf)

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Secretary's Report

The Sustainability Fund is a cornerstone of Victoria's waste reduction and climate action efforts. Using funds collected through the Municipal and Industrial Waste Levy (MIWL), the Fund helps foster best practice in waste and resource management and Victoria's response to a changing climate.

This year saw the first tranche of projects funded under Victoria's *Recycling Victoria: A new economy* policy reach their concluding stages. This policy, developed using an allocation from the Sustainability Fund, established a circular economy for Victoria's waste and resources in which consumers, households, industry and manufacturers all have an important role to play. Between 2009-10 and 2022-23, Victoria saw more than a 50% increase in the amount of waste recovered. During that same period, Victoria's population increased by 25%. Despite this, the average annual volume of waste that we sent to landfill increased by only 5%. Even more impressively, the trajectory of our collective efforts indicates that, over the next five years, Victoria will continue to landfill a decreasing amount of waste each year, even though our population is projected to increase significantly.

In 2023-24, the Fund provided over \$155 million to a range of waste reduction and climate action initiatives across the state. This included 431 grants to implement a wide range of policy, behaviour change, infrastructure, regulatory and market support programs.

Over the past 5 years, the Sustainability Fund has supported projects that have seen almost half a million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions reduced or avoided. This is equal to the annual emissions produced by 39,000 Victorians. Further, over 2 billion kilowatt hours of renewable

energy were generated across the past 5 years with support from the Fund. This is equivalent to the power usage of over 90,000 homes over that same period.

This valuable work has been overseen by the Sustainability Fund Committee, Chaired by Freya Marsden. The Committee has brought an exceptional level of rigour to governance of the Fund again this year.

With the ongoing efforts of Sustainability Fund funding recipients, the Sustainability Fund Committee, and the Department's dedicated staff, I look forward to the coming year as the impact of previous investment through the Sustainability Fund comes to fruition, in supporting Victoria's transition to a reduced waste, lower emissions future.

John Bradley
Secretary

Overview

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has prepared this Activities Report to demonstrate how the Sustainability Fund sourced, managed and spent its funds over the 2023–24 financial year.

The report covers the source of the Fund's revenue, governance of the Fund, and detailed information on financial expenditure and funded programs. The report also includes a series of case studies highlighting a selection of projects made possible by the Sustainability Fund. These case studies provide a snapshot of the innovative and best practice approaches taken by funding recipients to tackle climate change and waste across the state.

In September 2024, immediately after the Fund's accounts had been audited, details of the Fund's cash flows for 2023-24 and list of grant recipients was published online. This Activities Report builds on that information and provides a more detailed analysis of the Fund's performance, achievements and governance in 2023-24.



SNAPSHOT: Sustainability Fund 2019-24

\$ over **\$960 million** invested resulting in:

BEST PRACTICE WASTE MANAGEMENT

New organics and dedicated glass recycling household services



rolled out to hundreds of thousands of Victorian homes.

750,000+ tonnes of waste avoided going to landfill.



FACILITATING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

645 new partnerships



formed to deliver waste reduction and climate action projects.

28,774 Victorians



attended Detox Your Home events to dispose of hazardous household chemicals.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES

9,166+ kilowatts



of newly deployed renewable energy capacity.

2 billion+ kilowatt hours of renewable energy generated.



This is equivalent to the power usage of over 90,000 homes over the 5 year period¹.

¹ Assuming an average yearly consumption of 4,727kWh (Australian Energy Market Commission's Residential Electricity Price Trends 2021 report)

3000+ households and organisations



assisted through direct engagement on energy consumption, installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades.

ADAPTING THROUGH BIODIVERSITY

4.6 million hectares (46,000 km²) of land was treated for pest control.



455,243 hectares (4,552 km²) of land was revegetated.



REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

482,483 tonnes of CO₂-e emissions were reduced or avoided.



This is the equivalent of 39,000 Victorians' per capita annual emissions.

ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

18 new markets were created or enhanced for recovered materials, including recycled plastic for drainpipes and waste tyres for permeable pavement.



IMPROVE COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

580+ Victorian schools



participating in positive environmental action.

55,000+ tonnes of unacceptable material removed from charities



where they had been illegally dumped.

332,269 sustainability related volunteer hours supported.



\$150 million+ of external funds leveraged.



About the Sustainability Fund

The Sustainability Fund was established in 2005 to help Victorian communities to better manage and mitigate the effects of climate change, and to raise the bar on how we manage our precious resources – including by diverting them from landfill. The Fund is intended to benefit Victorians both now and long into the future.

The Sustainability Fund is enshrined in legislation and has been managed by DEECA since 2015. The Fund receives its revenue from the Municipal and Industrial Waste Levy. Funding from the levy is initially distributed to key environmental agencies, and the remaining revenue is then transferred to the Sustainability Fund.

The Fund is overseen by an independent committee of five members with expertise in sustainability, governance, finance and project management. The committee provides impartial and strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and Premier on requests for funding from the Sustainability Fund.

The Sustainability Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is used to measure how initiatives contribute to the priorities of the Fund. The Framework includes a series of outcomes and indicators and is incorporated in recipients' funding agreements to enable the collection, evaluation and reporting of data. The outcomes and achievements of the Fund presented in this report are derived from the performance data provided by funding recipients under the Framework. Further details of the Framework are provided on the [Sustainability Fund website](#)

Source of Funding

The Municipal and Industrial Waste Levy (MIWL) is the revenue source for the Sustainability Fund. This levy is paid by licenced landfill operators throughout Victoria.

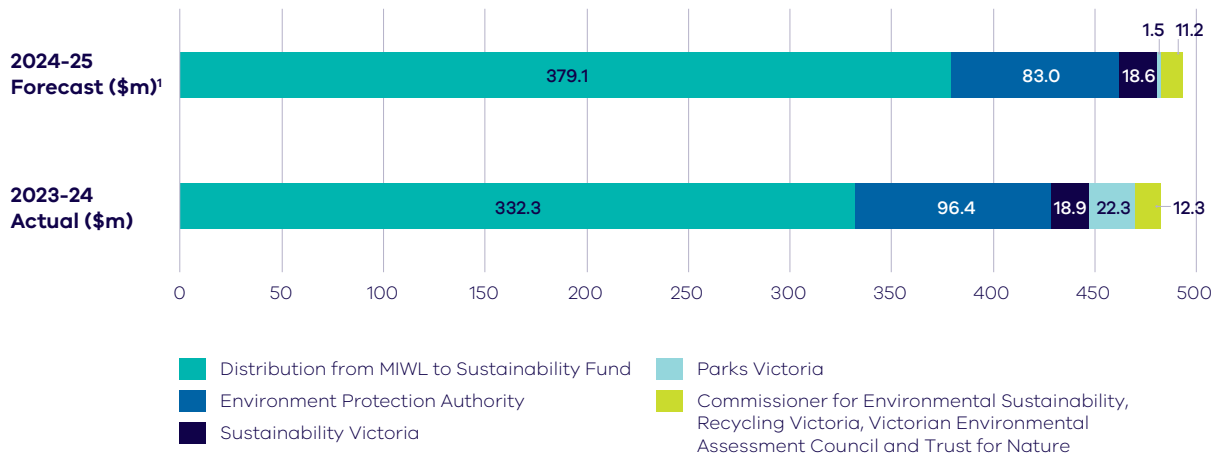
The landfill levy system has supported Victoria to lower our impact on the environment, influenced industry investment in resource recovery infrastructure, and encouraged people to find alternative, more innovative ways to dispose of their waste than landfill. The MIWL's aim is to encourage waste generators to look for ways to reduce the amount of waste they generate and send to landfill.

The *Environment Protection Act 2017* sets out how the funds generated through the MIWL are to be managed and distributed. The Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is responsible for collecting the levy and transferring it to a trust account managed by DEECA. From there, the Act specifies how these funds can be applied.

Funds are distributed to key Victorian environmental agencies driving better environmental outcomes for the state. These include EPA, Sustainability Victoria, Recycling Victoria and Parks Victoria. Any remaining funds are then transferred and held in the Sustainability Fund.

In 2023–24, \$149.9 million was distributed from the MIWL to Victorian environmental agencies, while \$332.3 million was transferred to the Sustainability Fund ([Figure 1](#)).

Figure 1: Distribution of the MIWL

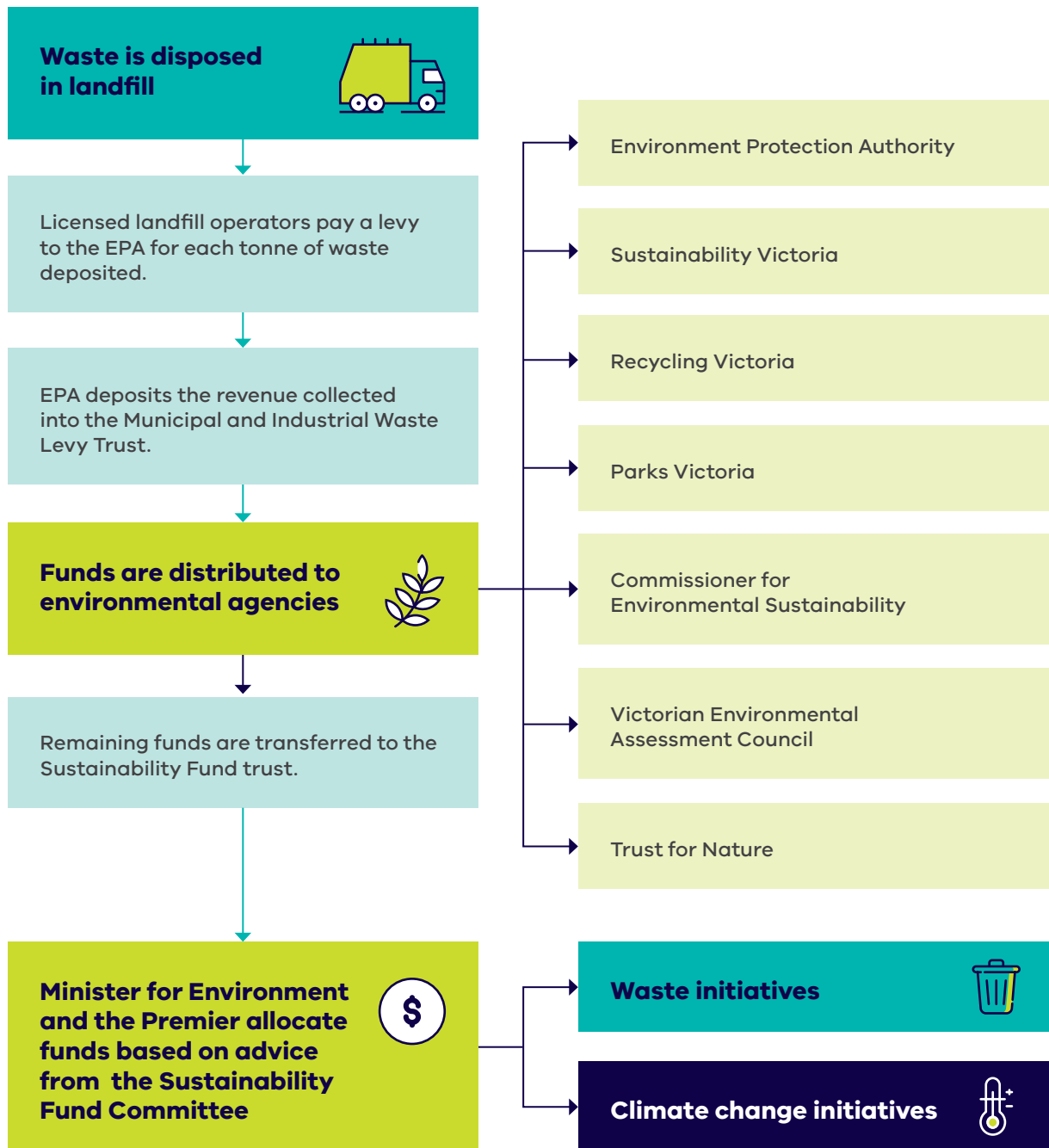


Notes:

- 1. DEECA forecast as at 30/08/24
- 2. Annual core funding to Parks Victoria reverts to general appropriations from 2024-25



Figure 2: How the Fund works



Governance

Sustainability Fund Committee

The Premier and the Minister for Environment are supported by the Sustainability Fund Committee which:

- oversees Fund governance to support Fund transparency and accountability;
- reports annually to the Secretary of DEECA on Sustainability Fund management performance; and
- provides the Minister for Environment with impartial, strategic advice regarding all requests for funding from the Sustainability Fund.

The Secretary of DEECA can appoint the following members to form the Committee:

- independent Committee Chair; and
- a minimum of four independent members.

The Committee is supported by the Sustainability Fund Team within DEECA.

Committee members

In 2023-24, the Committee was comprised of the following members:

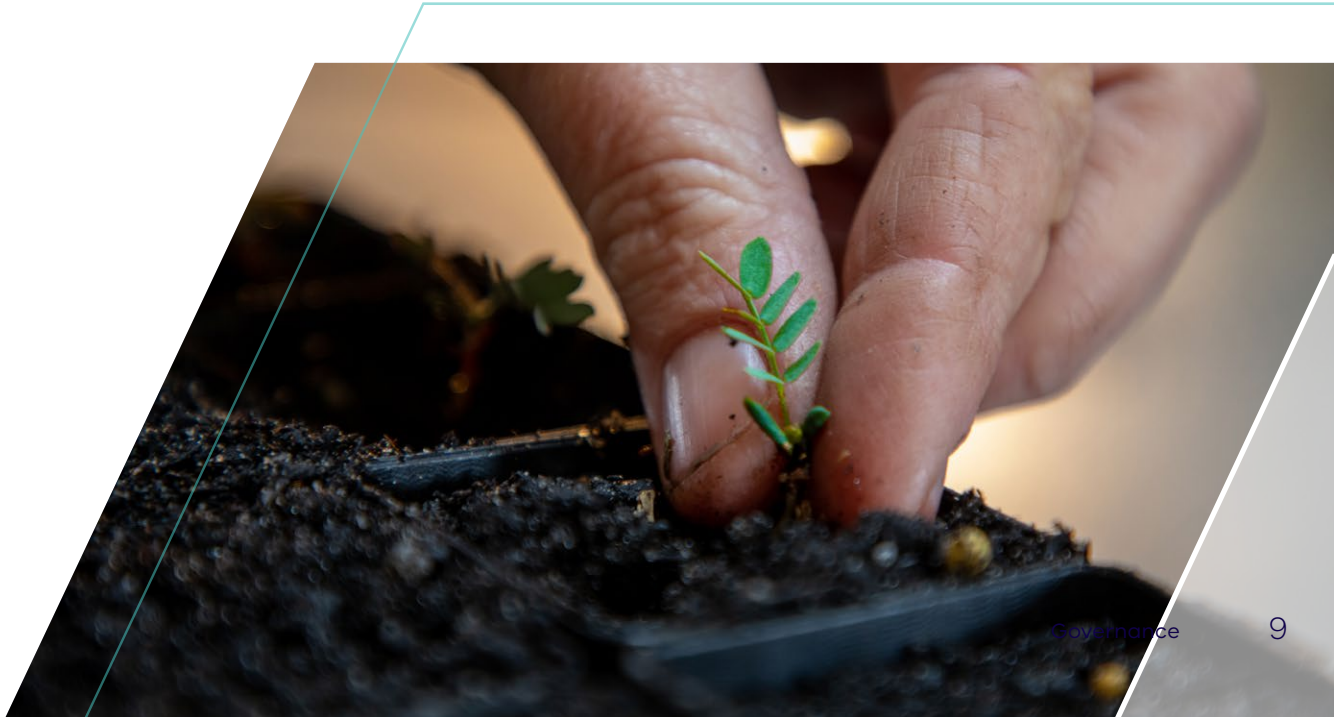
Freya Marsden Chair



Freya is an experienced Chair and Non-Executive Director with extensive governance, corporate strategy and finance background. As an economist, Freya has a keen interest in ensuring long-term, effective outcomes and value for money for the Victorian government as well as for taxpayers.

Freya has deep experience in driving optimal outcomes supported through her extensive sustainability, environmental management, finance, risk and audit capability. This includes establishing and utilising frameworks that protect and create value, manage risks and optimise opportunities.

Freya brings to her role significant knowledge in the energy, water, infrastructure, transport and environmental sectors including sustainability policy within government and the private sector both in Australia and internationally.



Tom Mollenkopf
Deputy Chair



Tom is an independent adviser on water policy, strategy and governance and an experienced Non-Executive Director. He is a Senior Associate with consultants, AITHER, Chairperson of Gippsland Water and Immediate Past-President and Chairperson of the International Water Association. Tom has a background in law, first in private practice and then as corporate counsel, before undertaking a series of executive roles in the water and environment sector.

Tom is passionate about sound evidence-based decision-making and the role of informed and respectful conversations in good policy. He is a member of the Australian Water Partnership Expert Review Panel and a Non-Executive Director of Peninsula Leisure. He holds degrees in jurisprudence and law from Monash University, an MBA from Melbourne Business School, and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

In January 2023 Tom was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for his distinguished service to business, particularly through the essential services industry, and to the community.

Joan Ko



Joan has spent her career providing sustainability advice as a consultant to government and industry, with a focus on business cases for infrastructure and urban development. She leads climate and sustainability services in Australasia for Arup, a global consultancy firm.

Examples of Joan's work include supporting energy companies transition power stations to new uses, developing pathways for infrastructure in resilient communities, and advising on technical criteria for sustainable finance in transport. Joan is also a member of the Committee of Management for Working Heritage.

Joan holds a Master of Philosophy in Engineering for Sustainable Development, a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Environmental Engineering.

Kate Andrews



Kate is passionate about addressing climate change and working towards a circular economy. Kate's governance experience as a Board member and Committee Chair spans community services, aged care, private health insurance, and member and advocacy organisations. As an executive, Kate held senior management positions in strategic marketing and corporate strategy at a \$30 billion superannuation fund and at top-tier advertising and marketing organisations locally and internationally.

Tim Lo Surdo



Tim is the Founder of Democracy in Colour, Australia's first racial and economic justice organisation led by people of colour. Before that, he helped establish Hospo Voice, a new union for hospitality workers. Previously, Tim served as the Head of Campaigns at Oaktree, a senior adviser to two Senators, the Campaigns Director at Jhatkaa, the National Communications Director at UN Youth Australia, and co-founded Open Sky.

Tim has served on 22 Boards and is currently the Chairperson of No to Violence, the Jane Goodall Institute Australia, and the Funders Initiative for Civil Society. For his work, Tim was named an Asia-Pacific Obama Leader, the 2021 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year, a Commonwealth Young Person of the Year finalist, one of the 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians, and one of 17 UN Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Funding allocation process

Each year, the Government has the opportunity to allocate money from the Sustainability Fund to projects that meet the Fund's criteria. Those criteria are set out in legislation, the Sustainability Fund Priority Statement, and the Sustainability Fund Guidelines. Each of these is discussed below.

The independent Sustainability Fund Committee advises the Government on whether proposals meet the criteria for funding. Though a proposal may meet the criteria for funding, it must still then be separately assessed and approved for funding by the Government as part of the annual State Budget process.

Fund monies can be allocated to strategic or ongoing initiatives that are delivered through Victorian Government Departments and Statutory Agencies. Some initiatives may fund grant programs that are open to a wide range of recipients including community groups, councils, government departments, statutory entities, non-government organisations and businesses. Funding is not available for individuals.

Funding criterion 1 Alignment with legislation

To be eligible for an allocation from the Sustainability Fund, a proposal must achieve one or both of the purposes set out in the Section 449(3) of the Environment Protection Act 2017 (the Act):

- (a) to foster environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria
- (b) either—
 - (i) to foster community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions; or
 - (ii) to adapt or adjust to climate change in Victoria.

Funding criterion 2 Alignment with Priority Statement

The Premier and Minister for Environment have released a Priority Statement for the Sustainability Fund, as required by the Act (section 449(3)(a)).

The Priority Statement sets out the strategic priorities of the Victorian Government and guides how funds are invested. Under the legislated objectives, the Priority Statement sets out the strategic priorities that will be used to determine the eligibility of programs to be supported by the Fund (**Figure 4**). These priorities are based on those of the Victorian Government. If the priorities of the Fund change, a new Priority Statement will be published.

To be eligible for an allocation from the Sustainability Fund, a proposal's objectives must align with at least one of the strategic priorities.

Funding criterion 3 Alignment with Guidelines

The Premier and Minister for Environment have also released Guidelines for the Sustainability Fund, as required by the Act (section 449(3)(b)).

The Guidelines:

- (a) Provide for an independent Sustainability Fund Committee to advise the Premier and Minister for Environment in relation to the Sustainability Fund
- (b) Set out who is eligible to receive funding
- (c) Establish high-level conditions for funding.

To be eligible for an allocation from the Sustainability Fund, a proposal must be consistent with the Guidelines.

Figure 3: Sustainability Fund allocation process

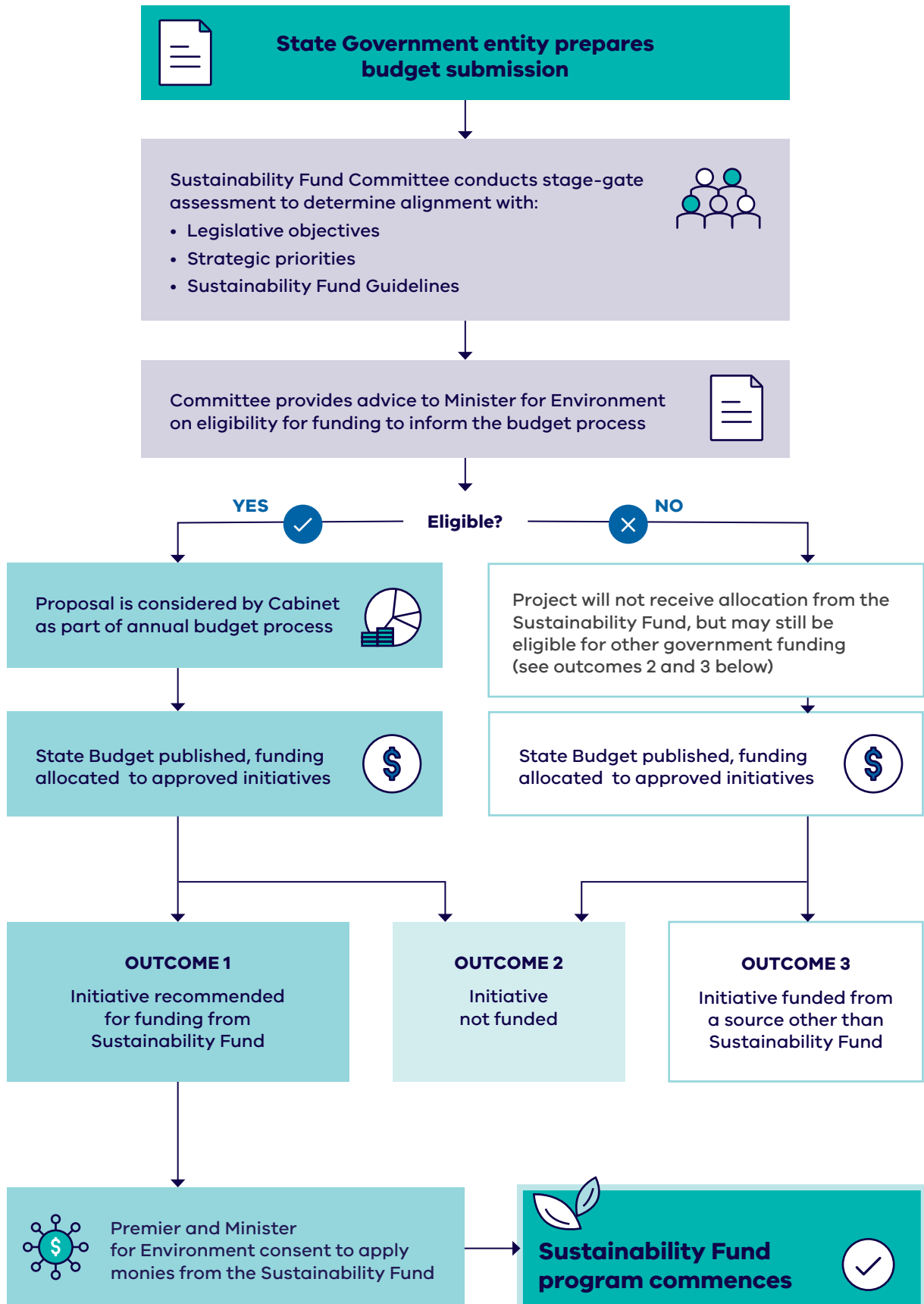


Figure 4: Sustainability Fund legislative objectives and strategic priorities

Sustainability Fund Legislative Objectives

<p>Fostering environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria.</p>	<p>Either –</p> <p>1. To foster community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions;</p> <p>or</p> <p>2. To adapt or adjust to climate change in Victoria.</p>
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Strategic Priorities

1.1	Making alternatives to landfill more viable and cost competitive through the stimulation, creation and expansion of viable markets for recycled and recovered materials.	2.1	Supporting individuals, communities and industry to transition to a low carbon economy.
1.2	Facilitating a network of best practice waste and resource recovery infrastructure which minimises public health and environmental impacts and maximises resource recovery opportunities.	2.2	Supporting Victorians to adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly those most vulnerable and least able to do so.
1.3	Providing equity in access to, and reducing impacts of, waste and resource recovery services on communities.	2.3	Building Victorian communities' capacity, capability and skills in responding to climate change.
1.4	Improving waste education and waste management capability to reduce waste generation, recover resources, and prevent littering and illegal dumping.	2.4	Assisting Victoria's ecosystems and native species to be more resilient to climate change and/or support mitigation outcomes.
1.5	Modernising the management of legacy contamination or pollution.		

Sustainability Fund outcomes 2023-24

Each program that receives an allocation from the Sustainability Fund is required to track and report back to DEECA on its progress against agreed outcomes. These outcomes are measured by a host of indicators that are reported against annually. When combined with indicator data across all programs, a picture of the overall impact of the Fund can be developed.

Table 1 shows key indicators from programs funded across the past five years. It is followed by a series of stories selected from this year's programs to help demonstrate the value and impact of the fund at the community level. These stories include a highlight on the development and implementation of Victoria's circular economy policy, *Recycling Victoria: A new economy*. This policy was developed with funding from the Sustainability Fund. The first tranche of projects funded under this program largely concluded in 2023-24 with outstanding outcomes that are showcased later in this report.



Yearly comparison of indicators

This table compares indicators as reported annually by active programs. Indicators vary across programs depending on their reportable outputs. Fluctuations in indicator values from year to year are due to changes in level of outputs across programs or as programs commence and conclude.

Table 1:

Indicator	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	2021-22 results	2022-23 results	2023-24 results	Unit
Best practice waste management						
Increased recovery / recycling of materials¹	-	-	-	-	167,029	tonnes/ year
Organics	-	-	-	-	44,200	tonnes/ year
Plastic waste	-	-	-	-	42,829	tonnes/ year
Paper/ Cardboard	-	-	-	-	77,727	tonnes/ year
Glass	-	-	-	-	2,273	tonnes/ year
Processing Capacity Increased	-	-	-	-	237,955	tonnes/ year
Organics	-	-	-	-	51,800	tonnes/ year
Plastic waste	-	-	-	-	57,005	tonnes/ year
Paper/ Cardboard	-	-	-	-	96,877	tonnes/ year
Glass	-	-	-	-	32,273	tonnes/ year
Reduction of dangerous materials in landfill²	27,792	46,765	15,722	438	301	tonnes/ year
Policies or standards implemented	1	4	2	5	9	number of policies or standards implemented / year
Amount of illegally dumped material removed	10,000	9,588	11,359	12,224	12,288	tonnes/ year
Number of people who attend Detox Your Home events	-	4,133	7,681	6,179	10,781	number

1 Waste recovery programs from previous years are now shown in Appendix 1 under the category "Waste avoided going to landfill."

2 The reduction in tonnage from 2021-22 is due to completion of works in a project that provided the majority of reported data.

Indicator	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	2021-22 results	2022-23 results	2023-24 results	Unit
Encouraging economic development						
Additional jobs created ³	49	74	102	148	236	number
Investment leveraged, including in kind contributions	10,500,000	1,809,885	19,153,389	53,090,340	74,486,027	\$ equivalent
New markets created or enhanced for recovered material	-	-	8	1	9	number
Environmentally sustainable use of resources						
Increased deployment of renewable energy capacity in Victorian households, business and commercial and industrial sites ⁴	203	2780	3,400	2,783	-	KW
Facilitating social development						
Households and organisations assisted ⁵	2100	384	544	111	-	number
Households with access to pocket parks ⁶	-	-	-	6,819	9,578	number
Partnerships and collaborations formed and continued	103	200	240	58	44	number
Victorians exposed to messaging / information on sustainability ⁷	figures not aggregated	figures not aggregated*	2,201,156	341,080	3,088,573	number

3 Numbers include short and long term jobs.

4 Programs closed - benefits from deployment of renewable energy capacity expected to continue.

5 Programs closed - benefit of households and organisations assisted expected to continue.

6 *400 metre catchment calculation of new or upgraded pocket parks.

7 2022-23 result has been revised up from last year's report. Includes reporting across a variety of mediums. Figures may contain reaching out to the same individual for differing intentions, owing to difficulty in calculating overlap between outreach programs. Further to this, while advertising focused on Victorians, it is not possible to guarantee that all unique users reached were Victorians.

Indicator	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	2021-22 results	2022-23 results	2023-24 results	Unit
Volunteer hours supported ⁸	87,828	84,051	85,376	-	75,014	volunteer hours
Number of charitable organisations supported	27	25	24	24	24	Number of charitable organisations supported and sustained
People attending training or receiving support ⁹	-	618	3,490	1,481	1,034	number
Organisations implementing improved policies / standards / practices ¹⁰	-	81	124	200	230	number
Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions						
Kilowatt hours of renewable energy generated	491,000,000	446,000,000	457,000,000	378,619,000	408,854,000	kWh
CO ₂ -e emissions reduced or avoided ¹¹	-	-	7,255	293,370	181,858	Tonnes CO ₂ e
Improve community capacity to take action on climate change						
Number of organisations adopting positive environmental action ¹²	48	81	115	16	25	number of organisations
Schools supported to adopt positive environmental action ¹³	128	584	457	528	563	Schools adopted positive environmental action

8 No programs reported on volunteer hours in 2022-23.

9 May contain the same people for implementing two or more different training or support.

10 May contain the same organisation for implementing two or more different policies/ standards/ practices.

11 This outcome is not associated to the CO₂e from renewable energy generation. 2022-23 figure also includes 5 previous years achievements for a program. Figure for 2022-23 revised down since last year's report due to a data correction.

12 Number of organisations year on year might be the same entities but for new or differing policies and standards implemented.

13 Changes to the output against this indicator between 2018-19 and 2020-21 can be attributed largely to reallocation of program funding between years, as programs shift funding between the Sustainability Fund and the then MILL (now MIWL).

Indicator	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	2021-22 results	2022-23 results	2023-24 results	Unit
Adapting through biodiversity						
Nature Kit and other apps # of visits and use ¹⁴	112,118	113,600	89,987	102,712	133,863	# of website hits per year
Area of protection or rehabilitation ¹⁵	-	14,100	8,046	967	339	ha
Area of pest control	-	1,261,268	396,240	-	-	ha
Area of pest herbivore control ¹⁶	810,000	-	632,943	577,000	*	ha
Area of pest predator control ¹⁷	560,000	-	146,441	230,000	*	ha
Area of primary weed control ¹⁸	180,000	79,719	27,374	7,200	*	ha

Notes:

1. A dash (-) is used throughout the table to indicate that data was not collected.
2. An asterisk (*) is used to show where 2023-24 figures are not yet confirmed, but will be available for the 2024-25 Activities Report.

14 2022-23 result has been revised up from last year’s report due to a data correction.

15 The reduction in this figure from 2020-21 to 2023-24 is due to the majority of programs that delivered work against this indicator concluding in the last 2 years.

16 2023-24 Figures not yet confirmed - will be available for the 2024-25 Activities Report. Figure represents summary of all pest herbivore control actions undertaken. Figure is likely to exceed total ‘footprint’ of pest predator actions due to overlapping area between them. Figure for 2022-23 has been revised up due to a data correction.

17 2023-24 Figures not yet confirmed - will be available for the 2024-25 Activities Report. Figure for 2022-23 has been revised down due to a data correction.

18 2023-24 Figures not yet confirmed - will be available for the 2024-25 Activities Report. Figure for 2022-23 has been revised up due to a data correction.



CASE STUDY

Transforming household recycling



Photo: Glass recycling service in the City of Merri-bek.

The Kerbside Reform Program received \$86.5 million from the Sustainability Fund to oversee and implement the reform of Victoria's household recycling system. The Victorian Government is working with councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria to roll out a new standardised four-stream household waste and recycling system across Victoria. The four streams are mixed recycling, glass recycling, food organics and garden organics (FOGO), and general rubbish.

These reforms will increase the quality of material collected from households, enabling more resources to be recycled and reused and resulting in less waste going to landfill. Standardising the items which go into each bin will provide greater consistency in services for the community, making it easier for households to put items in the correct streams.

The reforms at the City of Merri-bek provide a great example of the significant changes taking place statewide. The City of Merri-bek have conducted an overhaul of their kerbside waste and recycling services by introducing a new separate glass service and expanding their FOGO service. As part of the overhaul, thousands

of bins were retracted from the system, recycled and then made into new bins. During this process, Merri-bek also demonstrated strong initiative to find innovative solutions to recycle the more than 100 tonnes of bin wheels.

The City of Merri-bek is home to some higher density buildings. To meet the needs of different households, a mix of different services were implemented. Some households were provided with their own bins while others shared bins with other households. In some areas, a lack of space meant neither of these were practical and drop off points were introduced to service larger developments.

Community consultation was critical to the success of this project in Merri-bek. During the rollout, a team was dispatched to assist with any specific challenges such as redesigning bin rooms, improving signage and optimising the type and quantity of shared bins in higher density areas. Effective communication and service delivery has led to lower contamination levels across all four waste and recycling streams, increasing the quality of recyclables and diverting waste from landfill.

The reforms at the City of Merri-bek are just an example of the important changes happening throughout Victoria. Landfilling of waste is a poor outcome that leads to lost resources, pollution, land degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. Given that much of what a household throws away is food waste, the new FOGO services considerably reduce both the volume of waste and the significant emissions which are generated when food waste breaks down. Instead of creating these issues, the food waste is also transformed into valuable compost products.

The introduction of separate glass services is also crucial for building a thriving circular economy in Victoria. Separating glass improves the quality of all recycled materials – especially paper, cardboard and glass. This significantly improves the value of these materials and their ability to be recycled into new products. By maximising the recyclability of our materials, we can get more out of our precious resources.

This program delivers on the Fund’s legislated objective of ‘fostering environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria’ by transforming Victoria’s recycling sector, reducing waste and creating jobs.



Photo: New purple lidded bins at the City of Merri-bek.

265,307 households 

received new separated glass recycling kerbside or drop off services in 2023-24.

This introduced services to a further 10% of Victorian households.

295,910 households 

received new food and garden organics kerbside or drop off services in 2023-24.

This introduced services to a further 11% of Victorian households.

CASE STUDY

Education and behaviour change

Sustainability Victoria is delivering the \$26.6 million Household Education and Behaviour Change Program to support Victorians to adopt circular economy behaviours by reducing the amount of waste we generate and to recycle more as part of the 4-stream household recycling system.

Alongside the statewide Small Acts, Big Impact campaign, the program provides funding for councils to deliver local campaigns through the Circular Economy Household Education Fund. All Victorian councils and alpine resorts were eligible to apply for funding and most (81%) have been awarded funding, with local campaigns now underway across the state.

Under the Fund, Sustainability Victoria supported Merri-bek City Council with a \$102,000 grant for the development and delivery of an education campaign to introduce the new household recycling services to the community as part of their kerbside waste reform program.

As part of the program, Victorian councils can access an extensive library of Small Acts, Big Impact campaign materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The library includes illustrations, written copy, posters, print and out-of-home advertising, flyers, bin tags, videos and many more materials. The materials are modular and can be adapted to suit council recycling and waste contracts.

One of Merri-bek's campaign objectives was to build community awareness and acceptance of the 4-bin service, including the benefits and the need for change.




Photo: Merri-bek education materials.


As part of the development of campaign collateral, Merri-bek used Sustainability Victoria’s templates to develop user guides for residents, fridge magnets, flyers, and advertising for the community. Select materials were also translated into the top seven languages spoken, where there is a barrier to English, in the municipality. The campaign materials were then delivered directly to householders and rolled out across a variety of local channels including web, radio, out-of-home, social media and print publications.

In follow up research in September 2023, it was found Merri-bek’s communications were effective in raising awareness of changes to the recycling system, with three-quarters of residents reporting hearing or seeing communications about the new glass service.

76%+ of Merri-bek residents  recalled seeing Small Acts, Big Impact branded communications.

82% of Merri-bek residents  rated the campaign materials as “Easy to understand”

80%: “Providing all the information required” and 77%: “Relevant to people like me”.

76%+ of Merri-bek residents  rated the communication of the glass recycling service rollout as effective.

92% of residents with a glass recycling service are sorting their glass into their new bin, and 61% have put their new bin out for collection within three months of receiving the service.

According to Merri-bek, the benefits of using the Small Acts, Big Impact materials included significant savings in costs and time. Because the materials were designed by a trusted Victorian Government agency and backed by research, the production and approvals processes were streamlined in the lead-up to the campaign.

Merri-bek appreciated that the provided templates were easy to adapt and that all the materials had a consistent look and feel. The extensive range of materials available made it easy for Merri-bek to choose relevant assets for their campaign.

“We are delighted with the results of our 4-bin roll out, including our new glass recycling service for our community - Sustainability Victoria’s cohesive suite of materials meant we were able to focus more on implementing successful behaviour change communications to our residents. Not having to create materials from scratch also provided significant cost savings and helped facilitate faster production and approvals in the lead-up to the introduction of our glass recycling service. Using SV’s materials also meant that we are supporting consistent messaging across Victorian communities. Council is happy our campaign is helping our residents recycle correctly and improve recycling for all Victorians. We look forward to continuing the use of the Small Acts, Big Impact materials in future campaigns.”

– Victoria Hart, Manager Sustainability and Climate, Merri-bek City Council.



Photo: Merri-bek education materials.

CASE STUDY

Making polluters accountable

Uncontrolled waste stockpiling and illegal waste dumping causes significant environmental harm in Victoria. It increases the risk of fire, contamination to land and impacts to surface waters, groundwater and air. It threatens our environment and the safety and wellbeing of our communities.

Some types of waste are particularly prone to fraudulent activity and waste crime. These wastes include those with a low resource recovery value, where there is a potential to profit from illegal dumping, and where there are unstable end-markets which result in volatile prices.

To tackle the issue of waste crime, over the past four years, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has, with funding from the Sustainability Fund, built strong capacity and expert capability across the waste 'pipeline' to detect, prevent and disrupt waste crime that:

- delivers earlier identification, intervention and preventative action
- reduces environmental impact and the risk of harm to the environment and community from the mismanagement of waste
- supports the ongoing development of the lawful waste sector and best practice, through targeting unlawful operators and operations and ensuring that they are held accountable for their actions.

Through the Waste Crime Prevention Program, EPA has built enhanced capacity and capability to detect and deter illegal waste management practices, and take strong action when and where needed, including stronger sanctions for offenders to protect human health and the environment.

Under this program, specialists have been recruited in largescale waste investigation and prosecution, criminal and financial intelligence, covert, overt and aerial surveillance. They are supported by targeted proactive approaches and regulatory intervention. New joint intelligence, investigation and data sharing partnerships have been established with other state EPAs and federal government departments, WorkSafe, Victoria Police, emergency services agencies, local government and other co-regulators. Operating frameworks have been developed to support the detection and investigation of suspected waste crime, containment of the environmental impacts of illegal waste disposal, and swift and decisive enforcement action where the EPA finds deliberate and criminal non-compliance. This has resulted in more waste crime being detected, a significant increase in number of investigations conducted and successful criminal prosecutions of illegal waste operators. Crucial to disrupting waste crime and deterring future potential offenders, investigations and court action help ensure operators that break the law are held to account and pay for their actions.

Some examples of recent achievements include:

End of life tyres

Bendigo: Acting on a tipoff from the public, EPA officers used aerial drones to locate a stockpile containing approximately 10,000 waste tyres on a property south of Bendigo. They measured one of the piles at 40 metres wide, 30 metres long and up to four metres high. Physical and technical surveillance and forensic accounting were used to identify the person responsible for dumping the tyres, making them the legal duty holder. Moving quickly to protect the environment and remove the risk, EPA issued a regulatory notice directing the duty holder to clean up and manage the illegally dumped tyres. This means that the expense of the clean-up is met by those responsible, not Victorians. This action is enforced with a court order.



Photo: Drone footage of Bendigo tyre stockpile.

Mildura: Over a ten-year period, a Red Cliffs man amassed nearly 110,000 waste tyres on another person’s rural property near Mildura, leaving her family with a clean-up bill of almost \$1 million after she died and his stockpile was discovered. The family contacted EPA after the man would not agree to repay them the clean-up costs of his illegal waste dump. EPA investigated and found piles of tyres. Most of the tyres had been dumped behind brush and trees in an attempt to hide the real scale of the dumping. In March 2024, the man was convicted of polluting land, causing an environmental hazard and dumping industrial waste. He was fined \$20,000 and ordered to repay the nearly \$900,000 spent by the family to clean up the illegal stockpile.

Construction & demolition waste



Photo: Illegal dumping of demolition waste, including asbestos, in Whittlesea.

Whittlesea: A woman who leased land in Whittlesea was fined \$45,000 and ordered to pay clean-up costs estimated at \$200,000 after she allowed demolition waste, which included asbestos, to be dumped on the land. A court was told that the woman had provided false information to investigators and disregarded an EPA notice requiring the removal of the waste.



Photo: Illegal disposal of contaminated timber at Fyansford.

Fyansford: A Geelong based landfill, a property developer and associates were investigated for the illegal disposal of contaminated timber at a landfill not licensed to receive it. The landfill accepted more than 140 tonnes of waste that was incorrectly classified as “packaged waste asbestos”, being a product that the landfill was licenced to accept. However, the waste was in fact hydrocarbon-contaminated timber which was toxic and could not have been appropriately managed at that landfill. Stepping in before it caused harm to the environment, EPA ensured the landfill operators transferred the material from the site to a facility licensed to accept it, thereby avoiding the hazard it posed from leaching chemicals into groundwater and surface waters. The company was prosecuted and pled guilty to breaching the terms of its operating licence and was ordered to pay \$50,000 to Corangamite Catchment Management Authority for habitat restoration along the Moorabool River.

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority CEO Amber Clarke says the Authority is very pleased with the result.

“This funding will create practical benefits for the environment. The Moorabool River Restoration Project in Fyansford will remove weeds and plant native vegetation to help restore the waterway and improve habitat for platypus to its natural form.”

“We will be working with the City of Greater Geelong to improve water quality, enhance habitat for native plants and wildlife, and enhance opportunities for community recreation and wellbeing.”

By February 2024, Victoria reached



zero red-rated (or highest risk rated) waste sites across the state.

CASE STUDY

Victoria's new container deposit scheme



Photo: Container deposit reverse vending machines.

Victoria's container deposit scheme, CDS Vic, commenced on 1 November 2023 and is a central component of ambitious reforms to transform Victoria's recycling system under the Victorian Government's circular economy policy. CDS Vic reduces litter and maximises the recycling of drink containers by rewarding Victorians with a 10 cent refund for every eligible container returned to a refund collection point.

Litter harms human health, wildlife and the environment. Beverage containers contribute significantly to Victoria's litter stream. In 2018-19, these beverage containers made up 47% of the litter stream in Victoria. An estimated 3.31 billion beverage containers are consumed in Victoria each year, with consumption increasing by about 1% each year. Of these, approximately 89%, or 2.96 billion, are containers that are covered by CDS Vic.



Photo: Workers at a CDS depot refund point.

CDS Vic's cost recovery mechanism ensures that scheme costs are borne by the beverage industry in line with the principle of 'extended producer responsibility.'

When CDS Vic launched, there were 400 operational refund collection points in Victoria. By August 2024 this number had reached over 600 refund collection points. Zone operators are required to place refund collection points near where people live and come together. Metropolitan communities will have multiple options nearby. Regional towns with more than 750 residents and remote towns with more than 300 residents will have, if required, at least one refund collection point.

As of June 2024, over 550 million containers have been returned through CDS Vic, seeing over \$55 million returned to Victorians.

Victorian charities, community, environmental and sports groups, as well as educational organisations, have new ways to fundraise through CDS Vic by:

- collecting containers, including through a collection drive, to return to a refund collection point;
- registering as a donation partner to receive donations of refunds from consumers; and/or
- applying to run a refund point.

CDS Vic increases recycling of empty drink containers into new products, reduces litter, and enables a product stewardship model that fosters a shared responsibility between producers, retailers, and consumers. CDS Vic mitigates the economic and environmental impacts of beverage container waste by improving recycling rates and reducing litter. The scheme applies a best practice approach: it is convenient, simple to use, reliable and accessible to all Victorians.

This is just one of the projects that contributed to an overall

203,407 tonnes of plastic waste



that avoided going to landfill over the last five years.

Over the last five years, Sustainability Fund programs helped to divert

125,236 tonnes of glass from landfill.



CASE STUDY

New legislation for climate action

The drafting and passage through Parliament of the *Climate Change and Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Energy and Storage Targets) Act 2024* was supported with funding from the Sustainability Fund. It helps to create a better future for Victorians by strengthening the State's legislated commitment to climate action.

The Act amends the existing *Climate Change Act 2017*, which contains Victoria's emissions reduction targets and ensures government reporting and accountability in reaching targets. These changes reflect the Victorian Government's decisive action to reduce state emissions to net zero and ensure Victoria is prepared for the impacts and risks of climate change.

Changes in the 2024 Act include bringing the net zero emissions reduction target forward from 2050 to 2045 and legislating ambitious interim emissions reduction targets including:

- 28–33 per cent below 2005 levels by 2025;
- 45–50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030; and
- 75–80 per cent below 2005 levels by 2035.

Renewable energy targets set out in the *Renewable Energy (Jobs and Investment) Act 2017* were also amended including:

- Raising the 2030 renewable energy target from 50% to 65%;
- Introducing a new renewable energy target of 95% for 2035; and
- Introducing energy storage targets and offshore wind energy targets.

The Act also included amendments to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to create a climate change duty that requires planning authorities to consider climate change – including climate change hazards and emissions reduction targets – when making certain planning decisions. The new climate change duty for planners will help reduce emissions and make Victorian households and communities more resilient to climate change.

Through these amendments, this 2024 Act has tangible impacts on the Victorian community and beyond by:

- Encouraging employment, technology development and investment in zero-emissions technologies, goods and industries. Clean manufacturing and production facilities are already underway in Victoria and ambitious emissions targets will help drive investment;
- Encouraging climate resilient communities and a clean, liveable environment;
- Driving down energy bills for Victorians in the net zero transition through renewable energy; and
- Creating certainty for Victorians in establishing a clear roadmap for climate action and interim targets to achieve net zero.

“The Victorian Government recognises that climate change is one of the most critical issues facing us today. Both the science – and our lived experience in recent years in Victoria – tell us clearly that sustained and ambitious action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is essential to avoiding the worst impacts of climate change.”

– Minister for Climate Action, Lily D'Ambrosio, in the second reading speech for the Act.

The 7 emission reduction pledges from 2021 to 2025 help achieve these targets were developed by a Sustainability Fund program.

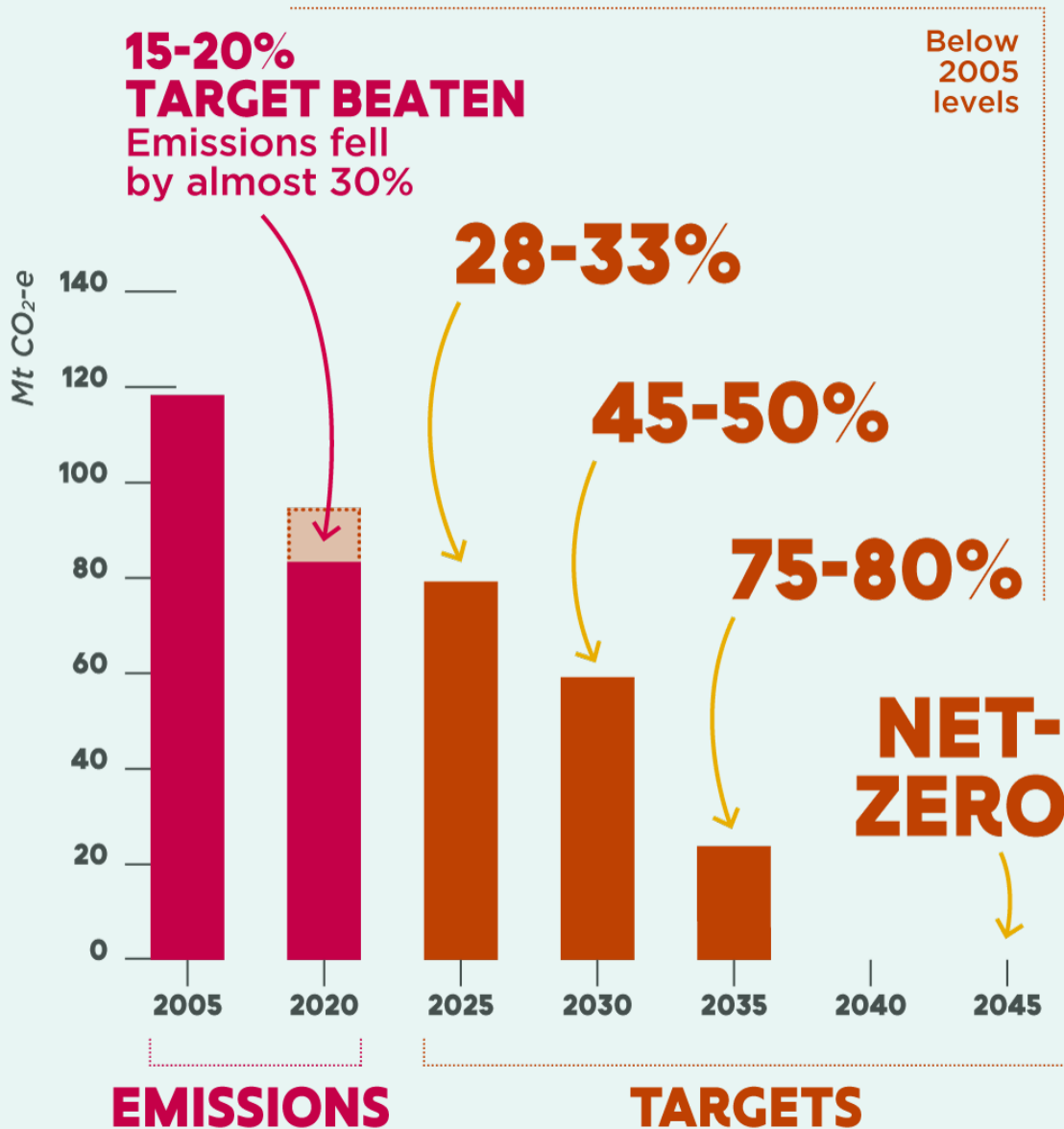


The pledges cover:

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Industrial Processes and Product Use
- Land Use Change and Forestry
- Transport
- Waste
- Whole of Victorian Government

Check out the pledges here:

<https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-action-on-climate-change>



Program spotlight: Victoria's new recycling policy project comes to a close

This year marks the fourth year and end of a large portion of the Sustainability Fund's suite of programs under **Recycling Victoria: A new economy**. It has been a significant and highly successful policy and the many programs that brought this policy to life have provided a meaningful trajectory for Victoria's waste management.

Prior to 2018, recycling in Victoria, particularly of plastic, often involved shipping the material overseas for processing. However, in 2018, a number of countries banned the import of plastics for recycling. That same year, the Australian government introduced a national ban on the export of a range of recyclable materials including plastic, glass, paper and tyres. As a result of these complementary import and export bans, between 2016 and 2021, export volumes of recyclable plastics from Victoria had more than halved (from 29,000 to 13,000 tonnes per month) while local reprocessing of materials had more than doubled (from 13,000 to 27,000 tonnes per month)¹.

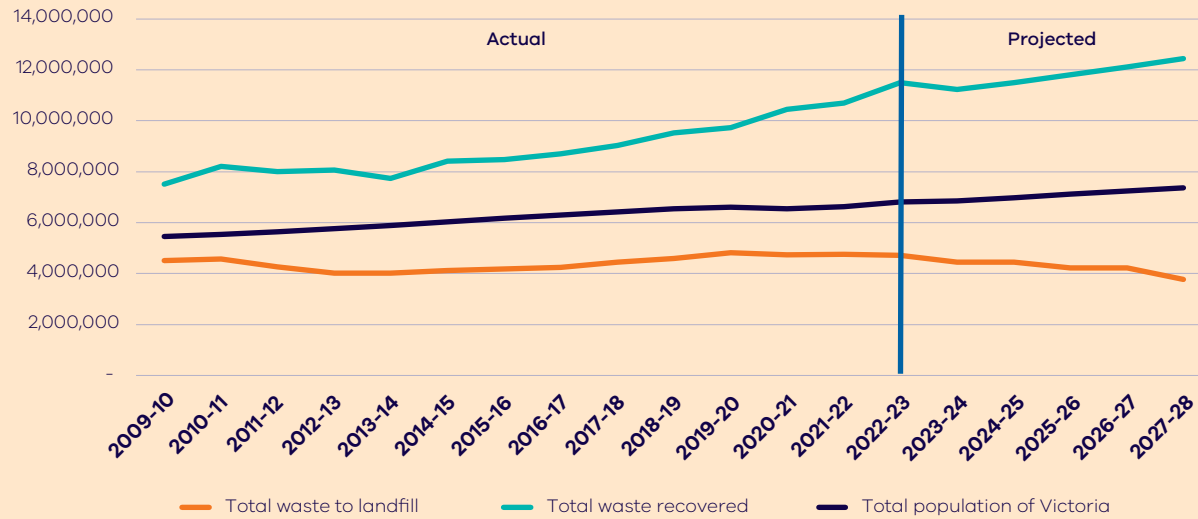
Following these changes, the destination of Victorian kerbside collection materials underwent a significant and rapid shift. In 2020-21, the State Budget provided a sizeable allocation of more than \$300 million from the Sustainability Fund to support a portfolio of programs that fell under the new recycling policy, *Recycling Victoria: A new economy*.

These reforms included the passing of the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* which created the legal framework for stronger regulation of Victoria's new recycling system. Recycling Victoria was established as a government regulator with powers to oversee the four-stream household waste and recycling system, Victoria's new container deposit scheme and other related activities.

The graph below shows the significant impact that Victoria's recycling policies have had on our landfilling and recycling habits.

¹ Sustainability Victoria *Recovered Resources Market Bulletin*

Victoria's population growth vs landfilling over time



Between 2009/10 and 2022/23, Victoria saw more than a  **50% increase in the amount of waste recovered.**

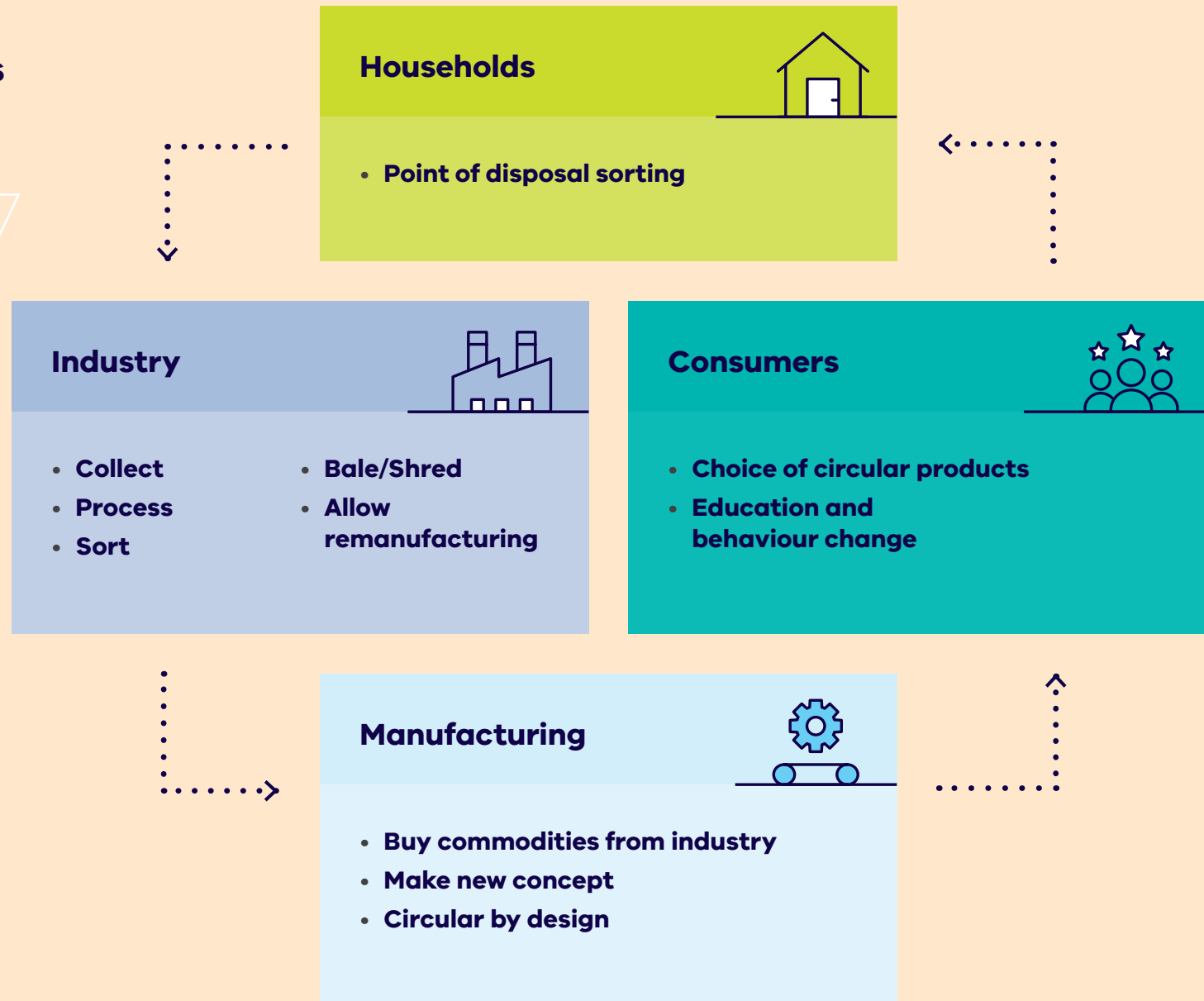
During that same period, Victoria's population increased by 25%. Despite this, the average annual amount of waste that we sent to landfill increased by only 5%.

As the recycling industry strengthens and Victorians continue to fine-tune their waste disposal habits, **the amount of waste that we send to landfill annually is projected to decrease by a further 15%**¹ in the coming years, despite anticipated population growth of around 7% across Victoria.

¹ DEECA internal modelling of projected landfill tonnage and waste levy revenue. Modelling considers historic landfill and waste recovery volumes, macroeconomic indicators and planned new major infrastructure for municipal and industrial waste recovery, but does not include Priority Waste.

Victorians' habits are changing and, across the board, we are all landfilling less and recycling more. 

How Victoria's new recycling policy works





Households



Value add:

- Point of disposal sorting



As part of Victoria’s new recycling policy, a broad and comprehensive range of education and behaviour change programs has been delivered across the state. This in turn has meant that more Victorians are now better able to contribute to the state’s recycling efforts at an individual level.

One of the most important parts of the recycling process takes place in our own homes. When we properly sort our waste and recycling into the correct kerbside bins, the value of the state’s overall recycled materials increases because the system is not clogged by contamination of material types.

Why do we need a separate glass recycling service?

When broken glass enters the yellow-lidded mixed recycling bin it makes other items like cardboard, paper and plastic hard to recycle due to broken glass contamination. By keeping the glass separate, we make our other recyclables easier to process.

With funding from the Sustainability Fund,

450+ tonnes

of household chemicals and hard-to-recycle materials were diverted from landfill as part of the Detox Your Home program over a 2-year period.



Every Victorian has a role to play in helping the recycling industry to develop.

No. of households with improved Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and/or glass collection services – as at 30 June 2024:



Glass: 884,318 households (approx. 32% of all Victorian households)



FOGO: 1,843,903 households (approx. 66% of all Victorian households)

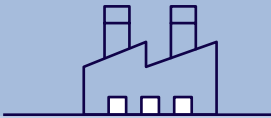
19 councils now offer kerbside glass collection (~ 24% of all councils), and an additional **17 councils** offer drop off glass facilities (approx. 21% of all councils).



57 councils now provide a kerbside Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service (~ 72% of all councils)



Industry



Value add:

- Collect
- Process
- Sort
- Bale/Shred
- Allow Remanufacturing



The waste and recycling industry sits at the heart of Victoria's circular economy. Under the new recycling policy funded by the Sustainability Fund, this diverse industry has seen:

- 1.** An **increase in recycling capacity** – both through improvements to existing infrastructure and as new infrastructure has come online
- 2.** **More materials diverted away from landfills** and into the recycling system
- 3.** Significant improvement in the quality of recyclable materials as they enter the recycling system, due to **better community education** and **less contamination** across material streams
- 4.** Improved value in recycled materials, with over **120,000 tonnes** of existing processing capacity refined to increase the quality of subproducts
- 5.** New markets for recycled products which, in turn, incentivise industry to **invest more in recycling**

Within the new recycling policy landscape, we have also seen the value of waste diverted from landfill increase as innovative uses for those materials have been developed. This not only impacts our need to rely on virgin materials, but also has a significant impact on CO₂ emissions. Increasingly, CO₂e emissions are being avoided because manufacturers are using recycled materials rather than virgin materials. In 2020, emissions from the creation of plastics using virgin materials produced more than 16 million metric tonnes of greenhouse gases – equivalent to the emissions produced by 5.7 million cars on Australia's roads annually.¹ By recycling our plastics and other waste streams, rather than creating new products with virgin materials, we can reduce these emissions, as well as reducing the emissions that are released from our landfills.

¹ [Blue Environment \(2023\) Carbon emissions assessment of Australian plastics consumption](#)

Manufacturing



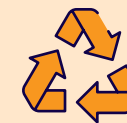
Value add:

- Buy commodities from industry
- Make new concept
- Circular by design



Reduce, Re-use, Recycle. It is the triple R that many Victorians have come to know.

This operational practice is introduced to thousands of school children each year through the ResourceSmart Schools Program, which is funded by the Sustainability Fund. Now more than ever these students and the wider Victorian community are witnessing these words being transformed into an on-ground practice of the waste hierarchy in Victoria.



Reduce	Since the introduction of the recycling policy, the significant increase in procurement of products made from recycled materials - such as recycled glass, asphalt and concrete - meant that over 80,000 tonnes of virgin materials were not needed to create those new products.
Re-use	<p>The Circular Economy Communities Fund, one of many programs that help to implement Victoria's new recycling policy, has community action at its heart. Under that program, a grant was provided to the Mernda Repair Cafe to deliver educational workshops to communities on how to repair their own household items. This resulted in the diversion of over 600 kg of household waste from landfill.</p> <p>The Circular Economy Business Innovation Centre has similarly had a reuse focus but from a business perspective. Mantzaris Fisheries improved their equipment and developed an enzymatic method to convert squid gut waste into high quality omega-3 rich oil and a protein rich co-product for human consumption. Likewise, Select Harvests developed a novel process for the re-use of almond hull and shell to produce an organic fertiliser. All of these innovative examples fell under the new recycling policy landscape, funded by the Sustainability Fund.</p>
Recycle	Under the new recycling policy funded by the Sustainability Fund, at least 18 new markets for recycled products have been created or enhanced. Within these markets, over 100 new circular products and services were created.

Check out some great examples of recycling of tricky materials here:

- [Victoria's Beer Bottle Road](#)
- [Hockey field redevelopment using recycled aggregate](#)
- [Utilising waste rubber tyres in permeable pavement](#)

You can also visit our [online directory to find products containing recycled materials.](#)

Consumers



Value add:

- Choice of circular products
- Education and Behaviour Change



Consumers have an important role to play in the recycling value chain. Pre-sorting of recyclables at a household level is only part of the solution.

Consumers can choose to purchase recycled products, and they can help to return recyclable products to the recycling industry – both by sorting their recyclables into the appropriate kerbside bins, and by returning particularly tricky products to designated return points (for example, tyres, fluorescent light bulbs and batteries). Renting and sharing can become more common choices, meaning that products are used for longer or by more people – saving consumers money and reducing waste.

Consumers, just like other participants in the recycling value chain, are often also motivated to participate through financial incentives. Victoria's new container deposit scheme is a great example of consumers playing a critical role in our waste and recycling circular economy. Over 3.3 billion beverage containers are consumed in Victoria each year. Of these, approximately 89%, or 2.96 billion of these containers are eligible for a refund to the consumer under the new scheme. As of June 2024, over 550 million containers have been returned, seeing over \$55 million reimbursed to Victorians. Though this is only the first year of the scheme, we can look to examples of other Australian jurisdictions who have had a longer-running container deposit schemes to see that the trajectory for recycling of these containers in Victoria has the opportunity to increase considerably in the coming years. We can also look at other jurisdictions to get an idea of the

impacts and future challenges of this scheme. NSW has halved its plastic litter since its container deposit scheme commenced. In spite of these results, eligible containers remain the largest contributor to NSW's litter volume, showing that there is even further opportunity for improvement.

Redemption rates for eligible containers



29% for Victoria in just the first six months of the new scheme. The recycling rates in the states below can give us an idea of the trajectory for Victoria.

63% for NSW as a multi-year average since its scheme commenced in 2017

70% last year for the ACT, which has had a scheme in place since 2018

The new container deposit scheme, which is a critical part of the overall recycling policy changes funded by the Sustainability Fund, has helped to **empower consumers to recycle in a new way** and to **strengthen and uplift consumers' contribution** to the recycling circular economy.

CASE STUDY

Industry and Infrastructure Development Program

PET plastic recycling

In 2020 the Australian government introduced waste export regulations on plastic waste, meaning that many Australian waste products such as plastic drink bottles could no longer be sent overseas. In response, programs such as Industry and Infrastructure Development Program (IIDP) were designed to build capability and capacity for a sustainable resource recovery sector. With funding from the Sustainability Fund, a total pool of \$67.5 million was made available through the IIDP. This funding was allocated as grants through a range of competitive, unsolicited, and targeted processes.

One resulting project, co-funded by the Australian Government through the Recycling Modernisation Fund, supported the construction of a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) recycling plant in Altona North, Victoria to take used plastic bottles. This facility now helps to significantly reduce the volume of PET bottles (clear plastic drink bottles) from going to landfill. It does this by converting PET bottles into food-grade resin. It also integrates with the new container deposit scheme that was launched by Victoria government in November 2023.

A PET food-grade resin recycle line with state-of-the-art technology has been installed at the facility. It is able to sort plastic bales, hot wash the flakes and finally extrude and decontaminate the plastic into cylindrical shape food-grade PET pellet resin. This not only reduces the volume of plastic to landfill, but also reduces CO2 emissions because the process of recycling PET produces fewer emissions than if it were made from virgin material.



Photo: CPA Altona Exterior.

The facility has the capacity to recycle the equivalent of approximately 1 billion 600ml PET plastic bottles each year and has resulted in nearly 60 full time positions. A further near 60 temporary full-time jobs were created during the construction of the facility.

This project has supported the new waste export regulations for Victorian exporters of PET plastic and is having a large impact on the development of Victoria's circular economy due to the sheer number of plastic bottles that can now be recycled. The Altona North facility provides a complete, bottle-to-bottle solution where plastic bottles collected from household recycling bins and container deposit sites are recycled and remanufactured into new packaging.

For further information, click [here](#).

Photo: CPA Altona Aerial.



Cleanaway CEO Mark Schubert said:

“Cleanaway is proud to be part of building Victoria’s circular economy through this bottle-to-bottle recycling facility. Cleanaway’s leading integrated network of collections and infrastructure assets provides our customers with high circularity / low carbon solutions and great customer service.”

“It’s a best practice example of closing the gap between recycling, design and manufacturing, connecting waste processing and manufacturing to replace virgin materials with recycled resources, and driving collaboration across supply chains.”

– Sustainability Victoria.

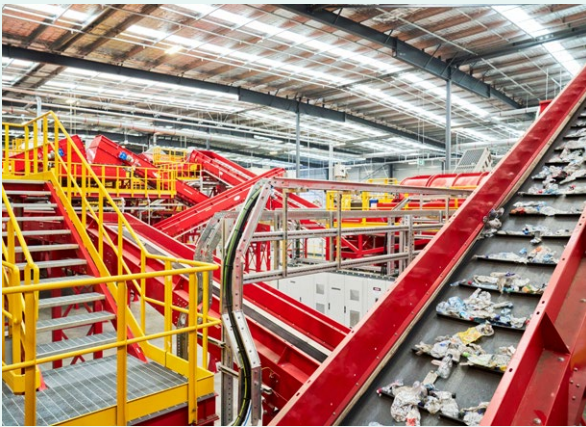


Photo: PACT Altona North.

Paper recycling

Paper and cardboard recycling collected from kerbsides is usually highly contaminated. Paper milk and juice cartons, for example, have an inside plastic coating and that makes them non-recyclable. Pizza cardboard boxes often contain oil from their greasy contents which contaminates the cardboard and makes it non-recyclable.

To help recycle this contaminated paper, drum pulper technology can be used to clean and screen paper and cardboard to remove plastic, dirt and staples. It then heats the paper to remove ink and glue. Drum pulper technology means that mixed or contaminated paper can be recycled to make new products, including boxes for the agricultural sector and packaging for takeaway food.

Using funding from the Sustainability Fund and co-funded by the Australian Government’s Recycling Modernisation Fund, Australia’s first drum pulper technology system was installed at the Coolaroo Paper Mill with the aim of eliminating contaminants like plastics from the wastepaper stream to improve processing capacity. The system installed at Coolaroo is

among the most advanced paper recycling technology in the world. It recovers a higher volume of decontaminated fibres from pulping processes than other technologies. It also uses less energy and produces fewer carbon dioxide emissions than other technologies.

This project has the capacity to recycle an additional 95,000 tonnes of mixed kerbside paper each year, meaning that 40% more paper and cardboard from kerbside bins can be recycled in Victoria. This will reduce the amount of contaminated cardboard and paper that would have been diverted to landfill.

The material recovered from this upgrade is being manufactured back into paper packaging for Victorian farmers, food and beverage brands and other packaging. The completion of this project recognises that Victoria doesn’t work in isolation. This plant, along with an upgrade to a recycling facility in Queensland completed in early 2024, means that Australia is now closer than ever before to closing the loop on mixed paper recycling in Australia.

“[This project] will double Visy’s kerbside recycling capability in Victoria, diverting up to 180,000 tonnes of paper and cardboard annually from Victoria’s landfills or exports – the equivalent of approximately an extra 400 Olympic swimming pools.”

– Anthoy Pratt, Executive Chairman, Visy.

For more information on these technologies, click [here](#).

When paper and cardboard are landfilled, they can emit as much CO₂ emissions as the burning of coal.

All Victorians can now put pizza boxes in their recycling.

This is just one of the projects that contributed to an overall



237,955 tonnes of increased processing capacity

created through the Sustainability Fund this year across multiple waste stream types.

CASE STUDY

Circular Economy Councils Fund



Photo: Bayside Council's Roving Repair Program.
Credit: Bayside City Council.

Last year, the Sustainability Fund provided \$2,554,447 in grants through the Circular Economy Councils Fund (part of \$5.9 million in grants over the lifetime of the program) to assist Victorian Councils to transition to a circular economy. Councils then implemented innovative solutions to address gaps around the reuse, repair, repurposing, and recycling of materials in the waste and resource recovery system. Below are two grants highlighting the diversity of support offered.





Photo: Credit: Bayside City Council.

Bayside's Roving Repair Program

As part of the Circular Economy Councils Fund, the Bayside Roving Repair Program sought to reduce waste to landfill while increasing community capability to participate in upstream circular economy behaviours (reuse and repair).

The project aimed to:

1. Reduce waste to landfill.
2. Upskill the community to repair, reuse and upcycle items.
3. Foster a culture of repair in Bayside and build lasting community connections.

The program was delivered via a varied "roving" model across the municipality and received a strong community response. It not only provided a service and avenue for engaging in upstream circular behaviours, but also provided opportunities for community to upskill and create intergenerational connections. Delivery of this project has encouraged Bayside City Council to continue activities in the community repair space, building on the success of the program and incorporating it into business as usual for their Circular Economy Officer.

Council ran eight events across six months - all staffed by volunteers to help repair items. The events attracted over 160 attendees, with around 80% from Bayside and the remainder travelling from other Melbourne municipalities - in some cases from opposite sides of the city.

154 items were repaired, 40% of which were reported as destined for landfill had they not been repaired. This represents an estimated 134.91kg of avoided waste across eight events. 75% of items brought to the events were fully repaired, with 14% partially repaired. Only 11% of items could not be salvaged.

The events provided an excellent opportunity for community connection and capability building. 77% of survey attendees reported learning new skills. The program tapped into existing sentiment in the community and leveraged volunteer and community interest in repair and reuse behaviour, encouraging circular solutions and enabling participation.

"The program is an absolutely brilliant idea; it gives opportunities for people who would like to upcycle but have no idea how. Suggest creating more of this kind of program frequently so people can develop upcycle skills and minimise waste."

– Program participant.

**This is just one of the projects
that contributed to an overall**

**3 million
Victorians**



**who received sustainability
messaging this year with the help
of the Sustainability Fund.**

Central Goldfields Energy Breakthrough Event Waste Management Project

For over 30 years, the Central Goldfields Shire Council (CGSC) has hosted the Energy Breakthrough Festival – a five-day community-led camping festival in Maryborough that attracts over 23,000 people annually. It is the annual culmination of Energy Breakthrough’s year-long education program across 160 schools focusing on efficient energies, the environment, recycling, and sustainability. In 2023, the council undertook the Central Goldfields Energy Breakthrough Event Waste Management Project with funding from the Circular Economy Councils Fund. The purpose of the project was to bring about a significant reduction in waste to landfill during the festival, with a strong focus on waste avoidance and recovery of recyclable and compostable material. The project also aimed to educate participants (7,500 students and families) before, during and after the event on sustainable waste practices, avoidance, and their role in achieving a waste-wise event.

In previous years, an ongoing challenge for the council has been the large amounts of waste produced during the event. In 2019, most of the waste produced during the five-day event ended up in landfill. This meant over 30 tonnes of resources that were disposed of either via skips or through the wheelie bins distributed across the site. The council recognised that it needed support to reduce the quantity of waste. The resulting Waste Management Project aimed to decrease waste volumes through pre-event education to participating schools and vendors which encouraged them to consider what potential waste they bring onto the site and how the festival’s new waste system will help maximise recovery of recyclables and organics during the event. Waste diversion during the event was supported by additional bins for waste stream separation, accompanied by signage and waste staff and volunteers to guide patrons on correct waste disposal, providing lasting education and awareness on reducing waste to landfill.

The project’s strong focus on pre-education included:

- Working with vendors to replace disposable packaging with washable crockery and cutlery
- Setting up a central wash station and providing dish washers to the community catering partners
- Campsite visits with direct promotion of source separation

- Introduction of organics, commingled recycling aluminium cans, container deposit scheme waste streams and a dirty dishes collection bucket at each resource recovery station
- Promotion of ban on single use plastics
- Ban on single-use plastic water bottles

As a result, overall waste production at the event reduced from 36 tonnes to 4.9 tonnes annually. Other outcomes included greater engagement with volunteers, vendors and schools who participated in the additional sorting of waste within their own campsites and in taking some waste home with them.

In 2023, total landfill resulting from the Energy Breakthrough Project was



reduced by 40% from the previous year

34% (1.660 tonnes) of waste

generated by the Energy Breakthrough Project was organic and was able to be composted



This project also sparked conversations throughout the region which then enabled resource sharing, consistent signage and infrastructure sharing well beyond the Central Goldfields Shire.

“Creating a sustainable event from start to end is a high priority – the schools have amazing energy breakthroughs with their machines. Avoiding and diverting waste at the event continues the commitment to achieving a sustainable future. This has been demonstrated through the reduction in waste from 2019 to 2023.”

Video testimony here can be viewed [here](#).

CASE STUDY

Protecting Biodiversity Program: Marine Grants

Photo: Golden Kelp in Port Phillip Bay. Credit: Scott Breschkin, The Nature Conservancy.



The Sustainability Fund provides \$19.7m annually to support the Protecting Biodiversity Program, which aims to provide strategic, targeted and sustained action to improve Victoria's biodiversity while delivering the Victorian government's strategic biodiversity plan, *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*. The program delivers integrated pest plant and animal control to optimise environmental outcomes in priority locations to increase the likelihood of persistence of Victoria's threatened species.

The program balances prevention and crisis care with coordinated threat management over broad landscapes to maximise benefits for as many species as possible and to prevent extinctions over the longer term. It delivers on-the-ground projects with the community, key agencies and organisations to manage threats to biodiversity. Projects are targeted at natural assets that are exposed to significant continuing changes – particularly those resulting from climate change. This program delivers on the Sustainability Fund's objective of fostering community action in relation to adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria. It also assists Victoria's ecosystems and native species to be more resilient to climate change.

The Marine Grant Program, which is a component of the Protecting Biodiversity Program, supports coastal wetland and reef restoration. For example, coastal hazard risks arising from climate change will be managed using nature-based solutions such as coastal wetlands and reef restoration. The projects listed below will help maintain capacity and capability of natural resource managers to prioritise the right actions to build biodiversity resilience and adapt or adjust to climate change impacts.

Restoration of kelp forests in Port Phillip Bay

The *Restoring golden kelp forests on rocky reefs in Port Phillip Bay* project aims to address the expansion of urchin barrens by improving habitat condition and trialling different methods of active kelp restoration.

Urchin barrens are bare patches of rock devoid of marine life and are the result of overgrazing of seaweed by the locally overabundant native purple urchin *Heliocidaris erythrogramma*. These barrens have become more prevalent in parts of Port Phillip Bay in recent years as urchin numbers have increased. Research shows that overabundant urchins in Victoria are likely driven by warming ocean temperatures and other environmental changes. Modelled projections of urchin populations under climate change predict urchin abundances will continue to increase and kelp abundance will decline further across Victoria.

Kelp forests are biodiverse habitats. In the Port Phillip Bay they are formed by canopies of native golden kelp *Ecklonia radiata* and other macroalgae. They provide habitat for marine animals and plants, many of which with some unique to southern Australia. In Victoria, kelp forests also support economically and socially important abalone and crayfish fisheries, coastal tourism and recreational industries, and provide ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling.

This project brings together Victoria’s leading organisations working with kelp and urchin research, management and restoration: Parks Victoria, the University of Melbourne, Deakin University and The Nature Conservancy. Project on-ground activities are within Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary and within and adjacent to Jawbone Marine Sanctuary. The project aims to restore kelp forests by:

- Reducing urchin densities to a level recommended through research that will allow recovery.
- Developing and trialling kelp cultivation and restoration methods.
- Mapping, monitoring and evaluating culled and restored areas to understand the impact of project activities and whether methods have had the outcomes expected.

On-ground activities are ongoing, and monitoring and evaluation to date shows promising results in all aspects of the project. Results from this project will not only improve the health of habitats in Port Phillip Bay but will inform future management actions throughout Victoria, supporting positive biodiversity outcomes into the future.



Photo: Kelp twine outplanting, Jawbone Marine Sanctuary. Credit: Scott Breschkin, The Nature Conservancy.



Photo: Swan Bay. Credit: Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.

Photo: Orange-bellied parrot. Credit: A Donaldson.

Restoring Saltmarsh Habitat on the Bellarine Peninsula

The Sustainability Fund has provided a total of \$100,000 towards *Restoring Saltmarsh Habitat on the Bellarine Peninsula*, leveraging co-contribution to the same value from other stakeholders. The project delivers on-ground actions to restore saltmarsh that provides multiple benefits for carbon storage, improved habitat quality for fauna and flora of the Corangamite coast, and protection of habitat significant to the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot.

Saltmarsh is recognised as a key blue carbon habitat, providing an important role in climate mitigation by its ability to sequester significant amounts of atmospheric carbon. Investing in the restoration and protection of these coastal habitats not only provides nature-based solutions for carbon abatement but also delivers numerous benefits including coastal protection from storm surge, sea level rise and shoreline erosion, improved water quality, nursery grounds for commercially important fisheries, refuge for endangered marine species as well as significant heritage and cultural value for Traditional Owners.

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, in collaboration with Deakin University Blue Carbon Lab and Bellarine Landcare Network, has undertaken site visits, habitat mapping and identification of best-practice methods across various priority saltmarsh habitat areas on the Bellarine Peninsula, focusing on the eastern shore of Lake Connemare and areas around Swan Bay. Site specific actions and works are now underway across more than 200 hectares of potential saltmarsh habitat. On ground action with land-owner partnerships includes reducing grazing impacts, effectively managing stock, and implementing high-threat weed control to improve recovery of saltmarsh. By working to restore blue carbon habitats, the project increases carbon sequestration capacity, ecosystem resilience and coastal protection in the face of climate change. The project aligns with both of the Sustainability Fund's legislative objectives, and with strategic priority 2.2 of 'assisting Victoria's ecosystems and native species to be more resilient to climate change and/or support mitigation outcomes'. This project also directly supports delivery of DEECA's Biodiversity 2037 targets to improve extent and condition of habitat.

CASE STUDY

ResourceSmart Schools



Photo: Climate Change Education Forum.

The ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) program has been managed by Sustainability Victoria since 2008. The program aims to embed sustainability into all a school does and achieves. It takes a holistic approach that offers schools access to a sustainability framework, an online system that monitors resource use and records action, the assistance of specialist sustainability experts, professional learning for teachers and a reward and recognition program. Schools undertaking actions in the program reduce their energy and water use, decrease their waste to landfill, and increase their local biodiversity, while integrating sustainability into student learning and engaging their local community with their initiatives.

The education sector in Victoria engages over 2 million people each year, with over 1 million people attending a primary or secondary school. Although climate change and sustainability are represented in the Victorian school curriculum, there can be a lack of understanding, experience or confidence in teaching the content and managing the impact the content has on young people. The RSS Climate Change Education Forum brings together nearly 140 people from across Victorian industries and age groups to participate in conversations and activities about climate change futures. It connects professionals working in climate change, education, environment and government with students to share their perspectives on climate change and to participate in activities that inspire action. The dialogue aims to increase the wellbeing, hope, and motivation to act, of all participants.



Photo: Climate Change Education Forum.

In 2024, a visual facilitator was employed on the day to capture the key outcomes from each activity. These were displayed in real-time, catering to the diversity of learners present at the event and providing a visual record to be shared with participants and a resource that will assist in the future planning of this event and the ResourceSmart Schools program. Teachers attending had access to professional learning delivered by Deakin University staff who shared climate change education resources and demonstrations of how they can be integrated into the secondary curriculum. This, in addition to the joint climate future activities, was designed to demonstrate the benefits of different approaches to learning about climate change, including the use of an intergenerational lens and by using positive strategies.

Professionals in the room shared that following the event they felt 'good' – they felt confident that students are concerned, motivated, and have the skills and knowledge to take action and the capability to lead change. Many have expressed an interest in participating again, and identified roles in their organisation that could benefit from engaging with young people in this forum. Early participant reflections identified a number of themes:

- Young people are knowledgeable, and they are concerned about environmental issues in their local area, growing inequity and housing.
- Young people clearly understand how sustainability principles can/will be integrated into their future careers.
- Participants enjoyed the event and would like to participate again in the future.

Following the forum, the organising team was contacted by Earth Education who are interested in replicating the event for schools in the Ballarat region.

Expected outcomes of the forum differ depending on the audience category:

- Students are expected to show increased confidence in government taking action on climate change, career opportunities and connection.
- Teachers and pre-service teachers are expected to show increased confidence in talking to young people about climate change and increased awareness of learning resources available.
- Professionals are expected to show increased awareness of the benefits and ways in which young people can be engaged on related issues and project development, and experience increased opportunities for networking and connection.

"We need to think not only about teacher agency but student agency," says Associate Professor Peta White, Co-Director, Centre for Regenerating Futures, Deakin University. "And in an education context, what that means is supporting our teachers to feel confident and comfortable teaching about the climate crises so that their students can have an opportunity to learn about it, but in a way that has them feeling activated ... like they're stepping into their futures in a knowing, comfortable way."

"I've found this morning really inspiring and really enjoyable, particularly actually hearing what other people have to say and their different perspectives on how we can tackle such a big issue like climate change,"

– Student participant.

563
Victorian schools



adopted positive environmental action through the ResourceSmart Schools program this year.

CASE STUDY

Renewable energy



Photo: Floating solar photovoltaic system at Lardner Park.

The Latrobe Valley Energy and Growth Program (LVEGP) provided \$3 million of grant funding to a broad range of renewable energy projects across the local government areas of Latrobe City, Baw Baw, and Wellington.

Funding was provided for innovative projects that capitalised on the renewable energy potential of the Valley and which provide long-term benefits to the Latrobe Valley community. Projects were funded based on their ability to increase the uptake of renewable energy, create and support renewable energy jobs, build capacity through research, feasibility studies, and business cases for renewable energy projects, utilise local content, and deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits to communities and businesses in the Latrobe Valley.



Photo: Floating solar photovoltaic system at Lardner Park.

Five projects were funded under round 1 of the Program and nine more under round 2. The projects included:

- Rooftop solar and battery systems at community facilities in Heyfield, Coongulla, Morwell, Sale, Yarram, and Mt Baw Baw
- A feasibility study to explore the opportunities for large-scale geothermal and solar energy in Sale
- A 276 kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Yallambee Village for the Aged in Traralgon
- Battery installations across three dairies in the Sale region
- The development of prototypes for portable renewable energy systems
- An innovative 50 kilowatt floating solar PV system at Lardner Park.

The Lardner Park project is Victoria's premiere agricultural and regional exhibition venue where the Gippsland Climate Change Network, in collaboration with RACV Solar and Greenwood Solutions, installed a 50kW floating solar system on the dam of the property. As well as producing renewable energy for Lardner Park, the floating solar system assists in water conservation through reduced evaporation and algae growth. The evaporative cooling from the dam also ensures that the panels operate closer to their optimum efficiency, increasing their output by

approximately 10%. This technology has been 'floated' as a potential game changer for sheltered bodies of water including dams and reservoirs and the Lardner Park site offers a valuable demonstration for the application of floating solar in these settings.

This is just one of the projects that, with help from the Sustainability Fund, contributed to an overall

9,166 kW of increased renewable energy



across Victoria over the past 5 years. This is enough to power over 2800 homes for a year.¹

- ¹ Assuming an average yearly consumption of 4,727kWh and based on data from the Australian Energy Market Commission's Residential Electricity Price Trends 2021 report

CASE STUDY

Suburban Parks Program – Pocket Parks



Photo: New pocket park at Otter Street, Collingwood.

The Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program is a \$315 million project to create, connect and upgrade more than 6,500 hectares of green open space across Greater Melbourne.

A component of this program has included funding to create 29 new pocket parks. The investment into pocket parks aims to:

- create new green spaces to improve the health and wellbeing of communities in built-up urban areas.
- help prepare Melbourne for the effects of increasingly hotter summers, establishing Melbourne as the parks capital of Australia.
- provide local opportunities for Melburnians to connect with green open space and exercise.

The Pocket Park program, with help from the Sustainability Fund, has resulted in

16,397
Victorian households



who now have access to pocket parks within 400 metres of their home.



Photo: Otter Street, Collingwood - before.

The two following projects were completed in 2023-24:

Otter and Smith Street Pocket Park, Collingwood

The location was chosen to address the gap in open space provision for the existing and forecast population.

The road at Otter Street was discontinued to create this new open space for the local community at the busy intersection with Smith Street. The space features a curved design, with grassy areas, lots of seating, an upgraded toilet and several tree plantings which will grow to shade the area all year round.

The park also features Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay/Gummaroi artist Reko Rennie’s patterned paving and text “Wurundjeri Bik. Always was, always will be” acknowledging the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history of the area.

Yarra City Council Mayor Edward Crossland said the completion of this project was a win for the local community and businesses, providing a new space for people to gather with friends and relax:

“The population of Collingwood is rapidly growing, and as the suburb with the lowest amount of open space in Yarra, the need for new open space is a priority for residents and Council. The Otter Street pocket park has been developed in consultation with our community and is a place for people to socialise, relax and connect with nature.”

– Edward Crossland, Yarra City Council Mayor.

Birmingham Street Pocket Park, Yarraville

This location was chosen due to its lack of open space within safe and easy walking distance for local residents.

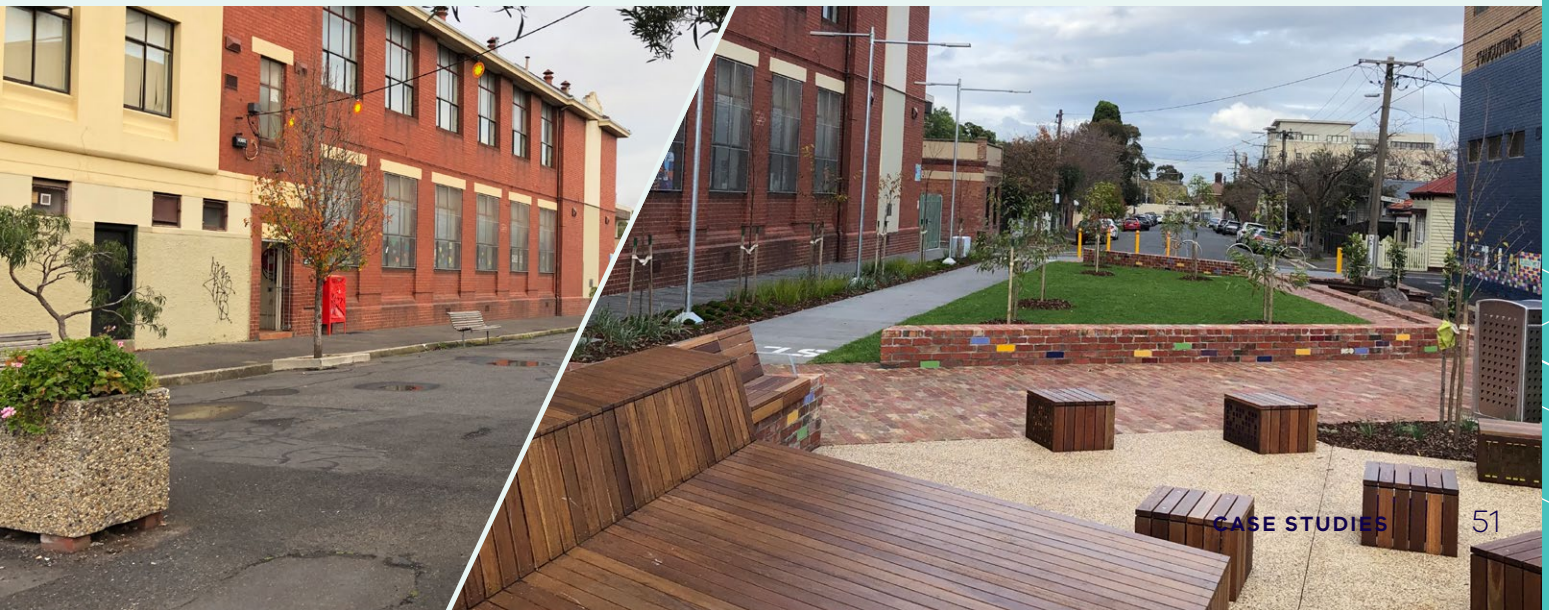
The project has transformed an underused section of closed road reserve between two school buildings into a pocket park complete with a large central lawn, improved pedestrian and bicycle connections, garden beds, canopy trees, seating opportunities, Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) treatments and informal play and learning opportunities.

The local community were involved in the project design and construction, and the creation of the pocket park has delivered many benefits to the community of Yarraville including:

- The adjacent school and kinder garden now have an open space external to the school grounds.
- Landscaping and design elements are attracting members of the wider community to use the space with a variety of seating opportunities and styles.
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle connections, with the bike lane providing a vital connection to access the train station from the north.
- Improved lighting has improved safety through all hours of the day.
- Landscaping maximises the amount of green space and trees in the area.
- Timber decking elements provide for flexible seating, relaxation and play.
- The large central lawn area can be used for sitting and relaxing or an informal kickabout space outside school hours.
- The design of this space is conducive to hosting events and informal gatherings.

Photo: Birmingham Street - before.

Photo: New Birmingham Street Pocket Park.



CASE STUDY

Recycled glass as a life-saving road surface treatment

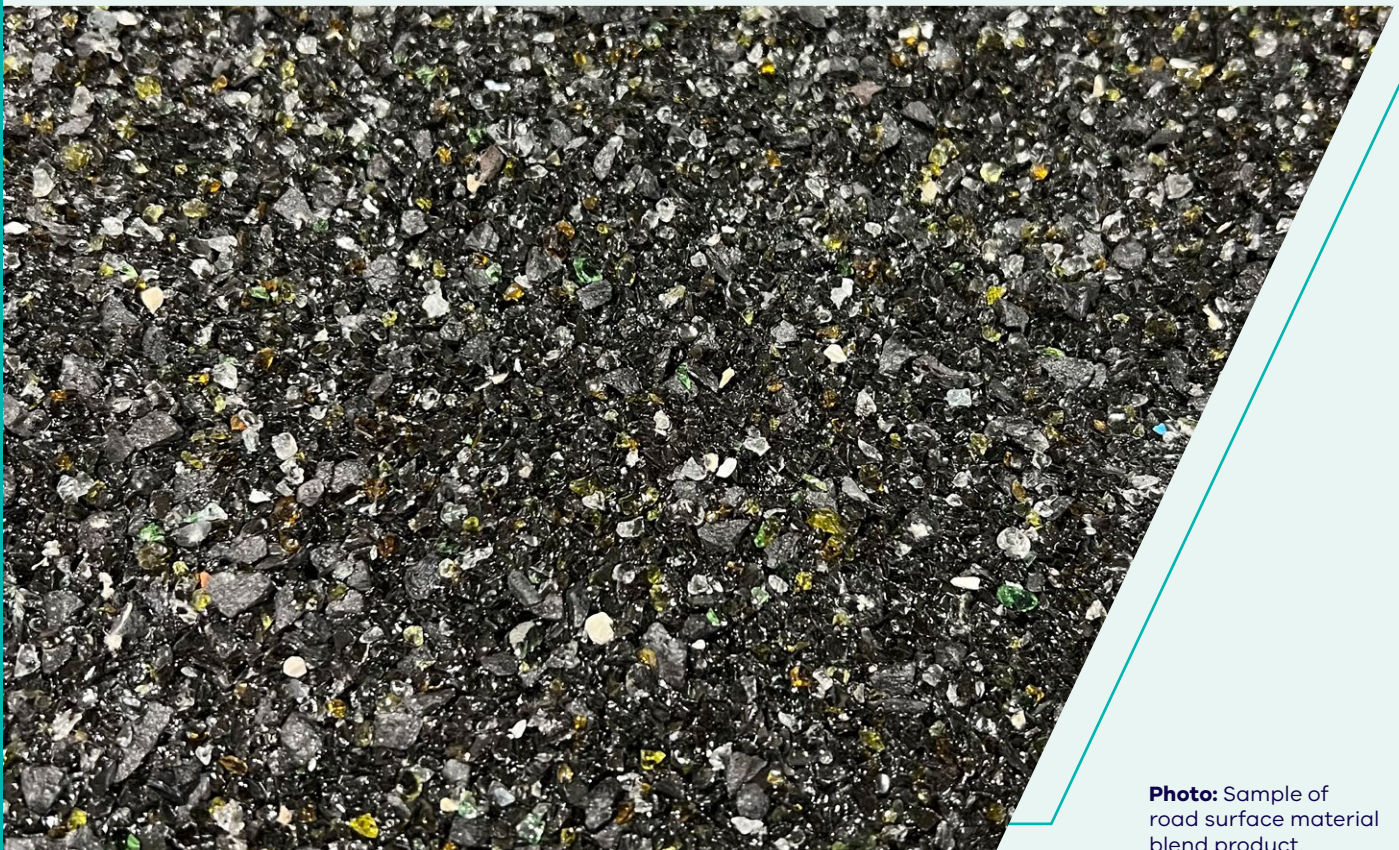


Photo: Sample of road surface material blend product.

Sustainability Victoria's Market Acceleration Program, part of the *Recycling Victoria: a new economy* policy, is investing \$28.8 million dollars in to support the development of new innovative products using recycled materials and to improve market confidence in recycled products and materials.

In 2022, Sustainability Victoria funded the then Australian Road Research Board, now the National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO), together with OmniGrip Direct, to deliver a project to utilise local, recycled, crushed glass in road applications where high friction is required. The current best practice for this product uses a fully imported virgin aggregate. These treatments are applied to the road in higher speed zones and crash-prone locations to improve safety and reduce injuries and fatalities in road crashes.

The project aimed to develop a high friction surface treatment (HFST) product that incorporated blends of corundum and recycled crushed glass as a replacement for virgin materials. The proposal was to create a HFST that utilised post-consumer recycled glass, making the surfacing more affordable and sustainable for state, territory and local governments across Australia. Added benefits included a reduction in the amount of glass going to landfill and an increase in the use of lifesaving HFST on Australian roads.

In use on our roads, the product will have tangible benefits for Victoria including;

- communities with the increased safety and sustainability of our built roads,
- recycled materials suppliers with demand for their materials,
- manufacturers of road safety products and
- asset owners including State Road and local government authorities.

Laboratory and field testing was carried out to ensure the recycled glass blend met required specifications of the Department of Transport and Planning. The project found that the corundum-glass blends with up to 60% glass showed acceptable surface friction and texture depth properties and met the requirements of VicRoads. The life cycle assessment revealed that all blends of the product had lower cradle-to-gate life cycle impacts than the currently used aggregate, with impacts reducing across all environmental indicators as the glass percentage increases.

As a result, a new blended surfacing material has been developed, that fulfils a need for safer road surfaces using recycled content. This product changes low-quality post-consumer recycled glass into a value-added material. The project has determined that more than half of the previously imported aggregate can be replaced with locally sourced post-consumer recycled glass to deliver a surface that will perform similarly to the established technology and well above the minimum criteria for high friction surfaces that has been set by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning.

OmniGrip Direct and NTRO have engaged EcologiQ to identify opportunities within major road projects underway in Victoria's Big Build to apply the surface, enabling its performance in real-world traffic to be assessed and ensuring that the product is fit-for-purpose. Further funding from Sustainability Victoria also supported OmniGrip Direct in registering this product with an Environmental Product Declaration, which demonstrates the environmental benefits of the product.

"This project not only found a new application for post-consumer waste glass, but also demonstrated that recycled crushed glass can be utilised to increase the safety of our roads and community. This is a true example of moving towards building safe and sustainable transport infrastructure and transitioning into a circular economy."

– Dr Javad Yaghoubi, Australian Road Research Board project manager.

"The new surface is a valuable tool for quickly fixing the State's urban and rural road Blackspots for drivers and motorcycle riders; reducing road trauma and crash risks whilst also diverting post-consumer recycled glass from landfill. It's a win for road safety, local manufacturing and recycling."

– Justin Strunk, National General Manager, OmniGrip Direct Pty Ltd.

This example is one of

18 new markets

that were created or enhanced for recovered materials over the last three years, with help from the Sustainability Fund.



CASE STUDY

Circular Economy Communities Fund



To transition to a circular economy, Victorians must become world-class recyclers, repairers, resellers, and re-users. Renting and sharing of products is becoming a more common choice, meaning that items are used for longer or by more people – saving consumers money and reducing waste.

Communities are well placed to support this transition at a local level. The Circular Economy Communities Fund supports projects that are soliciting creative solutions for issues and gaps in the current waste management system and are delivering activities which enable a reduction in cost of living pressures, build local skills, encourage social connections, and create new business opportunities.

The Sustainability Fund provided \$5.4 million to the Communities Fund through Sustainability Victoria to support local community groups, social enterprises and other not-for-profit businesses working to reduce waste and improve recycling. Running from 2020 until September 2024, the Communities Fund is set to well exceed

its targets across two funding rounds. Round 1 projects alone have resulted in almost 1,700 tonnes of waste avoided or diverted from landfill, 17,500 individuals adopting positive environmental action, 58,000 volunteer hours and 42 new jobs created. Projects funded by this program include repair and share initiatives, community gardens, food rescue, and innovative re-use, recycling, and re-purposing initiatives.

Brainwave Bikes is addressing social disadvantage at the same time as it is recycling used bicycles in Melbourne. The business receives between 50 and 80 bikes each week. Creating paid and volunteer positions, it repairs and refurbishes those bicycles for sale through its shop, relying heavily on social media and word of mouth for its customers. The Brainwave Bikes team sources bikes through hard waste collections and transfer stations, and also receives bikes collected through its partners: Mercedes-Benz dealers and 99 Bikes stores. The Communities Fund allowed Brainwave Bikes to appoint a project coordinator to undertake stakeholder engagement with councils across Melbourne to support the increase in the number of facilities at local transfer stations offering drop-off points for bike recycling.



Brainwave Bikes' Manager, Kieran McMahon, says, "We conducted a survey to find out what each council does with bicycle waste. We found that most councils now have used bicycles in their recycling guide and accept them both as hard waste and at the transfer centres." Not only did the survey inform the program, it also served as a useful education tool. The engagement inspired a council to create a dedicated bike place at its local transfer centre and ensure bicycles are included in its recycling guides. Kieran says, "We need to make it easier for bikes to be treated as a separate stream of waste, and ideally not damaged, so they can be repaired or used for parts." The program works with Cleanaway, the company that runs many council hard waste collection services. Cleanaway now take care to separate bikes when collecting and take them to their Dandenong storage facility. The program also organises 'bike musters' with businesses and schools where bikes are collected and volunteering encouraged.

Brainwave Bikes is considering how systems can support individual behaviour change to build the circular economy for bicycles. Kieran says, "It needs to be easier for people to donate and buy bikes, so we're looking at deposit places for bikes. They could be through councils, but we're also thinking about Neighbourhood Houses as potential drop off points. Our super store is also a tool we use to help change attitudes to buying recycled bikes. People are surprised when they see the quality and affordability of the bicycles on sale, and some have even thought that they are brand new bikes."

The business is also creative about finding customers. Kieran says, "We have a pop-up shop at universities, and we've just started the Queen Victoria Market's Purpose Precinct with other social enterprises. We want to target the environmentally and socially conscious customer in the inner suburbs. While we might not be able to afford a shop in those places, we can pack our van and trailer with 25 bikes and set up a temporary space."

Recently celebrating a two year anniversary and recycling its 5,000th bicycle, Brainwave Bikes sees a future where purchasing refurbished bicycles is commonplace in a circular economy that minimises waste and saves emissions.

With many community groups relying on volunteer hours and grant funding, the Communities Fund has provided vital resources to enable communities to build their own circular economy initiatives. Access to funding for trained staff boosts the local economy and gives projects a better chance of being sustainable in the long-term. Brainwave Bikes has also been a big contributor to the Communities Fund team's capability-building activities. The Capability program has run 17 workshops, 14 forums, and 21 other stakeholder engagement related activities designed to encourage groups to learn from one another and identify successes and challenges in their projects. The knowledge, tips and techniques that these organisations have gained through their participation in the circular economy will be condensed into a "How To" guide that Sustainability Victoria will make available on its website.

For further information on recycling and reducing waste, please visit [Sustainability Victoria's recycling and reducing waste page](#)

Overall, the Sustainability Fund has supported

**332,269
volunteer hours**



across a wide range of community projects over the last five years.

**This is equivalent to hiring
180 full time workers for a year!**

Financial Information

Support for Victoria over time

The chart below illustrates how investments from the Sustainability Fund were allocated across its waste and climate change strategic priorities in 2023–24.

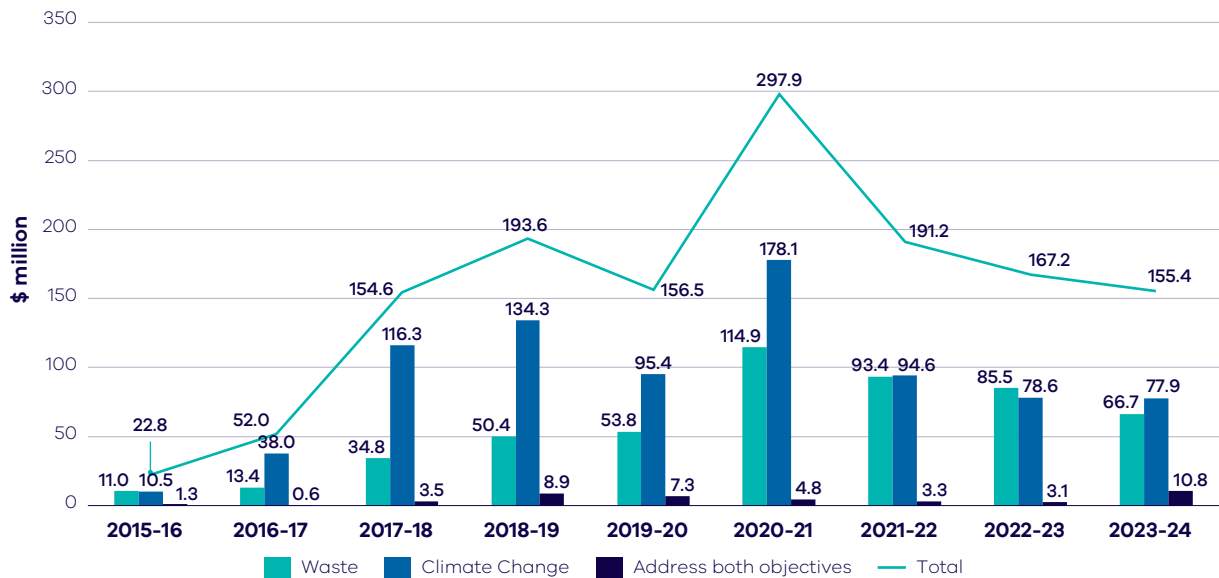
During the year, 42.9% of funds were invested in waste management, 50.1% in climate change, and 7.0% on projects that address both objectives.

Total Fund expenditure in climate change and waste management initiatives has increased by 581% since 2015–16 when DEECA commenced administration of the Fund. This investment demonstrates the government’s ongoing commitment to strengthening Victoria’s waste

and recycling industry and in responding to the effects of climate change.

Total expenditure year to year reflects the cumulative results of annual budget allocations combined with variations to planned expenditure for certain programs. In 2023–24, \$54 million of program expenditure was rephased to 2024–25 due to delays across a number of programs.

Figure 5: Expenditure over time in strategic priorities as proportion of total spend



Notes:

1. Expenditure excludes Fund administration costs.

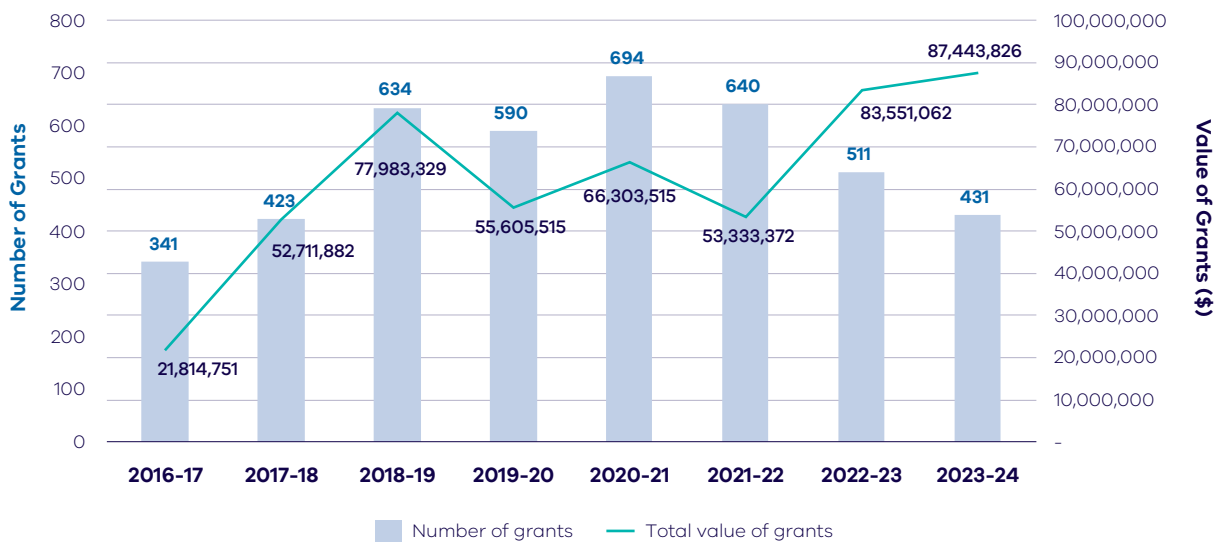
The Sustainability Fund in the Community

A major strength of the Sustainability Fund is that it supports a diverse range of organisations and entities, ensuring that funding reaches various communities across Victoria. In 2023–24, the Sustainability Fund assisted 288 unique organisations via targeted grant programs to

undertake projects that deliver better environmental outcomes for Victoria.

Grants are not provided directly from the fund itself, but via the individual grant program application processes administered by the delivery agencies. In 2023–24, a total of 431 grants worth \$87.4 million were provided. **Figure 6** illustrates the number and total value of grants since 2016–17.

Figure 6: Number and value of Sustainability Fund grants provided over time¹⁹



Businesses were the major recipients of grant funding across the state in 2023–24, receiving more than \$40 million through 111 grants provided by the Fund program.

As the tier of government closest to the community and the main provider of waste services, local government remains a vital stakeholder in driving Victoria to a sustainable future that delivers equitable prosperity for all Victorians. In 2023–24, local government received 35% of grants worth more than \$19 million in addition to the funding and resources provided each year to local government by DEECA and other government agencies.

The following charts illustrate the extent of different organisations and entities supported through the Fund in 2023–24. A full list of grants made possible by the Fund can be found at **Appendix 3**.

¹⁹ Figures for 2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23 have been revised down from previous years’ reports to remove co-contributions that were incorrectly included in one grant program.

Figure 7: Proportion of 2023-24 total grant funds received by sector (Total: \$87,443,826)

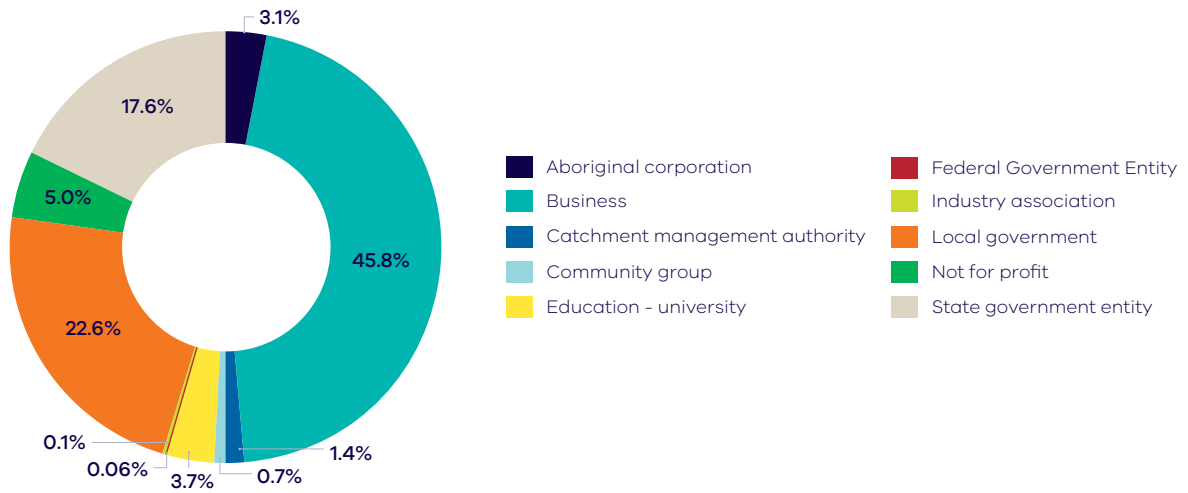


Figure 8: Proportion of 2023-24 unique grant recipients by sector (Total: 288)

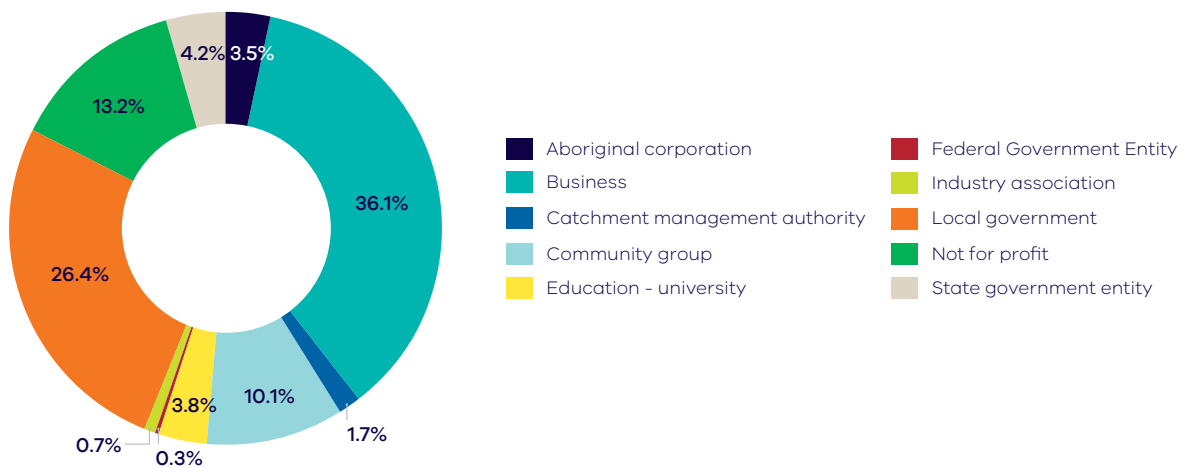
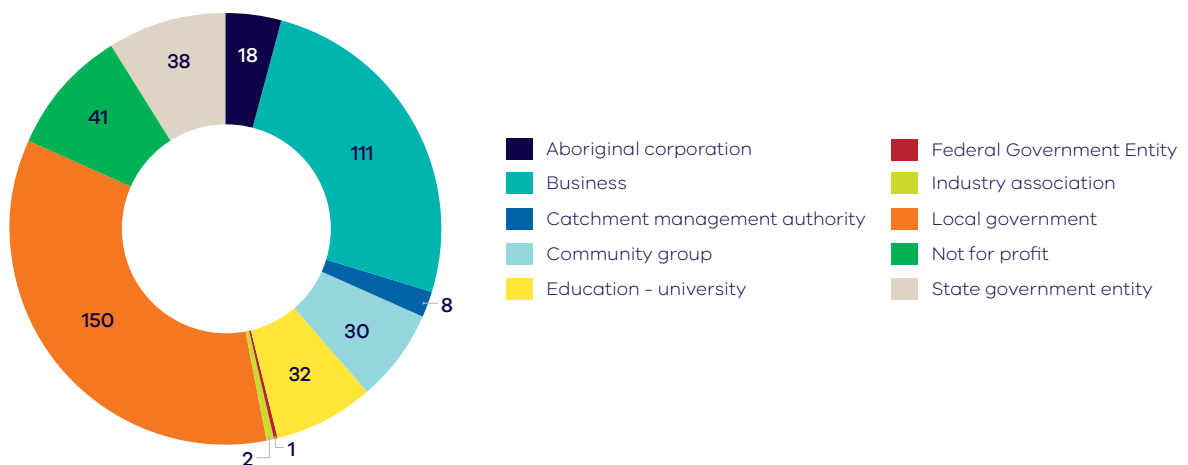


Figure 9: Number of 2023-24 grants received by sector (Total: 431)

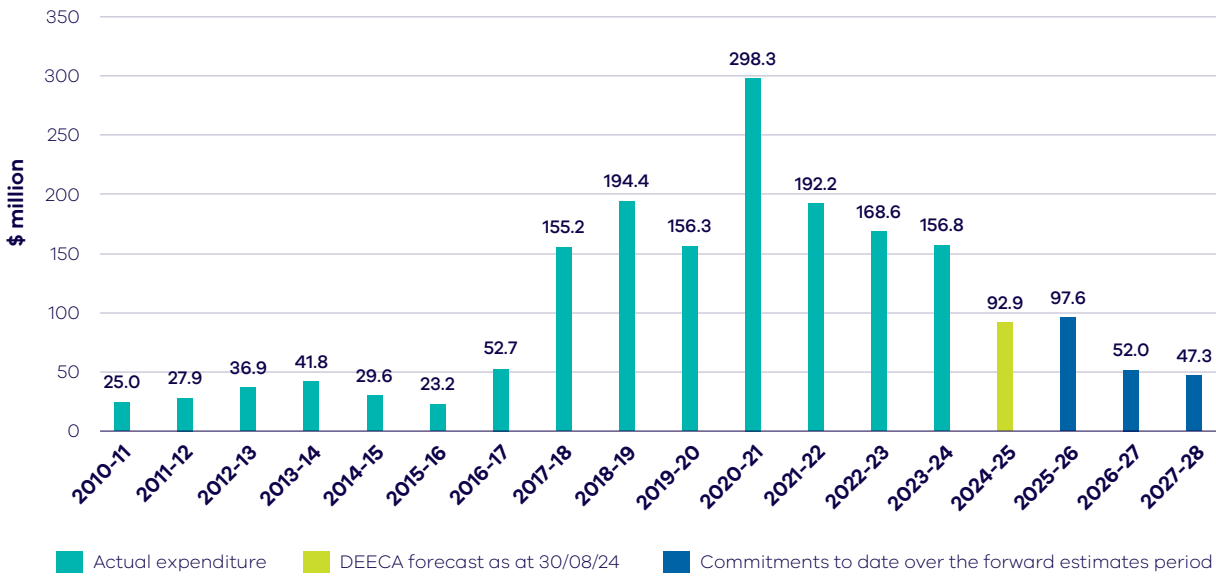


Investment over time

Since its establishment, the Sustainability Fund has provided essential support to a wide range of programs to help lower our impact on the environment and assist Victoria’s communities to respond to the impacts of climate change. The chart below illustrates the significant investment that has been made by the Victorian Government

since the Fund was transferred to DEECA on 1 July 2015. Commitments over the forward estimates (indicated in **Figure 11**) relate to commitments announced as part of State Budget processes, and do not take into account any potential allocations from the Fund made as part of future State Budgets. Additional allocations from the Fund will be subject to future State Budget consideration.

Figure 10: Expenditure from the Fund

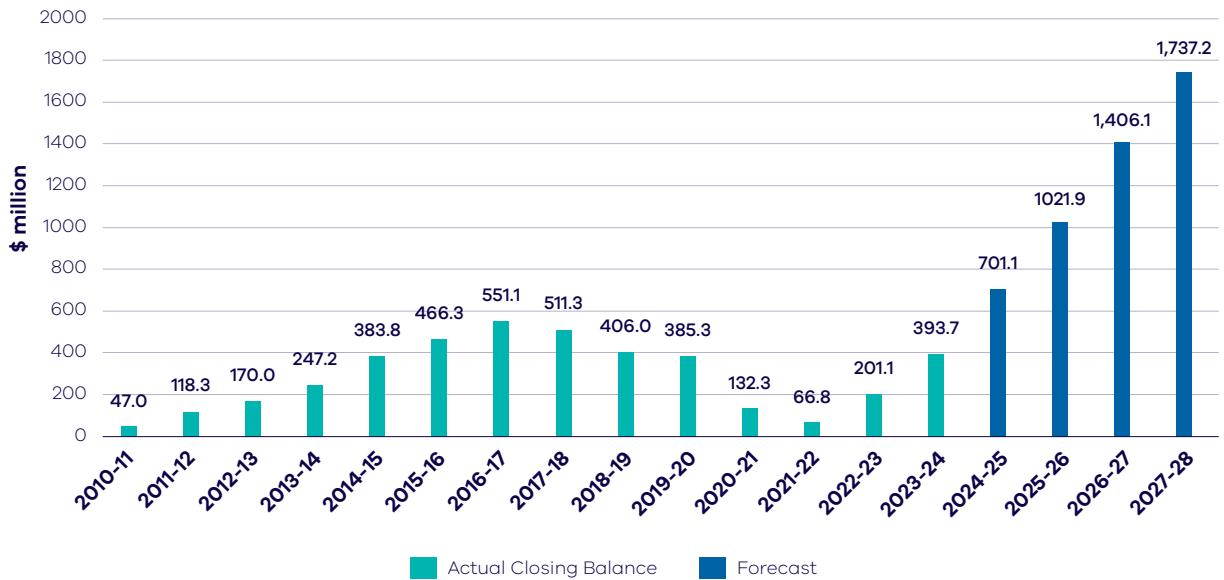


Note: This chart includes both program and administration expenditure for the Fund. Actual expenditure figures from the Fund in the years prior to 1 July 2015 have been sourced from the Victorian Auditor General’s Office report, Managing the Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy, July 2018, (Figure 2E, p.43)

Projected cash balance

After drawing down the cash balance to a near-low of \$66.8 million in 2021-22, the closing balance of the Sustainability Fund increased to \$393.7 million at 30 June 2024 as cash revenue increased and a number of large programs concluded.

Figure 11: Cash balance of the Fund



The projected cash balance of the Fund is reflective of the investment phase cycle that the Fund is within. Of the 60 existing (funded) programs active at 30 June 2024, 45 of those are currently scheduled to conclude during the 2024–25 year.

Figure 11 above illustrates the capacity forecast for the Fund over the next four years based on the current level of budget commitments.

Current forward commitments made by the Fund as of 30 June 2024 are detailed in **Table 2** below. This table does not take into account any potential allocations from the Fund made as part of future state Budgets.

The DEECA 2023–24 Annual Report (Appendix 10) provides further detail on movements in the MIWL trust account and the Fund trust account.

Table 2: Sustainability Fund Forward Commitments (\$ millions)

Program Title	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Ongoing
Timber Plantation Establishment	-	32.50	-	-	-
Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037	19.71	19.71	19.71	19.71	19.71
Future Forests Program	17.59	-	-	-	-
Recycling Victoria - A New Economy	15.68	-	-	-	-
Maintaining Essential Energy Functions	13.06	13.06	13.06	13.06	13.06
Suburban Parks Program	-	8.77	-	-	-
Delivering Climate Action	5.00	5.00	5.00	-	-
Securing Our Energy Future – Solar Trams	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69	-
Supporting a Circular Economy	3.13	3.13	3.13	3.13	-
Future Drought Fund	2.25	3.99	1.83	2.13	-
Charitable Recycler Grants	1.80	1.85	1.91	1.96	-
Environment Protection and Air Quality - DEECA and EPA	1.31	-	-	-	-
Managing Contaminated Public Land	1.21	-	-	-	-
Securing Environmental Protection	1.00	-	-	-	-
Core Environmental Programs and Traditional Owner Programs	0.92	0.60	0.10	-	-
Biosecurity Preparedness - Protecting Victoria from Biosecurity Threats	0.45	0.45	-	-	-
Administration and minor project expenditure pending approval	5.12	3.85	2.55	2.59	2.63
Grand Total	92.92	97.61	51.98	47.28	35.41

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Figures not expected to be reported in future years due to conclusion of programs

Indicator	2019/20 results	2020/21 results	2021-22 results	2022-23 results	2023-24 results	Unit
Best practice waste management						
Contaminated soil avoided - Aggregate Masonry and soil recovered ¹			531,502	273,160	na	tonnes/ year
e-waste collection services upgraded ²	47	25	12	2	na	upgrades / year
Waste avoided going to landfill ³	11,200+	128,127	263,212	347,381	13,644	tonnes/ year
Organics waste ³	5100+	58,446	58,853	97,384	na	tonnes/ year
Timber waste ³	-	24,334	29,007	40,094	na	tonnes/ year
Plastic waste ³	6,100+	36,044	36,998	130,365	na	tonnes/ year
Paper/ Cardboard waste ³	-	9,303	14,486	14,632	na	tonnes/ year
Glass ³			69,688	55,548	na	tonnes/ year
Metals ³			4,996	6,864	na	tonnes/ year
e-waste ³			771	2,481	na	tonnes/ year
Other			48,413	13	13,644	tonnes/ year

- 1 The program associated with these figures has come to the end of its lifecycle.
- 2 The program associated with these figures has come to the end of its lifecycle. Only new upgrades are reported each calendar year.
- 3 The majority of programs associated with this figure have closed.

Appendix 2 – Programs funded by the Fund in 2023–24

Program Name	Total (\$) 2023-24	Expected Priority Outcome	Theme
Core environmental and Traditional Owner Programs			
Wotjobaluk, Dja Dja Wurrung and Eastern Maar Recognition & Settlement Agreements	1,590,000	2.2 2.3 2.4	Climate Change
This program supports the implementation of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Wotjobaluk and Eastern Maar Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic) (TOS Act) agreements.			
Creating a ring of new parkland in our growing suburbs			
Suburban Parks Program	6,000,000	2.2	Climate Change
This program provides for the creation, enhancement and connection of parks and green open spaces in our growing suburbs to benefit Victoria environmentally, socially and economically. This will be delivered by DEECA in conjunction with Parks Victoria and local governments.			
Delivering Climate Action			
Delivering Climate Action	5,000,000	2.1 2.2 2.3	Climate Change
The program objectives are to provide core policy services within DEECA to deliver and coordinate climate policy that mitigates the risks and captures the opportunities of climate action.			
Environment Protection and Air Quality			
Air Quality Improvement Precincts	1,210,000	1.5	Waste
The program objectives are to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through grants to reduce the emission of PM2.5 and PM10, common air polluting particles, in the Inner West and Outer West Air Quality Improvement Precincts (AQIP) identified as two of Victoria's air pollution "hot spots"; and support regulatory implementation of the recent environment protection reforms under Victoria's new Environment Protection Act 2017.			
Expansion of the Financial Assurance Framework	250,000	1.3 1.5	Waste
The program objectives are to apply and administer financial assurance for a substantially larger number of sites, and support policy and guidance development on financial assurance to address significantly larger-scale and more complex sites.			
Maintaining Essential Energy Functions			
Supporting Victorians through the energy transition	2,495,000	2.1 2.3	Climate Change
The program objectives are to support delivery of core energy functions to ensure government can maintain a safe, secure, reliable and affordable energy system for Victorians. Specifically, this project relates to the MEEF objective to support Victorians through the energy transition. The overarching objective of this project is to ensure that new energy technologies drive Victoria's energy future.			
ESD Driving Growth in Renewables	1,949,000	2.1 2.2 2.3	Climate Change
The program objectives are to support delivery of core energy functions to ensure government can maintain a safe, secure, reliable and affordable energy system for Victorians.			
ESR Driving Growth in Renewables, reducing emissions and improving reliability	2,236,000	2.1 2.2 2.3	Climate Change
The program objectives are to support delivery of core energy functions to ensure government can maintain a safe, secure, reliable and affordable energy system for Victorians. Specifically, this program is to deliver intervention four in the MEEF –Driving growth in renewables, reducing emissions and improving reliability.			

Program Name	Total (\$) 2023-24	Expected Priority Outcome					Theme
Ensuring the rights of energy consumers	1,826,000		2.1		2.3		Climate Change
The program objectives are to support delivery of core energy functions to ensure government can maintain a safe, secure, reliable and affordable energy system for Victorians. Specifically, this program is to deliver intervention four in the MEEF –Driving growth in renewables, reducing emissions and improving reliability.							
Energy Safety and Security	5,383,000		2.1	2.2	2.3		Climate Change
The program objective is to deliver services and projects that effectively regulate the safety, security and resilience of energy supply and infrastructure; prevent, mitigate, and respond to energy emergencies; and improve community preparedness for and resilience to energy emergencies.							
Plantation Investment Strategy							
Gippsland Plantations Investment Program	22,500,000		2.1		2.4		Climate Change
This program objective is to further diversify timber supply away from native forests to increased supply from plantations. This will reduce the net harvest area of native forests for timber and in doing so preserve and enhance biodiversity of species within these forests and deliver other associated environmental benefits.							
Protecting Victoria’s Environment –Biodiversity 2037							
Protecting Biodiversity 2021-25	19,710,815				2.3	2.4	Climate Change
The program aims to deliver strategic, targeted and sustained action to improve Victoria’s biodiversity as detailed in Biodiversity Division’s strategic plan: Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037(Biodiversity 2037).							
Recycling Industry Response Interim Measures							
Education for Waste Minimisation	40,000		1.4				Waste
The program objective is to develop education and behaviour change initiatives to support Victorians to reduce environmental impacts through purchasing decisions andwaste minimisation activities.							
Industry and Infrastructure Development Package	19,139,000	1.1					Waste
The program aim is to increase investment in Victoria’s resource recovery sector for kerbside materials. Investment is needed to improve the capacity and capability of recycling infrastructure to produce higher quality recovered materials to meet market requirements.							
Recycling Victoria: A New Economy							
Education and Behaviour Change	4,875,000		1.4				Waste
The program aim is to deliver a comprehensive and cohesive household education and behaviour change program for Victorian households							
CE Oversight	1,658,000	1.1	1.4	1.5			Waste
The program provides a centralised Portfolio Management Office function for the Circular Economy policy implementation to optimise and manage the CE portfolio and to co-ordinate with agencies to improve quality assurance and governance practices at portfolio level.							
EPA High Risk Sites	2,042,000	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	Waste
The program objectives are to minimise risks and potential impacts to the Victorian community and environment from hazardous waste and high-risk sites, advance the management of high-risk wastes and waste management practices and introduce new measures to ensure that the cost of managing or cleaning up high-risk sites is borne by those responsible for the site, to the greatest extent possible.							

Program Name	Total (\$) 2023-24	Expected Priority Outcome					Theme
Supporting Charities	1,741,000	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4		Waste
<p>The program objectives are to reduce some of the financial impact of illegal dumping on charitable recyclers by providing partial immediate financial relief for charitable recycling organisations and to support charitable recyclers to continue to reduce waste to landfill through preventing illegal dumping and increasing recycling.</p>							
Waste Crime Prevention	9,691,000	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	Waste
<p>The program objective is to establish a new Waste Crime Prevention Directorate to prevent, detect and disrupt waste crime. Effectively regulate waste and resource recovery facilities and priority chemical waste sites. Enhance the ability to combat adverse consequences forecast from increases in the landfill levy. Grow the investigative capability across the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to prevent waste crime.</p>							
High Risk Sites	1,037,000				1.4	1.5	Waste
<p>The program will implement the Coordinated Prevention and Response Framework for government to minimise community and environmental risks most cost-effectively and respond effectively and efficiently to manage high-risk waste sites.</p>							
Victorian Container Deposit Scheme	556,016	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4		Waste
<p>This project aims to mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of beverage container waste by implementing a beverage container deposit scheme improving recycling rates and reducing litter.</p>							
Hazardous Waste and Waste to Energy Policy	259,047	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	Waste
<p>The program aims to develop and implement a framework for waste to energy in Victoria, primarily involving capping the amount of feedstock available for thermal waste to energy facilities in Victoria. It also consists of developing and implementing clear and integrated policy and planning for hazardous waste to inform investment and regulatory decisions.</p>							
Market Acceleration Program	10,461,000	1.1		1.3			Waste
<p>The program is utilising a range of market interventions and incentives to address current and potential market failures for priority recycled materials (plastics, paper, cardboard, glass and tyres) across the economy. It will develop and deliver projects to identify new domestic, commercial, and industrial uses and build demand.</p>							
Reducing Regulatory Barriers	439,000	1.1	1.2		1.4		Waste
<p>This program aims to support Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) actions in reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers for reuse of recycled materials and provide regulatory certainty to support innovation, especially for recovered organics and specifically the by-products of waste to energy processes.</p>							
Recycling Markets Acceleration Package	577,137	1.1	1.2	1.3			Waste
<p>The program aims to develop and expand markets for recycled materials in Victoria. Increasing the demand for recycled materials in Victoria will enable more of the lost value embodied in waste to be recovered and used locally while ensuring that recovered materials re-enter the value chain at the highest possible value.</p>							
Asbestos Disposal Management Plan 2020-22	300,000		1.2	1.3		1.5	Waste
<p>The program aim is to develop and implement an Asbestos Disposal Management Plan (ADMP) to ensure Victoria has the infrastructure and supporting systems to enable safe management and disposal of waste asbestos and to meet future disposal needs</p>							
Circular Economy Communities Fund	1,701,000		1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	Waste
<p>The program objective is to assist Victorian communities to transition to a circular economy by providing grant programs to solicit creative solutions for issues for gaps in the current waste management system.</p>							

Program Name	Total (\$) 2023-24	Expected Priority Outcome						Theme	
Statewide Education and Behaviour Change	97,467				1.4			Waste	
The program objective is to support the design and delivery of Circular Economy programs to ensure changes in behaviour occur.									
New Regulation to Improve Recycling	879,663		1.2	1.3	1.4			Waste	
The project's objective is to create a new Waste Act that provides the establishment of a waste authority, a container deposit scheme and supporting regulations and related subordinate instruments increasing transparency, management and accountability for delivering quality to Victoria's waste and resource recovery goals.									
Single-use plastic ban and government phase out	368,360	1.1						Waste	
The program objectives are divided into two phases: phase one will phase out single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, drink stirrers, expanded polystyrene plates and beverage containers, and cotton bud sticks. Phase two will ban single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, drink stirrers, expanded polystyrene plates and beverage containers, and cotton bud sticks from sale and use.									
Circular Economy Business Support SV	7,929,000	1.1			1.4	2.1	2.2	2.3	Both Objectives
The program objective is to support the delivery of the Circular Economy Business Innovation Centre (CEBIC) and Business Support Fund (BSF) Programs. The CEBIC and BSF programs aim to help Victorian businesses take advantage of circular economy opportunities.									
Circular Economy Councils Fund	2,726,500	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5		Waste	
The objective of this program is to transition to a circular economy by providing grant programs to solicit innovative solutions for issues and gaps when it comes to the reuse, repair, repurpose, and recycle of materials and products in the current waste management and resource recovery systems.									
Expanding Victoria's Waste Data Systems	1,219,000				1.4			Waste	
The objective of the program is to develop new Victorian circular economy metrics and expand waste data systems to cover the entire Victorian economy.									
Recycling Victoria Household Chemical Collection (Detox your Home)	2,250,000	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5		Waste	
The objectives of the program are to divert hazardous household chemicals from landfills, recover materials where possible and dispose of waste products appropriately while delivering a safe and effective service that meets householders' needs.									
Planning for Waste and Recycling Infrastructure	1,164,998	1.1	1.2			1.5		Waste	
The program objective is to plan for and support the development and establishment of waste and recycling infrastructure. This will help to manage solid wastes generated in Victoria, including hazardous wastes and some liquid wastes.									
Renewable Energy Action Plan									
VicGrid's First People's Partnership Framework program	250,000					2.2		Climate Change	
This program aims to engage with Traditional Owners to build a partnership that enables the identification of key considerations and concerns, benefits, and opportunities of interest to Traditional Owners, Aboriginal communities, and other Aboriginal stakeholder with respect to Vic Grid's work program.									

Program Name	Total (\$) 2023-24	Expected Priority Outcome			Theme	
Pathway to First Peoples' Renewable Energy Transition	1,342,000	2.1	2.3		Climate Change	
The program objective is to work collaboratively with First Nations people to co-design a Strategic Plan that both articulates and maps the Government's program of work and incorporates the input, views and aspirations of First Peoples, resulting in a shared view of the transition pathway enabling First Peoples' communities to assert their self-determining interests and aspirations in the energy transition.						
Renewable Energy Action Plan, Maintaining Essential Energy Functions						
100% Renewable Electricity for Government	600,000	2.1			Climate Change	
The program objective is to recommend a preferred policy pathway and implementation plan to achieve the 100 per cent renewable electricity target for government operations by 2025 and develop a reporting framework to enable the government to transparently and credibly report on achievement of the commitment.						
Renewable Energy Action Plan, Securing Our Energy Future – Solar Trams						
Renewable Certificate Purchasing Initiative	4,687,875	2.1			Climate Change	
The program objectives are to demonstrate visible leadership in tackling climate change by committing to accelerate the development of renewable energy projects in Victoria; create a precedence for government departments to pledge to visible and cost effective carbon emissions reductions; and, contribute to decarbonising Victoria's electricity sector.						
Renewable Energy Action Plan, Maintaining Essential Energy Functions, Cheaper cleaner energy to drive economic recovery						
Maximising the benefits and reducing risk from ZEVs and DER	2,300,000	2.1	2.3		Climate Change	
This program aims to unlock the value in Victoria's zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and distributed energy resources (DER) to smooth the transition of the network to a higher DER future, benefitting all Victorian consumers.						
Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund						
South-East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing	1,000,000	1.1	1.2	1.3	Waste	
The program objective is to facilitate the procurement for the South-East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing project.						
ResourceSmart Schools						
ResourceSmart Schools 2023-24	2,900,000		1.4	2.2	2.3	Both Objectives
The program purpose is to achieve best practice sustainability in Victorian Schools, which leads to a reduction in resource use and increased action on climate change through both mitigation and adaptation measures.						
Securing Environmental Protection						
Maintaining Core Environmental Protection Policy Services	1,000,000		1.4	1.5		Waste
The program objectives are to implement specific legislative or instrument amendments that are required to ensure the Environment Protection framework is fit for purpose; conduct policy scans with recommendations to further develop or amend existing policies required to reduce the harmful effects of pollution and waste to human health and the environment.						
TOTAL					155,380,878	

Appendix 3 – Grants and projects funded by the Sustainability Fund in 2023–24

Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action

Air Quality Improvement Precincts

The program objectives are to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through grants to reduce the emission of PM2.5 and PM10, common air polluting particles, in the Inner West and Outer West Air Quality Improvement Precincts (AQIP) identified as two of Victoria’s air pollution “hot spots”.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
ReSource Pty Ltd	E-waste recycling dust controls (Derrimut)	Grant assisted with implementation of additional dust control measures at an e-waste recycling facility.	\$10,000.00
Encore Tissue (Aust) Pty Ltd	Manufacturing line dust control (Laverton North)	Grant assisted with installation of contactless sheet cleaning systems to capture dust from production lines before it is emitted.	\$10,000.00
Metal Separation and Trading Company Pty Ltd	E-waste recycling smoke and dust control (Laverton North)	Grant assisted with installation of a scrubber system to reduce dust and smoke before it is emitted at an e-waste recycling facility.	\$17,100.00
		TOTAL	\$37,100.00

Gippsland Plantation Investment Program

This projects primary objective is to further diversify timber supply away from native forests to increased supply from plantations.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd	Gippsland Plantations Investment Program	The Gippsland Plantations Investment Program is part of the government’s commitment to grow more plantations as the state transitions out of native forest logging. Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd will add an additional 16 million trees to Victoria’s plantation estate through greenfield development which is expected to remove approximately 7.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over the next 25 years.	\$17,296,401.75
The University of Melbourne	Farm Forestry Research Project - Maximising co-benefits from trees on grazing properties in South Eastern Australia	This project supports research enhancing the evidence base for the co-benefits of planting trees on farms. The work has ensured strong evidence in support of the Gippsland Farm Forestry Program in providing landowners with a better picture of the proposed benefits of tree plantings on their land (shade, shelter, biodiversity, water improvement etc).	\$30,000.00
		TOTAL	\$17,326,401.75

High Risk and Hazardous Waste Sites Program

The High-Risk and Hazardous Waste Sites program implement the Coordinated Prevention and Response Framework which aims to minimise risks to the community and environment in the most cost-effective manner through coordinated whole of government action; and enable government to respond effectively and efficiently in the management of high risk waste sites.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Fire Rescue Victoria	Local Government Capacity Building	To assist Fire Rescue Victoria in the establishment of a new Waste and Recycling Unit and ensure it is able to better manage the risks associated with fires at waste and recycling facilities and illegal chemical storage sites across Victoria.	\$149,000.00
TOTAL			\$149,000.00

Kerbside Reform

The objective of this project is to oversee the implementation of the plan and reform of Victoria's kerbside recycling services, ensuring actions delivered are aligned with the overall vision to improve the State's recycling processes to maximise the diversion of recyclable material from landfill and improve the value of recycled materials.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
28 Victorian Councils and 1 Alpine resort	Household recycling reforms	Funding provided to 28 Victorian councils and 1 Alpine resort to support the transition to the new four-stream kerbside household waste and recycling system.	\$6,982,851.00
Alpine Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	This project will include upgrades to Porepunkah, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty transfer stations, enabling residents to divert FOGO and improve recycling separation through the collection of separated glass. Works include construction of retaining walls, hardstands and associated infrastructure. The project also includes purchase of 240L bins and installation of signage.	\$67,126.00
Bass Coast Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	This project will upgrade four publicly accessible waste facilities and introduce a mobile glass collection station to enable separated glass collection. The community and environment will benefit with cleaner beaches and open spaces. It will provide residents with greater incentives to divert waste from landfill and separate recyclables.	\$28,948.40
Buloke Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	This project aims to modify existing transfer station infrastructure in Birchip, Wycheproof, Sea Lake, Charlton and Donald sites to include glass drop-off points at these five sites. The project will also enable the provision of FOGO drop-off points in the future.	\$156,840.92
Campaspe Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	Provision of 12x 12m3 lidded hook-lift skips to enable glass drop off across eight Resource Recovery Centres and FOGO drop off at Echuca and Mt Scobie Resource Recovery Centres.	\$37,777.80

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Corangamite Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	The project will allow the collection of glass for recycling at six transfer stations within the Corangamite Shire: Skipton, Derrinallum, Naroghid, Simpson, Timboon and Port Campbell. These sites require earthworks, new slabs and retaining walls to accommodate new bin heights, and other modifications to provide infrastructure that will enable the safe collection, storage and transport of glass. Food organics signage will be also be procured to support the implementation of a food waste drop off service across five transfer stations where the service is currently not provided.	\$9,979.00
Greater Bendigo City Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	Provision of nineteen skip bins and associated equipment at nineteen glass disposal sites across the Municipality, plus one additional skip bin as a 'swap-out' bin. The twenty skip bins will be custom made to suit glass collection purposes and each skip bin will have six openings. Project locations have been chosen to ensure ease and equality of access to all residents within the Shire boundary.	\$63,704.00
Greater Geelong City Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project aims to upgrade two transfer station facilities providing households in the City of Greater Geelong and residents from neighbouring councils with improved access to glass and food organics dropoff services. Project upgrade includes purchase of receival bins and signage and delineation. This will increase the recovery of materials and improve the quality of recyclables collected.	\$6,025.00
Hepburn Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project aims to upgrade the Creswick, Daylesford and Trentham transfer stations to include drop off points for both glass and food organics and garden organics. The upgrades will ensure all residents in the Shire have access to services for disposal of glass and food organics and garden organics material. Upgrades include dedicated glass and FOGO drop off areas on concrete hardstands with signage and retaining walls.	\$247,128.77
Horsham Rural City Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	This project will establish collection points across the municipality to manage the additional waste streams of glass and organics. Infrastructure upgrades include the installation of new skips/bins, construction of two new rural drop-off points, construction of concrete hardstands with retaining walls and concrete jersey barriers to hold unprocessed organics.	\$92,600.00
Loddon Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	This project will deliver essential infrastructure upgrades to Loddon Shire Council's waste facilities to provide publicly accessible drop off points for separated glass and food organics and garden organics recycling. This includes earthworks, other modifications and the installation of concrete hardstands at Wedderburn, Inglewood and Dingee transfer stations and Boort, Pyramid Hill and Newbridge landfill/Resource Recovery Centres.	\$19,537.59
Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC)	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	Project aims to introduce FOGO drop off area at Kyneton transfer station. MRSC has 1,533 residential properties without kerbside bins. These residential properties have access to a glass, comingled recycling and general waste service through the transfer stations. The upgrades through this project will provide FOGO drop-off access at the transfer station for these rural residents.	\$35,793.52

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Mansfield Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project aims to build a 30m by 15m shelter with equivalent concrete area for Glass and Food Organics along with existing Garden Organics drop off service. Other items include wayfinding/bin requirement signages also community safety and exclusion boundary infrastructure. The proposed drop off facility will be located at the Mansfield Council Resource Recovery Centre.	\$236,644.59
Moorabool Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	This project will facilitate improvements to increase glass and organics capture across the municipality through upgrades at Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and Mount Egerton transfer stations. Works include providing sheltered hardstands for the new glass and organics stream drop off points. The project also includes communal glass drop off points across the municipality.	\$57,404.22
Moyne Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	This project will initiate a glass collection service at all eight transfer stations operated by Moyne Shire. This involves the provision of hardstand/concrete areas and frontlift skip bins to be emptied on a dedicated glass-only collection point.	\$4,914.60
Murrindindi Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	Project includes upgrades at Yea, Alexandra, Marysville, Kinglake and Eildon Resource Recovery centres. All five sites will secure a terrain bin lifter and 8m3 lidded skip for glass collection. Additionally, sites were upgraded with retaining walls and hardstands to facilitate separate collection of glass and FOGO drop off service.	\$2,475.15
South Gippsland Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	This project will construct concreted areas at council's six transfer stations, purchase low-line hook lift bins for the collection and transport of glass, upgrade hardstand areas for the separate collection, recycling of food waste and install signage at each site.	\$58,699.80
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	To upgrade all eight Southern Grampians Shire Transfer Stations to allow drop off points for FOGO and glass. This will benefit residents without access to a kerbside service, create a clean stream of glass and will remove organic waste from landfill.	\$38,802.60
Strathbogie Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project aims to expand current offerings at Strathbogie Shire Council's existing Nagambie and Avenel Transfer Stations by installing two new FOGO bin bays with hardstand floors, retaining walls and barriers. The upgrades will provide access to FOGO recycling to rural residents without access to a kerbside FOGO service.	\$271,800.00
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The Project aims to provide remotely located rural households without kerbside service with access to drop-off points for glass and FOGO waste streams through upgraded transfer stations. This project will include fabrication of steel bin corals to contain mobile wheelie bins onsite at the rural transfer stations. Each site will utilise 4 x double bin corals which will provide a storage for Glass and for FOGO. Bin corals will include signage to identify the acceptable waste type and the Bin's will have appropriately coloured lids.	\$29,956.75

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Towong Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project aims to provide public facilities and modify infrastructure at resource recovery centres to enable the collection of glass and FOGO for recycling outside the kerbside collection areas. This will be achieved by upgrading two existing Resource Recovery centres with dedicated glass and FOGO drop-off areas, and introducing new glass drop-off points at five drop-off recycling stations.	\$211,600.00
West Wimmera Shire Council	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project aims to establish seven community glass drop-off collection points and upgrade seven existing transfer stations to enable glass collection. This will be achieved by constructing concrete hardstands, purchasing bins for the sites and installing signage. The project also seeks to provide a Mobile Glass Collection Station to the community as a facility for recycling management at events and for outlying areas of the Shire. The aim of the project is to improve glass recycling infrastructure in the Shire and to improve public access to recycling facilities.	\$28,241.16
		TOTAL	\$8,688,850.87

Maintaining Essential Energy Functions: Supporting Victorians through Energy Transition

The purpose of Maintaining Essential Energy Functions (MEEF) is to support delivery of core energy functions to ensure government can maintain a safe, secure, reliable and affordable energy system for Victorians. Specifically, this project relates to the MEEF objective to support Victorians through the energy transition.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Energy Umpire Pty Ltd	Energy Market Ready Grants Program - Energy Umpire Renewable Ready Tariffs	Energy Umpire will launch a novel tariff analysis and switching product, transitioning customers to a time-of-use "solar soaker" tariff (marketing name 'renewable ready tariff').	\$25,000.00
Jon Knight (BuzzBay)	Energy Market Ready Grants Program - BuzzBay Pilot	BuzzBay received a grant to develop a new software integration platform for their prototype EV charger. The software will enable BuzzBay to install the charger at a trial site, a small business located in Gippsland, for further testing and improvement.	\$50,000.00
L.O.L. CONSULTANTS PTY LTD (Volta Rocks)	Energy Market Ready Grants Program - Volta Rocks	Volta Rocks received the grant for an app to provide data-driven recommendations for energy-saving measures tailored to users' needs and energy usage patterns. It will drive the adoption of renewable energy sources, clean transportation options, and energy-efficient upgrades making it easy for a customer to identify potential solutions.	\$50,000.00
REO PTY LTD (nOde)	Energy Market Ready Grants Program - nOde Net Zero Rapid Activator MVP	nOde received a grant to develop their Net Zero Transformation Platform proof of concept using Internet of Things energy and control data, market and weather Application Programming Interfaces, and their net zero solution dataset. It enables energy and carbon visualisation, dynamic electrification investment planning, demand-shaped renewable energy matching, and schedule optimisation to align demand with renewable energy generation.	\$25,000.00
		TOTAL	\$150,000.00

Microgrids Smart Trials (Microgrid Demonstration Initiative)

The Microgrid Smart Trials program aims to facilitate innovative, market driven commercial microgrid demonstration projects to enable lower energy costs, more reliable power and reduced emissions to support Victoria's transition to a low carbon economy. The projects are developed by or include a wide set of relevant stakeholders.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Earthworker Energy Manufacturing Cooperative	Earthworker Energy Emergency Portable Renewable Energy Systems	This grant enabled the design and testing of three pilot portable renewable energy systems comprised of solar and battery storage for the replacement of large diesel generators in emergency response settings. The pilot energy systems will be able to provide safe, portable, reliable, clean and quiet power for disaster management operations.	\$25,770.00
Gippsland Climate Change Network Incorporated	Agricultural demonstration of floating solar	This project installed 50kW of floating solar on a dam at Lardner Park. This will be used to demonstrate the use of floating solar in agriculture reducing water loss due to evaporation.	\$120,000.00
The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation	Nyauwi Mutjeka EV transition project	The grant allowed for purchase of an electric vehicle to be branded with the Nyauwi Mutjeka design (by Djaara artist Daikota Nelson). It will provide visual evidence of Djaara's leadership, serving as a vital resource and conversation starter for other aspects of the Strategy's renewable energy program that operationalises Nyauwi Mutjeka.	\$75,000.00
		TOTAL	\$220,770.00

Protecting Biodiversity 2021-25

This program aims to: link biodiversity, science and decision support systems to ensure effective investment, prioritisation, awareness and support for communities to deliver biodiversity outcomes; implementation of frameworks that guide coordinated investment in monitoring and research to address priority knowledge gaps; improved decision making and reporting; increased participation of Victorians in biodiversity management and collaboration through the establishment of Biodiversity Response Planning; and, support implementation of Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017–2020.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	Monmar (Point Nepean) White-Footed Dunnart Monitoring and Feral Predator Control	Monitoring program to assess the density/distribution of White-Footed Dunnart, and a feral predator control (cat trapping).	\$67,000.00
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	Spirit Officer 2023-2025 - Bunurong Land Council	Employment of a Wildlife Officer at Bunurong.	\$150,000.00
Bush Heritage Australia	Reconnecting Central Victoria through strategic property acquisition	Bush Heritage seeks to purchase a 159ha property which connects two existing reserves. This purchase would support a core active strategy to create a corridor connecting Dalyenong Nature Conservation Reserve in the east and Kara Kara National Park in the west, improving habitat connectivity for native species.	\$10,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance Inc	Spring Plains Watershed Repair	Demonstration project which will apply a combination of innovative ecological restoration techniques to a 138-hectare catchment that is a hot spot for the endangered Swift Parrot, to re-set the damaged forest so that it can recover ecological health and better withstand the impacts of climate change.	\$33,000.00
Connecting Country (Mount Alexander Region) Inc.	Habitat connectivity for phascogales in central Victoria	Project supports Brush-Tailed Phascogale by creating and promoting habitat stepping-stones in a degraded landscape. Project will fence and revegetate 25x25 m blocks around large old trees, protecting potential nest sites and providing stepping-stones for habitat connectivity. An education event and volunteer nest box monitoring will engage community members.	\$50,400.00
DEECA Barwon South West	Cross-tenure landscape scale invasive species threat management across Budj Bim cultural heritage landscape	This project will continue to implement a cross-tenure, landscape scale approach to invasive species management across the Budj Bim cultural landscape based upon effective leadership, coordinated partnerships, and community engagement and education.	\$192,598.00
DEECA Gippsland	Gippsland wild deer control	This project will continue to reduce the impacts of deer on recovering Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act listed vegetation communities at highest-priority sites within or adjacent to the 2019-20 bushfire footprint.	\$340,000.00
DEECA Gippsland	Upper Snowy pest animal control	This project will continue to deliver on-ground shooting and baiting activities to reduce the impact of introduced pest animals on the survival, and recovery of, critical national and state threatened fauna, especially where predation has the potential to expedite localised extinction.	\$39,500.00
DEECA Gippsland	Southern Ark fox baiting - extension	This project will continue to minimise the impact of introduced foxes on threatened species within the Southern Ark footprint.	\$170,000.00
DEECA Gippsland	Weed control in Gippsland's rainforest areas	This project will continue to reduce post-fire weed threats in high priority Rainforest Sites of Significance to a point where only occasional monitoring is required to identify new weeds or weeds that have regenerated because of new disturbance. This project will also continue to treat all sites to Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion to reach a zero detectable presence and establish control at new sites.	\$105,000.00
DEECA Gippsland	Restoring Country through cross tenure integrated pest animal control - Holey Plains-Mullungdung-Stradbroke	Co-led by DEECA Gippsland and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), this project will deliver fox control and monitoring in the Mullungdung landscape which supports the largest remnant of Gippsland Plains Bioregion Plains Grassy Forest and Heathy Woodland. This is the start of a plan to rewild this area with lost species and to develop a safe haven to introduce native species under future climate change scenarios.	\$190,400.00
DEECA Gippsland	Eastern Victoria landscape feral pig project	This project will continue to control, reduce, and prevent further westerly spread, of the feral pig population.	\$250,000.00
DEECA Hume	Barry Mountains expanded fox control	This project will continue to maintain and build upon past and existing works through delivery of a sustained, coordinated, and strategic approach to fox control in the expanded Barry Mountains Great Dividing Range area.	\$230,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
DEECA Hume	Feral pig control within the Ovens District	This cross-tenure feral pig control and community engagement program aims to reduce impacts on threatened flora and fauna, and culturally significant sites in Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park, Baranduda Regional Park, Stanley, Mt Big Ben and Mt Jack State Forest areas within DEECA Hume Region Ovens District.	\$180,000.00
DJANDAK	Healing Mt Buckrabunyule: invasive weed control	The project aims to remove the very large amounts of Wheel Cactus, a difficult and spiny noxious weed, which is currently preventing access to this important cultural site.	\$100,000.00
DJANDAK	Improved management of transformer weeds of Dja Dja Wurrung, Barapa Barapa, Wemba Wemba and Yorta Yorta Countries in the Northern Plains	Four Traditional Owner groups – Dja Dja Wurrung, Barapa Barapa, Wemba Wemba and Yorta Yorta - are working together to prioritise weed control to protect culturally important sites from Wheel Cactus and African Boxthorn, including sites with high biodiversity, across the northern plains of Victoria. This will also assist in improving self-determination and capacity building for Traditional Owners in managing Country.	\$350,000.00
Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation	Traditional Land Management of Ryans Lagoon Wetlands	The funding supported traditional land management, onground training and cultural workshops.	\$72,000.00
Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (Registered Native Title Body Corporate)	Spirit Officer 2023-2025 - Eastern Maar	Employment of a Spirit Officer at Eastern Marr.	\$200,000.00
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	Saving 17 threatened species on the Victorian Volcanic Plain	The project aims to enhance 350 hectares of Natural Temperate Grasslands in the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP), Western Victoria. By establishing a seed production area and re-introduction program, it seeks to improve the trajectory of 17 threatened and culturally significant species, including the Button Wrinklewort (Endangered), Hoary Sunray (Critically Endangered), and the Derrinallum Billy-Button (Endangered), ultimately enhancing population numbers and site quality.	\$113,750.00
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	Reversing decline of the critically endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat	The project aims to reverse the decline in critically endangered species in the Portland area. The focus will be on improving 375-hectares of Southern Bent-Wing Bat (Critically Endangered) foraging habitat and other direct species interventions. The project will protect and improve high biodiversity remnants and the habitat of other critically endangered species.	\$167,500.00
Gunaikurnai Land & Waters Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (Registered Native Title Body Corporate)	Spirit Officer 2023-2025 - GLaWAC	Employment of a Spirit Officer at GLaWAC.	\$200,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (Registered Native Title Body Corporate)	Spirit Officer 2023-2025 - Gunditj Mirring	Employment of a Spirit Officer at Gunditj Mirring who is supporting cultural heritage, values assessments marine spatial planning.	\$200,000.00
Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Corporation	Protecting and enhancing Gunditjmara Bocara Woorowarook Mirring (River Forest Country) - Landscape Pig & Goat Control Project	This project addresses the major threat feral pigs and goats pose to biodiversity in Victoria, the natural environment and cultural heritage, specifically on public land in South West Victoria.	\$333,000.00
Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Corporation	Caring for Gunditjmara Woorowarook Mirring (Forest Country) - Landscape Woody Weed Control Project	This project is removing wild pines and other woody transformer weeds to restore overall forest health to Stringybark woodlands and heathlands in South Western Victoria. Brown Stringybark seeds are a critical food source for the Endangered South Eastern Red-tail Black Cockatoo and restoring their habitat means they and other rare and endemic species can continue to exist into the future.	\$280,000.00
Mallee Catchment Management Authority	Eastern Murray protecting biodiversity project	This project aims to reduce the impact of key threatening processes, caused by pigs, goats and foxes, within 90,000ha of priority habitat (public land) to enhance condition and connectivity for biodiversity outcomes. The project will improve habitat for more than 100 native species (including EPBC and/or FFG listed Regent Parrot, Australian Painted Snipe, Murray-Darling Carpet Python, and Riverine Chenopod Woodland communities), across Hattah/ Annuello and Robinvale to Nyah regions.	\$203,500.00
Mallee Catchment Management Authority	Ned's Corner	Co-led by Mallee CMA and First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (FPMAC), this project will deliver cat, fox, rabbit and weed control programs within 20,000ha of priority habitat in Neds Corner Station conservation reserve in far north-western Victoria. Mallee CMA, First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation and Trust for Nature will partner in this project to enhance conditions and connectivity for biodiversity.	\$330,000.00
Melbourne University	Restoring golden kelp forests on rocky reefs in Port Phillip Bay	Funding is to support a project aiming to address the expansion of urchin barrens, resulting from overgrazing of seaweed by urchins in Port Phillip Bay in recent years, by restoring golden kelp forests on rocky reefs in the bay.	\$326,770.00
Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland Inc	Lower Snowy River Symplocos Protection and Reintroduction	Project will protect known locations of Fauna and Flora Guarantee Act listed Critically Endangered Symplocos thwaitesii (buff hazelwood) on the lower reaches of the Snowy River through protection measures such as deer fencing and weed removal and commence searching for seed and take cuttings from known populations and commence propagation to relocate into fire effected areas.	\$45,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd	Western Port Blue Carbon Planning Project	Partnering with Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd, the project will build on research already undertaken along Victoria's coastline to identify how future ecosystem management could optimise carbon sequestration (capture) and storage. The funding will be used to design, plan, and prioritise on-ground works.	\$250,000.00
North Central Catchment Management Authority	Small Fish, Big Impact: Securing Four Threatened Wetland Fish in Northern Vic	The project will reintroduce Olive Perchlet (Flora and Fauna Guarantee extinct) into Northwest Victoria; establish double the number of known populations of Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC Act) Critically Endangered flat-headed galaxias in Northeast Victoria; undertake habitat restoration, conservation stocking, and translocations of Southern Pygmy Perch (Vulnerable) and Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon (Critically Endangered); and undertake research to improve species reintroductions.	\$78,750.00
North Central Catchment Management Authority	Establishing wetland sites for threatened small-bodied fish	In collaboration with Barapa Barapa Traditional Owners, this project will assess habitats and conduct fish surveys to identify three suitable wetlands as surrogate habitats for threatened small-bodied fish. The wetlands will then be revegetated with aquatic plants and equipped with instream habitat structures (timber and brush piles). After completion, the project will translocate threatened fish to these restored wetlands.	\$3,000.00
North East Catchment Management Authority	Bringing back the Maccas to Livingstone Creek	This project will restore habitat for the endangered Macquarie Perch ("Maccas"), a large-bodied native fish within the Murray Darling Basin. Habitat restoration will support the long-term resilience of the species by creating conditions suitable for both spawning and the survival of newly recruited fish. The project will also support selective harvesting of adult broodfish for captive breeding efforts and surveying to better understand the population of Maccas.	\$240,488.00
Odonata Foundation Ltd	Widgewah Conservation Reserve Expansion	Widgewah Conservation Reserve is a 90-hectare section of a property in Avenel, Victoria, with a predator proof fence that is preparing to welcome its first group of Southern Brush-Tail Rock-Wallaby (Critically Endangered). Widgewah is managed by Odonata and with the land-owners we are working towards expanding the sanctuary to 421-hectares.	\$240,000.00
Parks Victoria	Gariwerd (Grampians) Landscape herbivore management	This project is controlling deer and goats across the Gariwerd-Grampians National Park, and Black Range State Park, which have a significant and detrimental impact on the integrity of biodiversity values through over-browsing of native flora and trampling of vegetation and waterways, damage to the soil, trees and habitat, in the unique Gariwerd landscape.	\$545,400.00
Parks Victoria	Protecting and enhancing biodiversity in North-western Victorian Parks	This project will reduce rabbit and feral goat populations, remove feral pigs and treat invasive weeds in the Mallee landscape. This will give native trees and plants the chance to naturally regrow and recover, benefiting the wider ecosystem. The reduction in grazing pressure and impact of invasive species will protect perennial plant species, allowing native animals the opportunity to successfully breed in their preferred habitats.	\$1,023,805.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Parks Victoria	Protecting and enhancing the Barmah and Lower Goulburn Red Gum Forests, Wetlands and Floodplains	This project is reducing the impacts of goats and pigs along the lower reaches of the heritage listed Goulburn River and at the internationally significant Barmah Forest Ramsar site. Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation is a primary deliver partner with the project delivering some priority actions of the Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park.	\$289,050.00
Parks Victoria	Managing feral pigs in the eastern borderlands	The Parks Victoria led feral pig control program is seeking to reduce the impacts of these invasive pest animals across a variety of alpine environments in Eastern Victoria. Through controlling feral pigs and the subsequent reduction of their natural behaviours including soil disturbance, trampling, grazing, and wallowing, sensitive ecosystems and high value biodiversity assets will have time to recover and prosper.	\$389,250.00
Parks Victoria	Managing the impacts of transformative coastal weeds in Far East Gippsland	This project will control high priority weed infestations and contain transforming weeds at a diverse suite of inlets, rocky headlands and isolated beaches of high ecological value on the Far East Gippsland coastline, including the Cape Howe Wilderness and Sandpatch Wilderness, Croajingolong National Park, Cape Conran Coastal Park, Marlo Coastal Reserve, Gabo Island Lighthouse Reserve and Pt Hicks Lighthouse Reserve.	\$108,068.00
Parks Victoria	Managing wild deer in Eastern Victoria	This project will continue to reduce localised abundance of introduced deer for the relief and recovery of critical habitat, vegetation and threatened fauna. Opportunistic ground shooting of predators (cats, foxes), herbivores (goats, feral cattle, rabbits) and omnivores (pigs) will also be undertaken within the activity area.	\$550,000.00
Parks Victoria	Feral horse management in the Victorian Alpine region	This project will continue to deliver on ground feral horse (herbivore) control and removal for the relief and recovery of critical habitat, Ecological Vegetation Classes and threatened fauna.	\$170,000.00
Parks Victoria	Collaborative Ox-eye Daisy control in the Victorian Alps	This project will continue to collaborate with land managers within the Victorian Alps area to search for and treat this weed species within fire affected areas and associated refugia of high biodiversity value for the protection of threatened flora and significant ecological vegetation communities.	\$150,000.00
Parks Victoria	Protecting habitat and biodiversity in Gariwerd (Grampians) from high-risk weeds	This project is controlling the invasive Sallow Wattle, which is threatening the future of native vegetation in Gariwerd-Grampians National Park by outcompeting with the many unique and localised flora species.	\$320,000.00
Parks Victoria	Protecting and enhancing biodiversity of the Wyperfeld-Big Desert landscape	This project will target the protection and enhancement of semi-arid woodlands, including Slender Cypress Pine & Buloke communities, and a diverse range of threatened flora and fauna, across 171,000 hectares in Wyperfeld National Park, Big Desert and adjacent State forests and conservation reserves. The project will focus on control of rabbits, feral goats, foxes and weeds.	\$365,000.00
Parks Victoria	Mornington Peninsula NP to Point Nepean NP Weed Project	This project aims to improve the quality of significant vegetation in Mornington Peninsula National Park and Point Nepean National Park by reducing existing pest plant infestations and combating new and emergent weeds.	\$158,900.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Parks Victoria	Addressing the Major Mitchells Cockatoo habitat crisis: Restoring semi-arid woodlands	Project will restore ecosystem function in semi-arid woodlands and address the shortage of nest hollows for Major Mitchells Cockatoos and other threatened fauna by creating artificial hollows; reducing hollow competition and fire threats; and supporting the establishment and development of the next generation of nest trees through revegetation and grazer control.	\$136,750.00
Parks Victoria	Fox Control in East Gippsland	This project will continue fox control to reduce predation of native species in Lake Tyers State Park and Providence Ponds Flora and Fauna Reserve. The project will also continue to support capacity building with Traditional Owners within the Joint Management Plans, under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010.	\$76,000.00
Parks Victoria	French Island Weed Project	This project aims to improve the quality of significant vegetation in the French Island National Park by reducing existing pest plant infestations and combating new and emergent weeds. Weed invasion is one of the greatest threats to conservation assets in these sites, including threatened faunal species and important habitat and native flora species in the Heathland, Dry Forest, Woodland and Coastal ecosystems.	\$237,500.00
Parks Victoria	Otway Biodiversity Protection	This project is helping to protect a range of threatened species including the Leafy Greenhood Orchid, Metallic Sun-Orchid, Swamp Antechinus and Long-nosed Potoroo. This is being achieved through undertaking weed control on a number of priority weed species including Sallow Wattle and Sweet Pittosporum, trapping of feral pig populations and fox control works. These works complement existing projects such as Otway Ark and Otway Eden.	\$466,000.00
Parks Victoria	Feral pig control in Eastern Victoria	This project will continue to reduce the impacts of feral pig behaviour such as soil disturbance, trampling, grazing and wallowing, in sensitive ecosystems and high value biodiversity areas.	\$225,000.00
Parks Victoria	Far East Eden invasive weed control	This invasive weed control project aims to implement recommendations from the Far East Eden Strategy. The Far East Eden area is in the south-east corner of Australia and is renowned for its wildlife and plant diversity.	\$100,000.00
Parks Victoria	Managing weeds in North East Victoria	This project will continue to search for and treat invasive weeds to protect threatened species habitat and the natural environment.	\$150,000.00
Parks Victoria	Wilson's Promontory National Park Integrated Pest Plant and Animal Control	This project at Wilson's Promontory National Park is continuing to deliver an integrated invasive species control program to reduce the impacts of introduced grazers, predators and weeds on the unique flora and fauna in the park, including threatened species.	\$736,000.00
Parks Victoria	Gunditjmara Stone, River, Forest and Sea Country: Protecting biodiversity with targeted weed control for healthy country	This project is a partnership led by Parks Victoria and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and supported by DEECA, to control high-risk weeds in the Glenelg coast, river, stony and forest country, in the most highly valued areas for biodiversity and cultural values.	\$284,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Phillip Island Nature Park Board of Management Inc	Building our Conservation Dog Team for an Island Ark	This project aims to strengthen the Feral Cat Management Program at Phillip Island Nature Park by recruiting and training a Feral Cat Detection Dog-Handler, increasing their capacity to quickly respond to feral cat sightings.	\$10,000.00
Royal Botanic Gardens Board	Raising Rarity: Preventing the extinction of Victoria threatened flora	The project will use an integrated conservation framework to prevent extinction of 24 endangered Victorian plants. Framework includes (1) threat assessment and community surveys (2) seed and essential symbiont collections (3) genetic assessment to inform propagation (4) developing permanent ex-situ living collections (5) reintroductions using knowledge of suitable habitat and pollinator availability.	\$337,750.00
The Trustee for Nature Glenelg Trust	Expanding Walker Swamp: a large-scale habitat restoration demonstration site	Providing a safe-haven for the future release of threatened mammals to supplement existing wild populations within 50,000 ha of connected habitat.	\$515,000.00
Threatened Species Conservancy Inc.	Crucial steps to save Australia most unique and threatened butterfly community	This project will deliver conservation actions for threatened invertebrate communities in the Goulburn-Broken Catchment near Broadford. Continuing on from a four-year recovery program for the threatened Small and Large Ant-Blue Butterflies (Endangered) and "Butterfly Community No. 1", the project will implement key actions including habitat restoration activities, continued research and monitoring, community engagement and continue captive breeding investigation efforts.	\$47,500.00
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Murrk Ngubitj Yarram Yaluk Regeneration	This project will support actions to protect biodiversity as part of a broader program to create 30 hectares of environmental and public open space at Murrk Ngubitj Yarram Yaluk (meaning "head waters of continuous flowing river" in Wadawurrung language), Barwon Waters former Bellarine Basin site.	\$111,250.00
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Spirit Officer 2023-2025 - Wadawurrung	Employment of a Spirit Officer at Wadawurrung.	\$50,000.00
Wetland Revival Trust	Drought-proofing threatened species on the Lower Loddon floodplain at Wirra-lo	The Northern Victorian "Wirra-Lo" project aims to secure a 180-HA property for ecological restoration. Project includes weed and pest control, revegetation, and hydrology restoration. The goal is to create and protect essential habitat for Fauna and Flora Guarantee Act listed species, including Growling Grass Frog, Grey-Crowned Babbler (Vulnerable), Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon, Australasian Bittern, Ridged Water Milfoil and Stiff Groundsel (critically endangered). Collaboration with TOs and Wetland Revival Trust is part of the long-term vision, with indigenous rangers managing the site.	\$89,000.00
Wild Research Pty Ltd (auspiced by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority)	Securing Spotted Tree Frogs and co-occurring native freshwater fauna	The project will create a safe haven for the Spotted Tree Frog and other co-occurring native freshwater fauna from non-native predatory fish. Will also help establish a Spotted Tree Frog captive conservation breeding program that can support future reintroduction and population augmentation recovery activities for the species.	\$107,250.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Spirit Officer 2023-2025 - Wurundjeri	Employment of a Totem Officer and for habitat restoration works at Nangenala site.	\$200,000.00
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Nature Fund Caring for Country	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) will apply Traditional Cultural practices to care for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country on their Nunganala property in Healesville. This project will provide an opportunity for WWCHACs Narrap Rangers to practice and share traditional land management knowledge and restore this important part of Wurundjeri Country.	\$75,000.00
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Spirit Officer 2023-2025 - Yorta Yorta	Employment of a Spirit Officer at Yorta Yorta.	\$200,000.00
Zoos Victoria	Back from the brink; a future for Victoria threatened wildlife	Project will target key threatened species in Victoria (the Pookila, Watsons Tree Frog and Giant Burrowing Frog) where tangible, high impact conservation interventions can be enacted rapidly to drive conservation progress. The program involves recovery actions utilising a combination of translocations, ex situ breeding, wildlife health, community engagement and research investigations to advance knowledge.	\$361,250.00
		TOTAL	\$14,326,379.00

Suburban Parks Program: DEECA Regions

This program provides for the creation and development of green open spaces for the community to connect with, helping Victoria to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Access to natural environments and open space will enable Victorians to remain healthy and active in warmer climate where greater extremes in temperature make built environments less suited to outdoor activities..

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Banyule City Council	Waterdale Road Pocket Park and Shared Zone, Ivanhoe	The project will deliver a new pocket park and shared zone for passive recreation and socialising in the busy Ivanhoe shopping precinct. Features include: canopy trees, areas of soft landscaping, street furniture, feature paving, lighting, public art and various treatments to reduce traffic and vehicle speed.	\$325,000.00
Brimbank City Council	Sydenham Park, Keilor North	Delivery of park upgrades at Sydenham Park, Keilor North. Cycling and walking trails will be constructed to access scenic routes throughout the reserve.	\$75,000.00
Maribyrnong City Council	Birmingham Street Pocket Park, Yarraville	Delivery of a pocket park at Birmingham Street, Yarraville. The project will transform an existing closed street space into a new park. It will provide a green urban space for unstructured uses such as sitting, resting, gathering, informal play and connecting with nature.	\$259,414.25
Maribyrnong City Council	Lilardia Pocket Park, Footscray (previously named Warde and Whitehall Pocket Park).	Delivery of a pocket park at Warde and Whitehall St, Footscray. Located in an area lacking in openspace and with rapid population growth. Featuring open lawn areas, large canopy trees, garden beds, paved areas, street furniture (seating, bins, bike hoops) and informal play elements.	\$325,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Melbourne City Council	Bedford Street Pocket Park, North Melbourne	Delivery of a pocket park at Bedford Street, North Melbourne. This project will increase open space provision for the local community with a focus on increasing greening and tree canopy and pedestrian and cyclist safety.	\$257,832.50
Melton City Council	Black Knight Way Reserve, Kurunjang	Delivery of park upgrades at Black Knight Way Reserve, Kurunjang. A new play and recreation space for all ages.	\$150,000.00
Moonee Valley City Council	Mount Alexander Road Triangle Pocket Park, Flemington	Delivery of a pocket park at Mount Alexander Road Triangle, Flemington. The transformation of a mechanic workshop into a green pocket park. Creating a new green open space that caters for passive recreation and gathering for the local community.	\$175,000.00
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	John Butler Reserve, Mount Eliza	Delivery of park upgrades at John Butler Reserve, Mount Eliza. The revitalisation will create a more inclusive, functional and accessible for people with all abilities park.	\$75,000.00
Port Phillip City Council (City of Port Phillip)	Alma Park, St Kilda East	Delivery of park upgrades at Alma Park, St Kilda East. The revitalisation will improve paths, making the park more accessible. The project will improve safety, access and visibility across the site and better cater to local open space needs.	\$150,000.00
Port Phillip City Council (City of Port Phillip)	Moubray Street Pocket Park, Albert Park	The delivery and construction of a pocket park at Moubray Street, Albert Park. This project includes formalisation of road closure and creation of new play space in front of the primary school with multi playspaces, picnic and seating area and enhanced pedestrian access.	\$100,000.00
Stonnington City Council (City of Stonnington)	Sir Zelman Cowen Park, Kooyong	Delivery of park upgrades at Sir Zelman Cowen Park, Kooyong. A regional play space that maximises accessibility and inclusiveness catering for people of all ages and abilities.	\$75,000.00
Stonnington City Council (City of Stonnington)	Mouclif Pocket Park, Prahran (previously called Mount Street Pocket Park).	Delivery of a pocket park at Mount Street, Prahran. The purchase and conversion of two sites will help to achieve the vision of Chapel ReVision and the Mount Street Masterplan. The new park will increase open space in the area and create more tree canopy cover.	\$325,000.00
Stonnington City Council (City of Stonnington)	Bangs Pocket Park, Prahran (previously named Regent Street Pocket Park)	Delivery of a pocket park at Bangs Park, Prahran. The project forms one link in a chain of open spaces planned. The project will provide garden areas with trees, a grassy lawn and pedestrian links.	\$325,000.00
Whitehorse City Council	Scott Grove, Burwood	Delivery of park upgrades at Scott Grove, Burwood. The park will include passive seating areas, open lawn areas for social sports and a playspace focusing on nature play and local native vegetation.	\$75,000.00
Yarra City Council	Otter and Smith Streets Pocket Park, Collingwood	Delivery of a pocket park at Otter and Smith Streets, Collingwood. Creating a new local park in a precinct currently lacking in open space. The park's design is being community-led to meet the needs of local residents and business owners.	\$557,389.25
Yarra City Council	Cambridge Street Pocket Park, Collingwood	Delivery of a pocket park at Cambridge Street, Collingwood. Extending this popular local park in a precinct currently lacking in open space. The park's design is being community-led to meet the needs of local residents and workers.	\$325,000.00
		TOTAL	\$3,574,636.00

Suburban Parks Program: Land, Environment and Policy

This initiative provides for the creation, enhancement and connection of parks and green open spaces in our growing suburbs to benefit Victoria environmentally, socially and economically.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
City of Casey	Connecting to the Creek - Cardinia Creek Parklands Shared Path Development	The funding is used to design a new shared use path within the existing parts of Cardinia Creek Regional Parklands.	\$400,000.00
City of Kingston	Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project - Construction of Shared Use Path	The grant used for planning and construction of a shared use path at Seaford Wetlands, as part of the Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation project.	\$70,000.00
City of Whittlesea	Quarry Hills Regional Parklands	The grant was used for development of Future Directions Plan addressing future vision and legacy of the Parkland area in line with Traditional Owner and community values and the establishment new paths within the Parkland.	\$432,000.00
Frankston City Council	Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation	The funding was used for Bridge construction over Kananook Creek and development of plan for the upgrades of signage and facilities at Seaford Wetlands.	\$1,870,000.00
Hume City Council	Jackson's Creek Parkland Plan	The funding was used for the development of the Future Directions Plan for the Jacksons Creek Regional Parkland to address future vision and legacy of the Parkland area in line with Traditional Owner and community values. Additional planning also undertaken for Emu Bottom Wetlands by Hume City Council within the Parkland area.	\$18,500.00
Merri Creek Management Committee	Upper Merri Creek Regional Parkland - Aligning Merri Signage	The grants was used for the upgrades to signage within marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands.	\$80,000.00
Parks Victoria	Three New Parks Clean up and Establishment	This grant allows Parks Victoria to continue to clean-up acquired land at the sites of three large new parks (Kororoit Creek Regional Park, Werribee Township Regional Park and Clyde Regional Park).	\$5,850,000.00
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Galada Tamboore Weed Treatment and Ecological Restoration Works	The funding used to complete ecological and revegetation works at galada tamboore reserve, within the marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands.	\$30,000.00
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Upper Merri Creek Cultural Values Study	Development of a Position Statement Report for marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands prepared by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, to guide the development of the Future Directions Plan and all future works in the marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands area.	\$29,600.00
		TOTAL	\$8,780,100.00

Supporting Charities

The objectives of this project are to reduce some of the financial impact of illegal dumping on charitable recyclers by providing partial immediate financial relief for charitable recycling organisations. It allows supporting charitable recyclers during a time of unstable resource recovery markets at a time when the charitable sector is facing increasing cost pressures.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations (NACRO)	Supporting Charities Program	The Supporting Charities Program provides relief to charities for a portion of their costs of dealing with illegal dumping or inappropriate donations, and works with charities to reduce the incidence of illegal dumping. The grant funding is distributed to National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations (trading as Charitable Recycling Australia) who then distribute money to individual charities.	\$1,634,000.00
TOTAL			\$1,634,000.00

Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program

The aim of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program (VCMP) is to provide communities with information on coastal conditions, changes, hazards, and the expected impacts associated with climate change that will facilitate evidence-based decision making.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Deakin University	Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program 2023-24, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems	Project led by Deakin University involves monitoring wave dominated shorelines to undertake informed coastal adaptation planning and investment. The grant allowed for the purchase of drones used for coastal monitoring.	\$35,000
TOTAL			\$35,000

Sustainability Victoria

Asbestos Disposal Management Plan

The objective of this program is to develop and implement an Asbestos Disposal Management Plan (ADMP) to ensure Victoria has the infrastructure and supporting systems to enable safe management and disposal of asbestos waste and to meet future disposal needs.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Greater Shepparton City Council	Pilot asbestos disposal point Shepparton	Develop and operate an asbestos disposal point for a minimum of six months from the time of commission, with the option to then either cease the pilot or continue the service on an ongoing basis.	\$20,000.00
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Pilot Asbestos Disposal Point Castlemaine	Upgrade and operate an asbestos disposal point for a minimum of six months from the time of commission, with the option to then either cease the pilot or continue the service on an ongoing basis.	\$5,000.00
WestVic Waste & Recycling	Pilot asbestos disposal point Warrnambool	Develop and operate an asbestos disposal point for a minimum of six months from the time of commission, with the option to then either cease the pilot or continue the service on an ongoing basis.	\$15,000.00
TOTAL			\$40,000.00

Community Climate Change and Energy Action

The key objective of this program is to support local Community groups to invest in their facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Anglican Trust Corporation of the Diocese of Gippsland	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Anglican Trust Corporation of the Diocese of Gippsland	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar installation) at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Sale, Victoria.	\$1,922.00
Australian Vietnamese Women's Association	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Australian Vietnamese Women's Association	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar installation) at AVWA Headquarters and Offices in Richmond, Victoria.	\$7,091.00
B. W. Community Centre Ltd	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - B. W. Community Centre Ltd	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar installation) at BW Community Centre in Caulfield, Victoria.	\$5,340.00
Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Beth Weizmann Community Centre Inc	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar installation) at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre in Caulfield, Victoria.	\$10,472.07
Blake Street Hebrew Congregation Inc.	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Blake Street Hebrew Congregation	Funding to install the energy efficiency upgrades (electrification of domestic appliance, rooftop solar PV, solar battery storage) at Blake Street Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Caulfield South, Victoria.	\$14,867.00
Boroondara City Council	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Boroondara City Council	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar, efficient appliance installation) at Davis Street Kindergarten in Kew, Victoria.	\$6,738.00
Borough of Queenscliffe	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Borough of Queenscliffe	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (battery, lighting, efficient appliance installation) at Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House in Queenscliff, Victoria.	\$5,982.00
Cire Services Inc.	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Cire Services Inc.	Funding to supply and install the approved energy efficiency upgrades (efficient heating/cooling) at Cire Community School Yarra Junction Campus, Victoria.	\$2,590.00
City of Greater Geelong	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - City of Greater Geelong	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar installation) at Ocean Grove Tennis club in Ocean Grove, Victoria.	\$1,827.18
City of Monash	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Monash City Council	Funding to install energy efficiency upgrades at WA Scammell Reserve Pavilion in Oakleigh South and Monash Men's Shed in Glen Waverley, Victoria.	\$5,940.82

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Coleraine Golf club Inc.	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Coleraine Golf Club Inc.	Funding to install energy efficiency upgrades (rooftop solar PV) at Coleraine Golf Club in Coleraine, Victoria.	\$1,680.00
Geelong West Kindergarten Inc.	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Geelong West Kindergarten Inc.	Funding to install the energy efficiency upgrades (energy-efficient LED lighting, electrification of domestic appliance) at Geelong West Kindergarten in Geelong West, Victoria.	\$3,374.64
Glen Eira City Council	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Glen Eira City Council	Funding to implement solar, battery installation at Caulfield Park Tennis Centre, and lighting installation at Glen Orme Tennis Club in Ormond, Victoria.	\$10,624.00
Greater Shepparton City Council	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Greater Shepparton City Council	Funding to install efficient heating/cooling, electrification of domestic appliances, building modifications, rooftop solar PV at Toolamba Recreation Reserve and Community Centre in Toolamba, Victoria.	\$51,778.00
Kadampa Meditation Centre Australia	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Kadampa Meditation Centre Australia	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (efficient appliance installation, building modification) at Kadampa Meditation Centre Australia in Olinda, Victoria.	\$9,607.00
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Funding to supply and install energy efficiency upgrades (efficient heating/cooling) at Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House in Riddells Creek, Victoria.	\$3,361.00
Merri-bek City Council (formerly Moreland)	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Merri-Bek Council	Funding to install the approved energy efficiency upgrades at Brunswick Neighbourhood House in Brunswick and Newlands Neighbourhood House in Coburg North, Victoria.	\$11,805.00
Mildura Rural City Council	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Mildura Rural City Council	Funding to implement the energy efficiency upgrades (solar installation) at Aero Ovals Tennis Clubrooms, and lighting installation at Sunraysia Hockey Association in Mildura, Victoria.	\$4,953.64
Morwell Bowling Club & Recreation Centre Inc.	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Morwell Bowling Club & Recreation Centre Inc.	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar installation) at Morwell Bowling Club in Morwell, Victoria.	\$15,000.00
Murrumbeena Park Bowling Club	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Murrumbeena Park Bowls Club Inc.	Funding to supply and install the approved energy efficiency upgrades (efficient heating/cooling, building modifications) at Murrumbeena Park Bowls Club in Murrumbeena, Victoria.	\$5,681.82
Nillumbik Shire Council	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Nillumbik Shire Council	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar, battery installation) at Greensborough Hockey Club Pavilion and lighting installation at Eltham Tennis Club in Nillumbik Shire, Victoria.	\$8,134.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Ouyen Roxy Theatre Inc	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Ouyen Roxy Theatre	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (efficient appliance installation, building modification) at Ouyen Roxy Theatre in Ouyen, Victoria.	\$733.00
Tara Centre for Wisdom Culture	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Tara Centre for Wisdom Culture Inc	Funding to install the approved energy efficiency upgrades (rooftop solar PV) at Tara Institute in Brighton East, Victoria.	\$17,868.00
The Trustees of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades -The Trustees of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar installation) at St Alphonsa Cathedral Parish in Epping, Victoria.	\$12,444.12
Timboon Golf Club Inc	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Timboon Golf Club Inc.	Funding to install the energy efficiency upgrades (rooftop solar PV) at Timboon Golf Club in Timboon, Victoria.	\$625.80
Wangaratta Rural City Council	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Wangaratta Rural City Council	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar, lighting, efficient appliance installation) at Moyhu Community Hall in Moyhu, Victoria.	\$3,894.00
Warrnambool City Council	CCCEA RD2 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Warrnambool City Council	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar installation) at Russells Creek Club Social Rooms in Warrnambool in Victoria.	\$2,967.95
Yarra Ranges Council	CCCEA RD3 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Funding to install the energy efficiency upgrades (energy-efficient LED lighting) at CIRE Community House Mt Evelyn, Launching Place Preschool, Mooroolbark Early Childhood Education Centre, Yarra Glen Men's Shed, Japara Day Care Centre, Japara Living & Learning Centre in Yarra Ranges Shire, Victoria.	\$15,696.00
Yarram Neighbourhood House	Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Yarram Neighbourhood House	Funding to implement energy efficiency upgrades (solar and efficient appliances installation) in Yarram Neighbourhood House and Yarram Men's Shed in Yarram, Victoria.	\$1,746.00
		TOTAL	\$244,744.04

Circular Economy Business Support

The objective of this program is to support the delivery of the Business Support Fund (BSF) Programs. The BSF programs aim to help Victorian businesses take advantage of circular economy opportunities. The program will contribute towards stronger economic growth and protecting our environment, including reducing waste.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
A.BCH	RVInnovation-Circular Sourcing Marketplace	Build a digital platform to connect the oversupply of textile materials with demand via a business-to-consumer and business-to-business marketplace. This project will provide the digital infrastructure to re-distribute Victorian surplus textiles in a way that captures the variety of enterprises that make up the textiles, clothing and footwear industry.	\$19,900.00
Australian Furniture Association Inc	B2B Sustainable Furniture Procurement	The project will focus on producing effective marketing and communication and promoting sustainable procurement. An audit of the commercial furniture industry in Victoria will be performed to provide valuable data, ensuring a deeper understanding of existing furniture supply chain challenges and opportunities.	\$180,000.00
B-Alternative	Upgrade of B-Alternative's Reusable Crockery Service and Infrastructure	B-Alternative's Reusable Crockery Service and Infrastructure project aims to reduce waste from single-use crockery by offering sustainable and cost-effective alternatives. It involves upgrading B-Alternative's crockery service and infrastructure to create a more efficient and scalable circular solution.	\$34,816.00
Benzoil Pty Ltd	RVInnovation-Reducing food waste in manufacturing by developing food products	Grainout, in partnership with MFI (Monash Food Innovation) and Monash University's New Frontiers program, will develop new plant-based food products from waste by-products, leveraging detailed market analysis and consumer insights. They will also establish processes to repurpose food waste into new products suitable for human consumption, using existing networks and expertise in product transformation and packaging.	\$30,000.00
Boundary Bend Olives	Building Australia's first zero-waste hub for olive growers	The Sustainable Olive Mill Waste Management Project seeks to revolutionise the handling of olive pomace waste in Australia through the implementation of a combination of recycling technologies to de-water the biomass and extract valuable components from the waste. Australia's largest olive oil producer will build an industry-first facility to upcycle up to 28,000 tonnes of olive waste each year into new products.	\$70,000.00
Cathedral Cherries	Transforming cherry waste into commercially viable, high-value products	This project will focus on transforming on-farm cherry 'waste' into valuable new food and drink products for the domestic and international market. Through development and testing, a business case will identify the most commercially viable option for a new high-value product that can be produced on-site with specialised processing equipment.	\$47,841.00
CLOS Laminated Offsite Solutions Pty Ltd	RVInnovation-CLOS: 50% Construction Waste Reduction through Prefab	The project focuses on demonstrating waste avoidance, cost reductions and increased performance of prefabricated homes. It will assess against traditional construction methods and showcase best practice with the assistance of the collaborative partners.	\$30,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Connectone Club Pty Ltd	AI-Powered Digital Platform to Build Sustainable Circular Economy Ecosystem	The project will develop a robust demonstration for a digital B2B platform focused on reducing on-farm waste and increasing profits. The platform will provide a range of tools to inform, promote collaboration, and boost organic waste commercialisation, through the schedule of future harvests, business partnerships, donation actions, and quality control.	\$85,000.00
Cross Laminated Offsite Solutions (CLOS) Pty Ltd	Expansion of the CLOS Advanced Building Facility	A significant percentage of landfill in Victoria is from construction and demolition waste. Offsite, modular manufacturing presents the opportunity to reduce construction waste by 50%. A barrier to the uptake of modular construction is the lack of factory infrastructure to deliver prefabrication in a scalable way. The CLOS project is an expansion of their modular manufacturing capacity by developing a closed panel system - enabling finished wall and floor panels to be completed on a conveyor line increasing their processing capacity by 10.	\$525,000.00
Cumulo Group Pty Ltd	Returnr Marketplace	Creating the 'Returnr Marketplace', Australia's first zero-packaging-waste, membership-based, online grocery delivery service. This new business model enables local producers and food brands to sell their products in fully reusable packaging, collected from customers after use to be washed, sanitised and reused time and time again.	\$80,000.00
D5 Building Group Pty Ltd	Reducing waste in Victoria through a Circular modular housing system	Create a modular housing system that will design out waste from the start. The modules and components can be assembled in a variety of layouts, disassembled and reused again. People will be able to sell and trade their modules and components in the future on a purpose designed digital marketplace.	\$130,000.00
Dairy Australia Limited	Developing a Dairy Sector Food Waste Action Plan	Delivering Australia's first food waste action plan for the dairy sector, this project focused on quantifying the volume and composition of dairy waste while developing effective solutions to minimise waste in processing and households. Through this initiative, innovative products, services, and business models have been identified to foster the establishment of a circular dairy sector.	\$5,000.00
Deakin University	RVInnovation-Biofibres for Sustainable Apparel Inspired by a Humble Bee	The project aims to develop a novel, circular alternative to polyester by creating bioinspired textiles. The fibres and textiles will be made from recombinant protein-based biopolymers derived from the nesting material of a native Australian solitary bee using sustainable and energy-efficient bioreactors to produce the biopolymer through fermentation.	\$120,000.00
Encoro Pty Ltd	Growing Bettercup's manufacturing capacity and circular support services	Bettercup will use this funding to double its manufacturing and cleaning capacity of reusable cups. This project will enable Bettercup to continue to eliminate single-use plastics at events.	\$307,151.00
Green Collect Limited	Piloting the Circular Capabilities Package	The project aims to develop, implement, and commercialise a Circular Capabilities Package. This package examines the long-term integration of circular economy practices in the office. It is designed to help service sector organisations through a structured capability-building programme consisting of 3 stages: Circular Transition Assessment, Getting Started, and Circular Behaviour Building.	\$173,166.66

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Innovative Mechatronics Group Pty Ltd	Commercialisation of Retired Electric Vehicle Batteries for Energy Storage (BESS)	The current program of IM Group, with its new brand Infinitev, will be the first to make a circular economy solution for electric vehicle batteries by reusing, repurposing and recycling end-of-life batteries. The focus of the Infinitev project is the Infinitev Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which uses batteries no longer suited to vehicle applications and repurposes them into an energy storage system.	\$282,000.00
Kathmandu	RVInnovation-Kathmandu Apparel Life Extension Pilot with The Renewal Workshop	Kathman-REDU is a pilot program for product renewal with Kathmandu which is intercepting used, damaged or faulty products that would normally be destined for landfill. Instead, the pilot will focus on repurposing items by repairing, washing and relabelling them to be resold under the Kathman-REDU label at Kathmandu retail stores in Victoria.	\$135,000.00
Lotus Energy Recycling Pty Ltd	Solar-PV REUSE protocols and National Accredited Training Program development	This project will develop Australia's first "Solar-PV REUSE Protocols" to determine whether a decommissioned solar panel can be reused or repurposed. These protocols will be used to create the course curriculum and materials for a National Accredited Training Program.	\$141,225.00
Reece Group	Developing circular business models for Reece's building supply chain	The project aims to collaborate with key stakeholders in Reece Group's supply chain, customers, and operations. The goal is to identify and evaluate various circular economy opportunities to invest in with customers and suppliers, prioritise the top three most promising opportunities for further development. Each opportunity will have a business case and implementation plan created.	\$35,095.00
Reground Pty Ltd	The Reground Circular Economy Exchange	The Circular Economy Exchange (CEE) is an all-in-one digital procurement, investment, and reporting platform which bridges the gap between linear corporations and circular businesses. It is an industry-to-industry solution, designed by circular economy operators with first hand knowledge of market gaps and opportunities.	\$52,500.00
Rendine Constructions Pty Ltd	Design and Practice for Disassembly and Reuse in Modular Construction	The project aims to design and produce a prototype modular building using obsolete building components from the Victorian School Building Authority's Relocatable Building Program. These components, which would otherwise contribute to waste and recycling, come from decades of manufacturing and deploying relocatable classrooms.	\$90,840.00
RMIT University	Nightingale Village post-occupancy evaluation	Undertake a post-occupancy evaluation (including its environmental sustainability) of Nightingale Village. Identify policy implications for Class 2 developments.	\$4,997.47
RMIT University	Enabling the Reuse of Demolished Bricks through a New Mortar Design	This project, the first of its kind in Australia, aims to develop a new mortar design with tailored adhesion that allows easy debonding from demolished bricks. By using this innovative mortar, whole bricks can be reused in their highest value, thereby extending their useful life, reducing the need for virgin materials, and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions in the construction sector.	\$85,000.00
RMIT University	Refashioning: Accelerating Circular Product Design at Scale	The Refashioning: Accelerating Circular Product Design at Scale project will develop, pilot, and evaluate a series of open-source guides to help product development and design teams in implementing circular design and systems change. These guides will provide actionable and measurable criteria for implementing circular design and assessing its long-term impact.	\$46,219.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Southern Cross Recycling Group Pty Ltd	HOMEcycle Smart Centre Feasibility Study	SCR Group is exploring a unique resource recovery concept for the reuse and recycling of personal and household goods. The concept is to maximise the diversion of personal and household goods from landfill by providing a more effective platform to recover these goods compared to current practices and pathways.	\$55,500.00
STREAT	RVInnovation-Open Sauce	This project will create a zero-organic waste 'hub and spoke' model for small batch food production and waste processing. It will audit and map the supply chains, waste streams, assets and capabilities across the Moving Feast social enterprise network, inviting the participation of the public to develop a range of new circular retail products.	\$20,000.00
The Frank Wild Pty Ltd	Gate to Glass - Circular Wine Solutions for Events	This project will develop a new circular business model that avoids glass waste in the events industry. It will focus on creating a new reusable keg service and reusable glass bottles for wine at events in-place of traditional wine bottles, which generate significant waste in Australia.	\$58,500.00
The RJ King Family Trust	R4 Circular Solutions for Textiles	This project will divert 8.2 tonnes per year of textile waste from landfill through the expansion of their circular 'R4' (Repurpose, Repair, Recycle, Restore) renewal solutions. This project will expand its manufacturing capability and reduce energy consumption through the purchase of new equipment specific to outdoor garments and camping equipment.	\$42,130.00
The Trustee for The Broadford Mill Trust	Establishing Victoria's First Sustainable Edgeboard Manufacturing Line	The Broadford Mill has introduced a locally manufactured angle board (also known as edge board). This product is made from recycled paper waste from the company's own site, as well as from external suppliers. The mill has replaced raw source materials with recycled materials, contributing to waste avoidance and improved processing capacity.	\$2,500.00
University of Melbourne	RVInnovation-A Novel, Extended-Use Infection Protection Gown	Provide a safe, novel solution to extend the use of disposable medical gowns to reduce the number of gowns used and disposed of in Victoria. This includes, evaluating and demonstrating whether a coating can be applied to a disposable personal protective equipment (PPE) gown to extend its use in a clinical setting.	\$40,000.00
Victoria Circular Activator	RVInnovation-Victoria Circular Activator	The Victorian Circular Activator will provide a physical circular economy hub and lead catalysing activities including research, a business data platform, frameworks to support business collaboration, four business-focused capability-building programs and innovation showcases.	\$109,975.00
		TOTAL	\$3,039,356.13

Circular Economy Communities Fund

The objective of this program is to assist Victorian communities to transition to a circular economy by providing grant programs to solicit creative solutions for issues and gaps in the current waste management system.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Access Australia Group	Bendigo Share and Repair Shed	Establishing a community 'Share and Repair Shed' including a repair café, tool library, and recycling collection point.	\$32,450.00
Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare	Feed More Waste Less	Increasing access to rescued food to be distributed to schools, individuals, and families across the Albury Wodonga region that are experiencing financial hardship. The expansion of the existing network of food suppliers involved in the Feed More Waste Less program will be achieved by dedicating a Project Coordinator to the program.	\$26,100.00
Assembled Threads	Tackling the textile crisis in Victoria's uniform procurement channels.	Expanding the current 'Towards Circular High Visibility Apparel' project by recycling hi-vis vests at end of life and creating recycled fibre medical scrubs using recycled bottles and textile waste.	\$8,850.00
Ballarat East Neighbourhood House Inc.	Zero Waste Homes Ballarat - Pilot Community Education Project	Delivering a hands-on course for householders to enable them to confidently address waste and recycling issues.	\$32,317.00
Banksia Gardens Community Services	Composting is circular: a story of food and a forest	Diverting organic waste and transforming it into nutrient-rich soil to be used to regenerate their community services spaces.	\$30,343.00
Boots For All Inc	Sport for All - Uni Hill: Sporting Goods Rebound Platform	Reducing waste generation and diverting from landfill by salvaging sporting goods and redistributing to those in need across Banyule and Whittlesea. In addition to prolonging the life of these items, this project aims to increase participation in community sport.	\$5,900.00
Brainwave Australia	Brainwave Bikes - LGA Bike Recycling program	This project will promote the work of Brainwave Australia and form partnerships with local councils (LGAs) to increase the number of drop-off points for bike recycling to prevent this waste item from entering landfill. Recycled bikes will be cleaned, tested and sold.	\$40,750.00
Brunswick Neighbourhood House	Waste Less Recycle More	Creating a community-based education resource that will demonstrate how to grow one's own food and incorporate closed loop agricultural practices through composting and worm farming.	\$32,450.00
Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre	Delivering community circular economy waste solutions	Providing a recycling collection point for batteries, e-waste, soft plastics, light-bulbs, and plastic tags and delivering a recycling education program targeting migrants and refugees.	\$31,972.00
Cire Services Inc.	Upcycling with Cire	Delivering workshops to re-purpose unusable clothing donations and divert textile waste from landfill.	\$22,100.00
Darebin Information Volunteer & Resource Service Incorporated	Harvest. Rescue. Share. Connect. For a thriving Darebin.	Recipient will establish a food rescue project and rebuild a food harvesting project. Through these projects, the aim is to recycle 22 tonnes of organic materials and to repurpose food for emergency relief and facilitate and manage training workshops in fruit tree care, harvesting and composting.	\$18,742.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Darley Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre	Bacchus Marsh Circular Economy Community Hub	Developing the 'Bacchus Marsh Circular Economy Community Hub' through a repair café, borrowing service, and shared learnings workshop space.	\$23,116.00
Diamond Valley Community Support Inc	The Food Collective – Next Level Project	Diverting organic material from landfill and facilitating access to food relief through food rescue and donation.	\$84,192.00
Enable Social Enterprises Limited	Connecting Communities	Expanding their tech recycling service to repurpose items and provide employment and education to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.	\$13,750.00
Garage Sale Trail Foundation	Multi-Unit Dwelling Circular Economy Hubs	Delivering a series of pop-up circular economy hubs for multi-unit dwellers within the City of Melbourne featuring reuse markets and swap and repair workshops.	\$24,000.00
Jesuit Social Services Limited	Regenerative Plastics: A Community Education Project	Partnering with Precious Plastics to repurpose plastic bottle lids and providing education and job readiness programs for those with different abilities and the long-term unemployed.	\$29,000.00
Kensington Neighbourhood House	Kensington Community Waste Wisdoms Program	Transitioning Kensington to a circular economy through repair cafés, community compost hubs and an educational campaign.	\$25,594.00
Kororoit Creek Neighbourhood House Association Incorporated	Brimbank Repair Cafe and Workshop Series	Establishing a volunteer-led repair café in Brimbank to support the community to gain skills in repair, re-use, and re-purposing.	\$21,120.00
Lalor Living and Learning Centre	Lalor interactive arts, permaculture and waste reduction precinct project	Creating an interactive arts, permaculture, recycling, and waste reduction precinct drawing on the skills of migrant residents.	\$32,450.00
Milparinka	Contributing to Sustainability Through Community Composting	Implementing a sustainable and accessible circular compost system (including purchase of a food dehydrator) to convert organic waste into useable compost. Aim is to divert food waste from landfill and create a reusable resource within the Brunswick community, with a focus on connecting people living with a disability, providing them with new opportunities via the SEEDs Communal Garden.	\$25,300.00
Morwell Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre	Morwell War on Waste - Local Solutions for low waste living	Encouraging sustainable household practices through the Free Store – redirecting useable items from landfill to those in need, and the repair café – extending the life of items.	\$29,300.00
No More Butts Ltd	Mycocycling Community Cigarette Butt Waste to Re-direct from Landfill	Provision of a free service to collect and recycle cigarette butt waste, transforming it into useable items such as packaging through the process of mycology. The recycling process will be undertaken using a particular strain of mushrooms that will help the breakdown of cigarette butt filters for use in the production of new materials.	\$18,349.35
Northern Community Church of Christ	Turning Food Waste into Fertiliser	Purchase a Food Waste Dehydrator to convert more than 3,600kg of food waste produced onsite into fertiliser for use in kitchen garden and other community sites. Diverting organic material from landfill and educating the community on food recycling and the circular economy.	\$2,720.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Open Table	Open Table's Food Rescue Hub	Providing food sharing initiatives through the establishment of surplus food collections, community lunches, composting, and community education.	\$31,900.00
Outer East Foodshare Inc	Who thought it could taste so good?	Partnering with Feed One Feed All to increase surplus food collection and repurposing it through food charities and school breakfast programs.	\$46,598.00
OzFish Unlimited	Shell Savers - Saving shells by the seashore	Diverting shells from landfill to use in biodiversity restoration activities in local waters.	\$50,100.00
Reground Pty Ltd	Remote Reground - Sustainable Coffee for all Victorians	Expanding their existing project to provide 'Remote Reground', a coffee collection service reaching more businesses and redistributing coffee waste to be repurposed across Victoria.	\$149,700.00
Rethink Recycling Co-op Ltd	Rethink Recycling Co-op Mobile Education Trailer	Setting up a mobile education trailer to educate on plastic waste re-manufacturing that can provide an interactive education program with all-in-one plastic processing ability, to deliver programs across schools, universities, festivals, summits, expos, business and community events, and webinars.	\$23,600.00
Richmond Community Learning Centre	Yarra Repair Pop Ups	Providing fixing and mending services and educating and upskilling community members. Establish local repair pop-ups for residents to be able to bring in items for mending, fixing, and cleaning. Volunteers will be trained and mentored to offer a range of fixing and mending services.	\$45,932.00
Soap Aid Ltd	Soaping Our Way to a Circular Economy	Establishing a soap repurposing centre in Melbourne to divert soap from landfill and redistribute to community groups and vulnerable Victorians.	\$127,838.00
Sustain : The Australian Food Network	Oakhill Food Justice Farm Resource and Composting Hub	Expanding on the activities at the Oakhill Food Justice Farm to become a centre of sustainability. This will include expanding deliveries of pre-ordered compost, creating a dedicated bay for cardboard for locals which will be reused into food growing or native revegetation projects run by volunteers, starting a micro seedling nursery to establish a plastic-free seedling operation on site, running workshops and events on how to make compost, grow fresh food and more.	\$32,450.00
Sustain: The Australian Food Network	Unboxed Victoria	Providing farmers with reusable packaging and creating more sustainable and efficient shipping of fresh produce around Victoria.	\$95,267.00
Tangaroa Blue Foundation	Rig Recycle - Victoria	Expanding on their existing programs to collect and repurpose recreational fishing and packaging items through an innovative repair, reuse and recycle framework.	\$124,825.00
The Bicycle Recycle Shed	Bicycle Landfill Diversion through Education and Empowerment Project	Educating and upskilling community members in bicycle maintenance, upcycling, and re-purposing with a particular focus on female-identifying residents.	\$16,720.00
The Scout Association of Australia, Victorian Branch	Scouts Victoria - Campsite Food Waste Diversion	Implementing food waste recycling at Gilwell Park campsite to divert food waste from landfill and educate the community.	\$12,300.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
The Trustee for The Salvation Army (Victoria) Property Trust	Salvos Stores Electronics Circularity Best Practice	Expand their current offering of Test and Tag services (process of inspecting and testing portable electrical appliances to ensure their safety and compliance with Australian regulations) at Salvos Stores across Victoria. This will include purchase and distribution of new Test and Tag machines and training for volunteers.	\$32,400.00
West Welcome Wagon Inc	Rescue, revive and repurpose to support New Australians in need.	Expanding the collection and redistribution of unwanted goods and rehoming them with new residents in the western suburbs of Melbourne.	\$114,600.00
		TOTAL	\$1,515,095.35

Circular Economy Councils Fund

The objective of this program is to assist Victorian councils to transition to a circular economy by providing grant programs to solicit innovative solutions for issues and gaps when it comes to the reuse, repair, repurpose, and recycle of materials and products in the current waste management and resource recovery systems.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Alpine Shire Council	CE Councils Alpine - Reuse Shop at Myrtleford Transfer Station	Funding to set up a Reuse Shop at Myrtleford Transfer Station within an existing shed, and install an office in another existing shed to facilitate staffing and operation of the Reuse Shop.	\$95,999.40
Bayside City Council	CE Councils Implementation Bayside's Roving Repair Program	The project will hold a minimum of 6 pop-up repair events throughout Bayside City Council, across a 12-month period, to implement findings from the CE Councils Fund Round 1 Feasibility Study.	\$50,000.00
Central Goldfields Shire Council	CE Councils Central Goldfields - Compost Facility Upgrade Carisbrook	This project will deliver an extension and upgrade to the receival area for the municipal food organics and garden organics currently received at the Carisbrook Compost Facility. Provision of a hardstand and curing bays will increase the receival capacity, sorting and decontamination ability and the diversion of materials from transfer station from low grade end value into the compost stream.	\$73,920.00
Central Goldfields Shire Council	CE Councils Implementation Central Goldfields Energy Breakthrough Event Waste Management	The Central Goldfields Energy Breakthrough Event Waste Management is implementing sustainable event waste management systems, along with waste education, before, during and after the 2023 Energy Breakthrough events. Strong focus is placed on waste avoidance and recovery of recyclable and compostable material.	\$48,700.00
City of Darebin	RV Councils Implementation - Darebin Best Waste Practices in Multi Use Dwellings (MUDs)	Ten partner councils: Stonnington, Maribyrnong, Yarra, Port Phillip, Moreland, Geelong, Melbourne, Bayside, Darebin, Glen Eira will contract a delivery partner to engage with all project MUDs and waste contractors to undertake surveys and collate data and responses and create a digital manual for MUDs that incorporates induction for new and current MUD tenants; signage; bin configuration.	\$30,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
City of Monash	CE Councils Monash - Circular Economy Leadership Development Program	This collaborative training program, involving 12 Victorian councils, will empower Councils Officers, CEOs, Directors and Leadership teams and Department Professionals to embed circularity into policy and strategies, address barriers to transitioning to a circular economy and build networks of Circular Leaders to achieve change at scale.	\$55,000.00
City of Whittlesea	CE Councils Implementation Whittlesea Circular Resource Practices at Retail Business Precincts	This project will see the implementation of a waste and recycling model in business precincts aimed at achieving circular resource practices, and encouraging the transition to a circular economy.	\$80,000.00
Frankston City Council	CE Councils Frankston - Trim Your Bin Business Program	This project will establish a bin trim program (aimed at reducing waste sent to landfill and increase recycling) for businesses. It incorporates individual visual audits, action plans and follow up audits across 50 - 60 businesses in the Frankston, Casey and Mornington municipalities with Frankston City Council as the lead.	\$96,000.00
Glen Eira City Council	CE Councils Implementation Glen Eira Best Practice Reusable Nappy Program	This project enables councils to offer a best practice reusable nappy program (offering free resources to make it easier for families to use reusable nappies, save money and reduce waste). The councils will evaluate the impact and opportunities to access hands-on experience and personal connections to support the change.	\$68,000.00
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	CE Councils Macedon Ranges Shire Council ReSale shops at Romsey and Kyneton	This project will develop a ReSale shop at the Romsey resource recovery facility with a 'builders yard' attached for timber, pipe, posts and metal sheet for reuse in gardening and small projects around the house or farm, and upgrade the Kyneton Resale Shop.	\$150,066.32
Melbourne City Council	CE Councils Melbourne: Kensington Circular Economy Precinct	The Kensington Circular Economy Precinct project will introduce a circular economy precinct within a hub of businesses in Kensington. Kensington will become a neighbourhood precinct where residents, businesses and visitors will experience circularity in action through events, activations and initiatives led by local businesses and community groups.	\$220,000.00
Moira Shire Council	CE Councils Moira - Resale Shop Cobram and Numurkah Transfer Stations	This project will construct and operate two Resale Shops at Cobram and Numurkah Transfer Stations to divert more waste from landfill, create local employment opportunities, and provide access for the community to pre-loved goods at affordable rates.	\$160,704.00
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	CE Councils Mornington Peninsula Wash Against Waste Trailer and Reusables for Events	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council will design and construct a 'Wash Against Waste' trailer and reusable crockery inventory, to be used at Shire events and community gatherings where food/beverages are served.	\$32,000.00
Mount Alexander Shire Council	CE Councils Mount Alexander - Castlemaine Transfer Station Sorting Space	This project will deliver a new concreted floor in a building at the Castlemaine Transfer Station that is used for storing, repairing and dismantling recovered items from the waste stream.	\$48,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Murrindindi Shire Council	CE Councils Murrindindi Mulch Maker	This project will deliver a mulcher to divert brush and wood from landfill into a useable mulch product that the council and community can use.	\$116,249.40
Murrindindi Shire Council	RV Councils Feasibility Business Case for a Modern Resource Recovery Facility in Yea	To deliver a business case for the development of a modern resource recovery facility to service Yea township and surrounding areas.	\$10,000.00
Strathbogie Shire Council	CE Councils Implementation Nagambie Resource Recovery Centre Resale Shop	This project will provide a fit-for-purpose infrastructure to house the Resale Shop in Nagambie. The facility will allow for the safe sorting and/or selling disposed materials that could be repaired, reused or recycled.	\$30,000.00
Surf Coast Shire Council	CE Councils Implementation Lorne Transfer Station Upgrade	This project will upgrade the Lorne Transfer Station to incorporate three additional bin bays, improve resource recovery options and improved traffic flows for locals and visitors, with improved opportunity for reuse and recycling of materials.	\$160,000.00
Swan Hill Rural City Council	CE Councils Implementation Swan Hill Mattress Processing & Recycling Facility	This project will see the creation of a mattress processing facility to recover materials for reuse and recycling.	\$75,000.00
Swan Hill Rural City Council	CE Councils Swan Hill - A Circular Agricultural Plastics Economy (CAPE) for Loddon Mallee	The project will establish a Circular Agricultural Plastics Economy program in the Loddon Mallee region through the purchase of a high capacity mobile plastics baler, generator and trailer. The baler will be operated by council for a fee for service with industry stakeholders, with plastics to be delivered to remanufacturing facilities.	\$92,500.00
Swan Hill Rural City Council	RV Councils Implementation - Swan Hill Compost Facility Stage 1	Establish small scale composting facility including: research, analyse & finalise concept design including EPA approvals, site preparation at Ultima landfill, physical construction of composting rows, testing, analysis and quality assurance.	\$30,000.00
Wangaratta Rural City Council	CE Councils Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility Compost Product Enhancement Project	This enhancement project will assist the Wangaratta Organics Processing facility to process more organic materials and be able to deliver a high value product that can be used in more commercial and varied applications. This will be achieved through the development of an Environmental Management System and purchase of equipment.	\$74,599.62
Wyndham City Council	CE Councils Implementation Wyndham Park Tool Library	This project will establish a Tool Library located at the Wyndham Park Community Shed, converting an underutilised space into a fully fitted out Tool Library, serving the needs of the Werribee and Hoppers Crossing communities and beyond.	\$20,000.00
Wyndham City Council	RV Councils Implementation - Wyndham Bulk Resource Recovery Centre	The project will establish a new bulk waste material resource recovery centre at the Wyndham Refuse Disposal Facility to recover timber, green waste, cardboard, concrete, soils and recyclables. This includes establishment of the equipment sorting materials handler, hardstand customer access area, materials separation area and covered drop-off area.	\$30,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Yarra Ranges Council	CE Councils Yarra Ranges - Community Textiles Collection Day	Funding for Yarra Ranges Council to hold two one-day trial events, to gauge interest from the community and give them the ability to dispose of textile products that are otherwise destined for landfill.	\$45,000.00
Yarriambiack Shire Council	RV Councils Implementation - Yarriambiack - Wimmera Mallee Councils Recycled Glass Processing Collaboration	To support a formal alliance of five Wimmera Mallee councils: Yarriambiack, Buloke, Horsham, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh to procure mobile glass crushing plant to process glass material collected from glass collection and separation systems at municipal transfer stations.	\$25,000.00
		TOTAL	\$1,916,738.74

Education and Behaviour Change Program

The objective of this project is to deliver a comprehensive and cohesive household education and behaviour change program for Victorian households.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Alpine Resorts Victoria	Falls Creek Alpine Resort's 4-stream recycling and waste	Funding to introduce glass and Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service via a tailored campaign, using Sustainability Victoria education materials. It will increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination.	\$10,000.00
Alpine Resorts Victoria	Mt Buller Mt Stirling Alpine Resorts Improving Recycling Services	Funding to introduce glass and FOGO service via a tailored campaign, using Sustainability Victoria education materials. It will increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination.	\$10,000.00
Alpine Resorts Victoria	Mt Hotham promoting the recycling system	For the delivery of a campaign, utilising Sustainability Victoria educational materials, aiming to improve waste and recycling contamination rates and increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination.	\$10,000.00
Alpine Shire Council	Alpine Shire Council Kerbside Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) Service Communications Plan	For the delivery of a local campaign to introduce new household recycling services - FOGO and glass.	\$28,200.00
Bass Coast Shire Council	Bass Coast Shire Council promoting the recycling system	For the delivery of an educational campaign introducing, improving and promoting household recycling services systems and increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination.	\$34,500.00
Baw Baw Shire Council	Baw Baw Shire Council's Glass and FOGO Transition	For the delivery of a local campaign to introduce new household recycling services - glass and food organics to existing garden organics. This will also involve collection frequency and bin lid colour changes.	\$33,800.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Bayside City Council	Bayside City Council improving recycling services	For the delivery of a campaign, using Sustainability Victoria education materials, which will increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination.	\$42,000.00
Boroondara City Council	Boroondara's targeted contamination minimisation education	For the delivery of a tailored campaign, using Sustainability Victoria education materials, which will increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination.	\$48,000.00
Borough of Queenscliffe	Queenscliffe's promoting and improving household recycling services	For the delivery of a campaign which will focus on promoting and improving current recycling services and reducing contamination rates in the household kerbside bin system.	\$25,950.00
Brimbank City Council	Brimbank improving recycling and promoting FOGO	For the delivery of a campaign, using Sustainability Victoria education materials, which will increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly. It is aiming to achieve low levels of contamination and increase the uptake of the opt-in food and garden organics service.	\$50,850.00
Buloke Shire Council	Buloke Shire Council - Glass out	The funding is used to deliver a local campaign to introduce a glass drop-off service in.	\$7,700.00
Campaspe Shire Council	Campaspe Shire Council improving recycling and reducing contamination	For the delivery of a campaign, using Sustainability Victoria educational materials to introduce a drop off glass and food waste service at resource recovery centre and reduce contamination.	\$42,070.00
Cardinia Shire Council	Cardinia Shire Council's Standardisation of Bin Lid Colours	For the delivery of a campaign, using Sustainability Victoria education materials, to increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination. This includes education on the standardised bin lid colours.	\$71,190.00
City of Ballarat	City of Ballarat Household Recycling Education Program	For the delivery of a campaign, using the Sustainability Victoria education materials, to increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination. Focus of the campaign is on the top 5 contaminant materials, bagged recycling and the introduction of a FOGO service in 2025.	\$38,000.00
City of Casey	City of Casey's Refuse, Reduce, Recycle Campaign	For the delivery of a campaign, using the Sustainability Victoria education materials, to increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination. The focus of the campaign is on FOGO promotion, changing bin lid colours and reducing contamination of waste streams.	\$68,460.00
City of Darebin	Darebin improving recycling services	For the delivery of a campaign, using the Sustainability Victoria education materials, to increase the understanding and use of the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination. Focus is placed on reducing contamination rates, increased use of FOGO and preparation for the future introduction of glass service.	\$49,350.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
City of Greater Geelong	Geelong - promoting the recycling system	For the delivery of a campaign aimed to improve the existing household recycling services by reducing contamination from bagged rubbish and recyclables and plastics bags in both yellow and green bins. The campaign will use the Small Acts, Big Impact educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria.	\$45,900.00
City of Melton	Melton City Council's FOGO Collection Service	The purpose of the project is to deliver a campaign to introduce a FOGO service and develop positive engagement and behaviour change in the community to the new household recycling services.	\$17,920.00
City of Stonnington	Food waste hubs for high-density dwellings: Small acts, big impact	The funding will be used to improve opt-in food and garden organics service with a trial on public place food waste drop off and promoting shared services at eligible multi-unit dwellings.	\$46,350.00
City of Yarra	City of Yarra's new food and garden organics education and behaviour change program	For the delivery of a campaign introducing new household recycling services to the community, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria.	\$57,677.24
Colac Otway Shire Council	Colac Otway Shire promoting the recycling system	To develop and deliver a campaign using the educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus of the campaign will be on improving recycling contamination in 4-stream services, promoting the glass service and diverting waste from landfill.	\$30,150.00
Corangamite Shire Council	Corangamite's glass recycling bin	For the delivery of a campaign focusing on introducing kerbside glass service to eligible properties and drop off to all other properties.	\$32,830.00
East Gippsland Shire Council	East Gippsland Shire Council promoting the recycling system	The funding will be used to develop and deliver a campaign using the educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus of the campaign will be on improving recycling contamination and reducing waste.	\$42,840.00
Glen Eira City Council	Glen Eira's 'Create compost' education initiative	The project focus is to improve recycling services by promoting the food and garden organics service with a focus on showing the end-product, compost.	\$47,500.00
Golden Plains Shire Council	Golden Plains Shire new 4-stream recycling service	For the delivery of a campaign to introduce new household recycling services to the community, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus is on introducing the 4 stream services with updated bin lids and changing collection frequency.	\$28,988.50
Greater Dandenong City Council	Greater Dandenong City Council's Household Recycling Bin Education Campaign	The funding will be used to develop and deliver a campaign using the educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus of the campaign will be on improving recycling contamination, bagged recycling and soft plastics.	\$68,460.00
Hepburn Shire Council	Hepburn Shire's new household food and garden organics recycling service	The funding will be used to develop and deliver a campaign using the educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus of the campaign will be on introducing kerbside FOGO service.	\$42,560.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Hindmarsh Shire new Glass collection	For the delivery of a campaign to introduce new household recycling services to the community, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. Introducing glass kerbside service in four towns, glass drop off service at three towns and four transfer stations.	\$8,843.60
Hobsons Bay City Council	Hobsons Bay City Council 4 stream recycling service	For the delivery of a local campaign, utilising Sustainability Victoria educational materials, addressing challenges which have developed as a result of the introduction of 4-stream household recycling services to further reduce contamination levels and increase behaviour change.	\$25,470.00
Horsham Rural City Council	Horsham Rural City Council Recycling Education & Behaviour Change Project	To deliver a campaign to introduce FOGO kerbside service and a glass drop-off service.	\$22,720.00
Latrobe City Council	Latrobe City Sustainability Education Program	To develop and deliver a campaign using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus of the campaign will be on improving recycling service and promoting correct use of the various bins.	\$37,400.00
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Macedon Ranges Shire Council - Let's Get Sorted	The funding will deliver a new campaign supporting the 4-stream household recycling services aiming at reducing contamination, increase use of the FOGO service and minimise waste.	\$27,520.00
Mansfield Shire Council	Mansfield Shire's improvement and promotion of recycling services.	To develop and deliver a campaign, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus of the campaign will be on introducing kerbside FOGO service and improving recycling contamination.	\$23,850.00
Maribyrnong City Council	Maribyrnong City Council promoting the recycling system	To develop and deliver a campaign, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus of the campaign will be on improving recycling and FOGO contamination and reducing waste.	\$44,600.00
Melbourne City Council	City of Melbourne's staged organics collection service rollout for low-rise MUDs	The funding will be used to deliver a campaign to introduce FOGO kerbside service to all multi-unit dwellings up to 5 stories. This is stage 2 of the FOGO roll out.	\$10,430.00
Merri-bek City Council (formerly Moreland)	Moreland's new 4-stream kerbside waste service	For the delivery of a campaign to introduce new household recycling services to the community, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. Council is expanding their existing opt-in food and garden organics service to a universal service and introducing glass kerbside and drop off service.	\$40,894.40
Mildura Rural City Council	Mildura Rural City Council's new glass recycling service	To deliver a local campaign to introduce new household recycling services utilising Sustainability Victoria educational materials. Council is introducing a kerbside and drop off glass service in line with the new 4-stream kerbside services.	\$46,422.60
Mitchell Shire Council	Mitchell Shire's Recycling Services are Changing for the Better	To deliver a campaign, utilising Sustainability Victoria educational materials, focused on contamination reduction in the food and garden organics and recycling kerbside streams.	\$36,400.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Moira Shire Council	Moira's Transition to Circular Economy and 4 stream Recycling Service.	For the delivery of a campaign utilising Sustainability Victoria educational materials, focused on introducing drop off glass and organics service and kerbside glass service.	\$43,750.00
Moonee Valley City Council	Moonee Valley City Council - Expanding FOGO service	To develop and deliver a campaign, utilising Sustainability Victoria educational materials, focused on the expansion of existing opt-in FOGO services to a mandatory universal FOGO service.	\$18,415.40
Moorabool Shire Council	Moorabool Shire Council - Promoting the recycling system	To develop and deliver a campaign using the educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus of the campaign will be on improving recycling and FOGO contamination and reducing waste.	\$32,250.00
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Mornington Peninsula Shire promoting and improving the recycling services system	To develop and deliver a campaign using the educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. The focus is on improving recycling contamination, including bagged recycling and hazardous waste, and promoting an opt-in FOGO service.	\$60,200.00
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Mount Alexander - Recycling Right - Household Education and Behaviour Change	To promote the introduction of glass and FOGO services as well as education to improve recycling and reduce waste to landfill.	\$29,450.00
Nillumbik Shire Council	Nillumbik Shire Council improving recycling services and food waste diversion	To develop and deliver a campaign utilising Sustainability Victoria educational materials. The campaign will focus on reducing recycling contamination and promote use of a FOGO service.	\$36,800.00
Pyrenees Shire Council	Pyrenees Shire Council promoting the recycling system	To develop a campaign, using the educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria, to reduce recycling contamination and divert waste from landfill.	\$18,950.00
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Southern Grampians Shire's improving recycling services	To develop a campaign, using the educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria, focused on contamination reduction in the FOGO and recycling kerbside streams.	\$23,200.00
Strathbogie Shire Council	Strathbogie Shire's Sorting Superstars	To develop a campaign with a focus on improving recycling services and reducing waste as well as promotion of the new glass service.	\$24,050.00
Surf Coast Shire Council	Surf Coast Shire Council promoting waste prevention to improve recycling	To develop a campaign, using the educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria, focused on the improvement of existing 4-stream services.	\$32,650.00
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Swan Hill Rural City Council's new 4-stream recycling service	To introduce a glass drop off service and expand the existing opt-in garden organics kerbside service to a universal FOGO service.	\$30,459.00
Towong Shire Council	Towong Shire's Rural Waste Education for Glass and FOGO transition	To deliver a campaign to introduce the household 4-stream recycling services to the community, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria.	\$20,188.50

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Rural City of Wangaratta – Kerbside transition community education program	To deliver a campaign introducing a kerbside glass service and improve the use of the kerbside FOGO service.	\$30,259.00
Warrnambool City Council	Promoting the recycling system	To develop and deliver a campaign utilising Sustainability Victoria educational materials, introducing new household recycling services to the community. It will be focused on reducing recycling contamination in 4-stream services and building trust in the new recycling system.	\$33,600.00
Wellington Shire Council	Wellington Shire new FOGO kerbside collection	To implement a campaign introducing a kerbside FOGO service and offering a drop off service for residents outside waste collection areas.	\$31,700.00
West Wimmera Shire Council	West Wimmera Shire Council's Glass Recycling Program	To deliver a campaign to introduce new household recycling services to the community, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria with the focus on the new kerbside and drop off glass service.	\$23,227.27
Wyndham City Council	Wyndham City Council improving recycling services	To deliver a campaign to introduce new household recycling services to the community, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria, focusing on the improvement of existing services by standardising bin lid colours. The campaign also addresses recycling contamination and reducing waste.	\$89,910.00
Yarra Ranges Council	Yarra Ranges Four-stream service education program	To deliver a campaign to introduce new household recycling services to the community, using educational materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. Council is introducing a kerbside FOGO service and updating landfill bin lid colour from green to red.	\$41,638.50
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Yarriambiack Shire Council's New Glass Drop-Off and Kerbside Collection System	To deliver a campaign to introduce glass drop-off and kerbside collection service.	\$3,870.00
		TOTAL	\$1,980,364

Industry and Infrastructure Development Package

The objective of the fund is to increase investment in Victoria's resource recovery sector for kerbside materials. Investment is needed to improve the capacity and capability of recycling infrastructure to produce higher quality recovered materials to meet market requirements.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
ASQ Group Pty Ltd	ASQ Glass Washing Facility	The recipient will install a Glass Washing Plant at their existing recycling facility to wash recycled glass products diverted from landfill and make them available to the market as a sand replacement. The facility will expand current glass crushing operations.	\$238,000.00
Australian Consolidated Milk Pty Ltd	Project Whey2go	The recipient will purchase, construct and commission a bioenergy facility at their dairy processing plant to convert wasted cheese from production process to produce biogas which will then be converted into electricity to run the dairy manufacturing plant.	\$690,000.00
Bio Gro - Victoria	Bio Gro New Regional Organics Recovery & Processing Facility	To build a state of the art open windrow composting facility to compost, mature, screen, blend and value add organics materials. Feedstocks will include green organics, FOGO, food, timber, forestry residue, assorted manures, assorted mortality, commercial liquids, digestate and pasteurized FOGO.	\$763,875.00
Central Gippsland Region Water Corporation	Gippsland Regional Organics Process Expansion Project	The project will include upgrades to the organics processing (electrical, water and storm water), the construction of hardstands, additional equipment (windrow turner, hose reel & finish product equipment) and the design. This will result in the diversion of an additional 70,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of organics waste including FOGO from landfill.	\$300,000.00
Central Highlands Water Corporation	Feasibility Study into Converting Forestry Residue to a Fuel Source	The recipient investigated the viability of reusing forestry residues from their pine plantations as a biomass product for a range of potential uses including heat and electricity generation.	\$50,000.00
Circular Plastics Australia (PE) Pty Ltd	Post-consumer plastics reprocessing plant: An end-to-end solution	The project will provide a local closed loop solution for recycling and remanufacture of plastic products in Victoria through constructing a plastics reprocessing facility to process 20,000 tpa.	\$450,000.00
Circular Plastics Australia (PET) VIC Pty Ltd	Project Symphony - a new Victorian Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles recycling plant	CPA(PET) will deliver a Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottle recycling facility at PortLink Logistics Estate in Altona North.	\$2,250,000.00
Cleanaway Pty Ltd	Pre- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Treatment Plant	Cleanaway will purchase, install and commission equipment for a new pre- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Treatment Plant at their Campbellfield site. The treatment will reduce PFAS concentrations to below 1 ppb for three different PFAS species in trade waste discharge.	\$277,826.82
Close the Loop Ltd	Australian Technology turns soft plastic waste into TonerPlas and rFlex	Close the Loop will pioneer, install and commission a "Mix Melter" machine, an Australian invention to turn mixed and contaminated soft plastic waste material into the proven and highly successful TonerPlas (asphalt additive) and rFlex products (used in manufacture of plastic items e.g. pallets, crates, baskets and tubs).	\$100,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Corangamite Shire Council	Organics Processing (Pyrolysis) Feasibility Study	Corangamite Shire Council is undertaking a feasibility and technical study to assess the viability of pyrolysis technology for generating bioenergy and biochar end-products from the regions green waste and FOGO waste.	\$18,000.00
Corex Recycling Pty Ltd	Project Succeed	Corex Recycling will repair and recommission existing recycling equipment and install a new Flake/Powder feeding system. This infrastructure upgrade will allow Corex Recycling to increase its sorting and processing capacity recycling difficult mixed materials such as retail coat hangers and car bumper bars into pelletised resins, for use in injection moulding manufacturing.	\$72,000.00
Dairy Australia Limited	Assessing co-digestion opportunities from animal industry feedstocks in regional areas	The recipient will identify opportunities within Victoria for the development of bioenergy projects based on co-digestion of problematic waste streams from the dairy, red meat, pork and chicken industries.	\$65,000.00
Delorean Energy Pty Ltd	Victoria One Stanhope	The recipient will gather and validate feedstock formulation data from their waste to energy facility at Stanhope, Victoria. The facility will use anaerobic digestion technology to process typical organic waste feedstocks including under-utilised feedstocks like industrial organics.	\$4,000.00
Eco Recyclers Pty Ltd	Transforming low value biomass into high value biomass	The recipient will determine the feasibility of commoditising Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste timber into a high value biomass for use in energy recovery.	\$15,000.00
EQ Plastics Pty Ltd	Extrusion line to produce Post-Consumer Recyclate (PCR) Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) films	This project will install a new extrusion line to produce new PET rigid films using locally recycled PET material for the packaging industry.	\$3,725.00
FHAH Pty Ltd	BIO ENERGY PROJECTS Feasibility Flavorite Group	Funding is provided to investigate the use of biomass at their Tatura site and biomass replacement feedstock at their Mansfield site and reduce reliance on natural gas grid infrastructure.	\$49,334.00
Frontier Carbon Pty Ltd	Mildura Biorefinery and Renewable Energy Park	The recipient will complete the pre-construction development activities to progress the Mildura Biorefinery Renewable Energy Park project to a successful Final Investment Decision phase and start into the construction phase.	\$10,000.00
Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Fulton Hogan mobile glass crusher	Fulton Hogan will purchase, install and commission the Mobile Glass Crusher which will accept glass from regional councils and industry, to be crushed into a sand and incorporated back into asphalt products to build local roads.	\$30,000.00
Garden City Plastics	Plastics product manufacture upgrade & expansion	Garden City Plastics will expand their Dandenong facility, with the addition of 2 new injection moulding production lines and replacement of eighteen 20+ year old machines. The project will enable Garden City Plastics to increase the use of recycled plastic (polypropylene) in their products.	\$291,988.50

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Gekko Systems	Central Highlands Bioenergy Hub - Feasibility Study	The recipient will determine the feasibility of building a Regional Bioenergy Hub utilising anaerobic digestion (AD) at a medium scale within regional Victoria and will provide a positive business case for AD as a suitable waste-to-energy solution.	\$5,000.00
Golden Camel Mining Pty Ltd	Nagambie Biogas Project	The recipient undertook a feasibility study relating to the proposed Anaerobic Digestion facility to provide 1 - 2 MW 'behind the meter' base load power to a minerals processing facility that is currently being built in Nagambie.	\$25,000.00
Goulburn Valley Water	Project GREAT (Green Energy and Technology) for Goulburn Valley	The recipient is undertaking feasibility study to transition the Shepparton Wastewater Management Facility to a green energy technology hub, delivering local energy resilience and nutrient recycling.	\$5,000.00
GT Recycling	Flexible Plastic Capacity and Technology Upgrade	GT Recycling will expand their plastics recycling facility in Moolap to locally recycle soft plastics.	\$630,000.00
J.J. Richards and Sons Pty Ltd (Head Office)	Wangaratta and Bendigo Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) upgrades	J.J Richards & Sons' will purchase decontamination equipment to reduce contamination of glass collected to a level where it can be reprocessed as a road base, rather than going to landfill. The project will also include baling equipment for paper and plastics to reduce bottlenecks and increase throughput at their Wangaratta and Bendigo MRF's.	\$4,675.00
Katunga Fresh Produce Pty Ltd	Northern Victoria Bioenergy Project	The funding is for Katunga Fresh Pty Ltd to install and commission a pyrolysis plant that will allow them to transform its organic waste, large square bales of wheat straw into biochar, hot water, wood vinegar and clean fuel gas which will assist with the heating and daily running of the glasshouses and excess natural gas being returned into the grid.	\$550,000.00
LMS Energy Pty	LMS Dry Anaerobic Digesters: Modular organics and energy recovery solutions	Funding to construct and commission a dry anaerobic digestion facility, at the existing Wyndham Refuse Disposal Facility. It will recover biogas from organic material with excess energy exported to the grid for the local community.	\$10,000.00
Martogg and Company	Martogg Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Hot Wash Flake Plant	The project will install PET plastic sorting and a prewash plant to process post-consumer PET containers involving PET plastic wet grinding and hot caustic wash plant to produce 17,300 tpa of food grade PET flake. The food grade PET flake will be sold primarily to Australian PET packaging manufacturers.	\$555,000.00
Max Biocare Pty Ltd	Fungi in BioEnergy	The recipient will develop a business case for the generation of fungal enzymes for recalcitrant agricultural waste treatment, while mitigating waste streams and integrating with circular economy programs.	\$18,000.00
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Green Wedge Agricultural and Commercial Food Organics Recovery to Bioenergy	The recipient undertook a feasibility study to map and quantify agricultural and commercial food organic waste streams, from within the green wedge rural zone, and current materials flow and processing.	\$24,000.00
Orbost and District Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.	Orbost and district bioenergy investigation opportunity	The recipient undertook a pre-feasibility study of feedstocks and bioenergy options in and near the township, conducting basic biochemical testing on the major feedstocks and proposing potential project sites.	\$31,334.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Oztek Holdings Pty Ltd	WWTP (Waste Water Treatment Plant) Upgrade - Biogas Energy Recovery System	The recipient will develop a covered anaerobic lagoon for their biodiesel plant and rendering plant that processes meat by-products. The lagoon will rejuvenate an existing covered anaerobic lagoon to double site biogas production which will be converted to heat and electricity. This was the first payment for grant valued at \$591,983.	\$10,000.00
Polymer Processors	Plastics reprocessing facility expansion	By installing and commissioning new infrastructure and equipment, Polymer Processor's will increase their capacity by 18,600 tonnes per annum and reprocess hard and soft post-consumer plastics into pellets for manufacturing.	\$656,666.66
Polyrok International Pty Ltd	Advanced Polymer Feedstock	Polyrok will purchase and install Herbold Plastcompaction Line consisting of a shredder, conveyer, granulator, plastcompactor system and ancillary equipment at a new facility in Mordialloc. The project will increase post-consumer mixed-soft plastic reprocessing capacity, and produce a stone aggregate replacement, Polyrock.	\$300,000.00
Repurpose It	Best practice in-vessel composting infrastructure for Melbourne's metropolitan region	Funding to design, construct and establish five in-vessel composting tunnels capable of diverting 50,000 tonnes of FOGO from landfill.	\$1,780,000.00
RMIT University	Waste cooking oil to biodiesel with 3D printed catalysts	The funding supports a research study to develop a portable and scalable solution for converting waste cooking oil to biodiesel utilizing an additively manufactured (3D printed) catalytic reactor.	\$113,334.00
Saputo Dairy Australia Pty Ltd	Allansford biogas combined heat and power	The recipient will recover the natural gas configured microturbines and have them modified to run on biogas. Funding is also provided for the purchase and installation of heat recovery units on the turbine exhausts. The installed Heat Recovery Unit will provide electricity to the Allansford cheese and whey plant and heat to the anaerobic digester.	\$200,000.00
Tambo Waste	Tambo Waste MRF Upgrade & Glass Recycling Operation	Tambo Waste's Materials Recovery Facility in Bairnsdale will be upgraded with new plastics and paper recycling equipment and infrastructure, and establish a glass recycling facility.	\$84,377.75
Tempo Foods	Hart Bioenergy - Distributed Biogas System Demonstration	Funding for a feasibility study and business case to assess the organic waste streams at Tempo Foods and the design of a small-scale anaerobic digestion system to convert the dairy manufacturing waste to renewable biogas. This project will reduce Tempo's reliance on natural gas for hot water.	\$31,300.00
Union Pastoral Pty Ltd	Union Methane Reduction Strategy	The recipient will install anaerobic pond coverings to capture biogas at their dairy processing plant at Grassmere. The captured biogas from the organic animal effluent will be used to create electricity for their operations using a combined heat and power generation plant.	\$10,000.00
Visy Industries Australia Pty Ltd Head Office VIC	Project Zeppelin	The project will install advanced Drum Pulping technology for integrated paper recycling for 95,000tpa of mixed kerbside paper.	\$5,825,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Wangaratta - Organics Expansion to 12,000 Tonne	The Wangaratta Council will increase its facilities' processing capacities and enable the council to accept organics from neighbouring councils and businesses.	\$328,445.17
Westernport Water	Waste to Energy – Biogas Cogeneration	Funding to undertake a feasibility assessment for the viability of a waste-to-energy cogeneration facility at Westernport Water's Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant.	\$33,887.55
Wheelie Waste	Wheelie Waste – Warrnambool Recycling Facility	To construct a Recycling Facility located in Warrnambool. The facility's purpose is to separate glass from kerbside commingled material, before decontaminating and crushing it to meet oftaker market demands and installing equipment that enables the baling of paper and plastic for transport.	\$50,000.00
Yarra Valley Water Corporation	Waste To Energy Lilydale	The purpose of this project is to install and commission anaerobic digestion equipment at Yarra Valley Water's Lilydale sewage treatment plant. The project will process approximately 54,000t/a of commercial/industrial food waste to power itself and the co-located Sewage Treatment Plant with around 75% of the bioenergy being injected into the grid.	\$560,000.00
Yarra Valley Water Corporation	ReWaste Additional Engine Design Works	Funding for development of a feasibility study and business case for investment into additional electricity generation infrastructure at Yarra Valley Water's bioenergy facility in Wollert. It will capture its full renewable energy generation potential from the excess biogas which is currently being flared.	\$7,000.00
TOTAL			\$17,526,769.45

Market Acceleration Program

The Market Acceleration Package includes utilising a range of market interventions and incentives to address current and potential market failures for priority recycled materials (plastics, paper, cardboard, glass and tyres) across the economy. It will develop and deliver projects to identify new domestic, commercial, and industrial uses and build demand.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Australian Recycling Taskforce Pty Ltd	Commercialise high end insulation products from reprocessed textile waste	This project will determine the characteristics of V-Lap-produced material (a technology that enables reprocessing of fibrous materials) to inform industry and the marketplace of the availability of the product, the characteristics and benefits of the material, and its appropriate uses in product manufacture.	\$60,000.00
Blampied Kooroocheang Land Care Group Inc	Blampied Kooroocheang Land Care Group agricultural compost utilisation trial	Purchase of a shared compost spreader to enable small farmers in the Landcare Group to utilise recycled organics. The grant will also fund five on-farm demonstration trials.	\$18,000.00
Burdett Sands Pty Ltd	Compost 360 to enhance sports precincts	Purchase of the suitable equipment to develop a finer grade of compost that will be suitable to blend with current turf sands supplied to Melbourne's sporting grounds and public open spaces.	\$25,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Camperdown Compost Company	Camperdown Compost Marketing Development	Develop a 36 month marketing plan, and implement the first six months thereof, to improve confidence in recycled organic products. Farmers can network and learn from each other through having open days at the compost site.	\$7,000.00
Camperdown Compost Company	Camperdown Compost Site Upgrade Stage 2	Upgrade of existing facilities which will allow for testing and documentation to ensure quality, consistent and low contamination compost is produced. Works support product promotion and outreach, improving the confidence in recycled organic products in the agricultural community.	\$43,750.00
Cardboard Mill Pty Ltd	Arts and Culture: Let's close the loop.	This project aims to make cardboard a viable medium to be used in the use of movie and TV sets, and fit outs of stores and short term (less than 6 months) sites. The objective is to commercialise an existing demand for cardboard for temporary installations and reduce the use of high environment cost construction materials.	\$113,640.00
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Carisbrook Transfer Station Pavement Upgrade	The funding will be used to resurface the sealed granular pavement in the vicinity of the general waste bins at the Central Goldfields Shire Council transfer station located at Carisbrook near Maryborough. The new concrete pavement will contain concrete, sand from recycled glass and if possible, a component of the recycled aggregate to provide a stronger, more durable surface.	\$13,309.71
Cirque Du Soil	Cirque du Soil's GrowGood Fertiliser: A hyperlocal food waste agri-product	Using controlled plant growth experiments, this proposed research will vigorously test the effectiveness of the WasteMaster (WM) product as a plant fertiliser in plant growth trials. WM technology converts food waste on site into a reusable residue without using water or additives.	\$97,554.75
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	CSIRO - Improved recycling of Unplasticised polyvinyl chloride (uPVC)	The project will develop material specifications for uPVC recyclate with PVC compounders and manufacturers and develop a prototype device that will analyse the composition of PVC recyclate and determine what compounds need to be added to a particular input blend to achieve an output that meets the developed standard.	\$50,000.00
Deakin University - Waurn Ponds Campus	Deakin - Recycling Polypropylene Waste for High Value Applications	The objective of this project is to maximise the amount of recycled Polypropylene Plastic (PP) that can be incorporated into Gale Pacific's existing product the 'Landmark polyfabric'. Deakin University will conduct testing and evaluation to determine the maximum amount of recycled PP that can be used without adversely impacting the final product.	\$127,500.00
Deakin University - Waurn Ponds Campus	Particles derived from textile wastes for sustainable coloration of products	The recipient will investigate and demonstrate the production and use of particles from natural/ synthetic/blended fibre textile waste, segregated by colour, in a range of applications including for printing/colouring textiles, vegan leather, and to create art.	\$195,000.00
Deakin University - Waurn Ponds Campus	Transforming Contaminated Paint Containers into Value Added Products	This project will develop simple, innovative processing methods to produce functional, economically viable product prototypes from post-consumer polypropylene paint containers.	\$172,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Eco Guardians Pty Ltd	Eco Guardians SoilFood™ Processing Plant	Procurement and installation of equipment to manufacture SoilFood, a new product created from rapidly dehydrated food waste. A detailed marketing plan will be developed and initial feedback from end markets will be collected.	\$100,000.00
Elmore Compost & Organics Pty Ltd	Deep soil amelioration research and demonstration promotional program	This project will fine tune the novel practice of subsoil amelioration with recycled organics (including biochar) and promote the results to grow markets for this product.	\$29,000.00
Elmore Compost & Organics Pty Ltd	Expansion of Elmore Compost & Organics Facility	This project will expand capacity at Elmore Compost & Organics facility from a small farm-based operation to a commercial EPA (Victoria) licensed site. Decontamination equipment will also be installed to improve capabilities and product quality.	\$168,465.00
Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria Head Office	Markets Acceleration through sampling (MATS)	The primary purpose of the project is to support human, soil, water, and environmental health, by collaborating with industry to provide robust evidence and better practices to support education, innovation, investment and market growth in recycled organic materials and products.	\$130,200.81
Gaia EnviroTech Pty Ltd	Commercializing FOGO and other organic waste using anaerobic digestion	The recipient will work with RMIT and Federation University to identify the commercial potential of anaerobic digestate (microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen). This will lead to expanding the commercial potential of the energy produced by the treatment of food waste and demonstrate a viable processing/ treatment system for Food Organics Garden Organics waste streams.	\$40,000.00
Greenchip Recycling	Carbon Pellet Soil Improver Project	Greenchip Recycling will upgrade their composting facility to incorporate a compost pelletiser to make their product more accessible for broadacre agriculture.	\$44,800.00
Heathcote WineGrowers Association	Turning green waste into wine	Purchase shared compost application equipment for the Heathcote Winegrowers Association to overcome a barrier to adoption of recycled organics.	\$198,000.00
Horsham Rural City Council	Wimmera Riverfront Activation - a sustainable approach	The recipient will install a new asphalt shared path, outdoor furniture, bin surrounds, picnic settings and permeable surface containing recycled materials at the southern end of Firebrace Street in Horsham.	\$12,225.00
Jesuit Social Services Limited	Merri-bek Organic Waste Composting Pilot Program	This pilot program will collect grass clippings from six designated Moreland Council sites that currently go to landfill. The results will be used to inform a business case for a council-wide scale up of the recycling project.	\$55,000.00
La Trobe University	Product assessment of a novel plastic waste recycling technology	The project will complete research to validate the potential of Rtec novel plastic melting technology, including product design, and performance trials of difficult-to-recycle post-consumer plastic waste.	\$45,000.00
Melbourne Water Corporation	Enhancing uptake of composted recycled green waste in Victorian vineyards	Undertake on-farm demonstration trial to compare the use of different mulch (small particle vs coarse composted urban green waste) in two vineyards.	\$10,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Mildura Rural City Council	Mildura Riverfront Precinct – Car Parking Scheme	The recipient will extend the existing off street car park at Mildura’s Jaycee Park and construct pathways as part of the Powerhouse Precinct Redevelopment. The construction of the car park will use recycled asphalt and the construction of a paved pathway will incorporate recycled glass.	\$71,000.00
Monash Institute of Railway Technology (Monash IRT)	Monash IRT - Development of Next Generation Tram Stop Platforms Using Recycled Materials	The project will develop reinforced recycled plastic modular platform elements for tram stop platforms.	\$100,000.00
Monash Institute of Railway Technology (Monash IRT)	Monash IRT – next generation composite plastic railway sleeper for mainline rail application.	To complete product research to develop the next generation advanced composite plastic railway sleeper suitable for concrete sleeper replacement in mainline railway networks in Victoria. The aim by the end of the project is to have developed, laboratory tested and validated the new composite railway sleeper product which will be ready to commercialise and take to market.	\$100,000.00
Monash Institute of Railway Technology (Monash IRT)	Waste Plastics Detour - Landfills to Innovate Plastic Pavement Blocks	To develop modular pavement blocks using recycled plastic materials collected from household kerbside waste, with potential applications in transport infrastructure as well as in commercial and residential constructions.	\$100,000.00
Monash University	National Environmental Science Program 2 Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub Impact Priority 3.03	The project conducts testing of two end-products made with reprocessed tyre material, that have been manufactured and sold within Australia, for chemicals of potential concern.	\$31,818.18
OmniGrip Direct Pty Ltd	Certifications for high-friction recycled-glass surfaces to reduce crashes	This project will prepare and register an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for the product and a Social Procurement Plan for Omnigrip and its high-friction surface, comprising a post-consumer recycled-glass blended aggregate.	\$18,000.00
Pinegro Products Pty Ltd	Pinegro Decontamination Equipment - Windsifter	Installation of a windsifter machine to remove >90% of the plastics, rocks, glass etc. from the oversized organic waste. This will enable the manufacture of a clean organic mulch that can also be ground and screened into quality saleable products.	\$166,294.00
Plant Micropath Consulting Services	Quantifying Mineralisation and Biological Status from Organic Amendments and Soil	This project seeks to understand the rate that crop nutrients are released from compost in various farming systems. This knowledge will help farmers adopt recycled organics as a farm input.	\$130,500.00
Plant Micropath Consulting Services	Quantifying Mineralisation and Biological Status from Organic Amendments and Soil - Trial Extension	Continue the on-farm recycled organics trial on pasture for an additional year. Collect soil and plant data for use to grow markets.	\$4,000.00
Polymeric Powders Company Pty Ltd	Production and commercial evaluation of new upcycled car speed humps.	The project will focus on the production, demonstration and commercial evaluation of car speed humps made from recycled rubber and tyre material.	\$9,858.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Porous Lane Pty Ltd	Waste Tyre Permeable Pavement, Commercialisation Support for a Victorian Innovation	This project aims to progress the recipient's Waste Tyre Permeable Pavement product into large-scale infrastructure and private development markets through financial, economic, market and life cycle analysis.	\$40,000.00
PV Industries Pty Ltd	Validating a new commercial pathway for solar panel glass	PV Industries are establishing a pilot plant in Victoria which demonstrates a viable process to recover the glass from solar panels. PV Industries will test the recovered glass to inform process design and validate its use in non-structural concrete applications against VicRoads specifications.	\$180,000.00
Quantum Recycling Solutions	Quantum Recycling Plant Upgrade	Quantum Recycling Solutions will purchase, install and commission machinery, which will enable the expansion of existing operations to recycle and reprocess e-waste and associated packaging.	\$10,375.00
RCALLAN Pty Ltd	On-line continuous paper strength measurement	This project seeks to finalise development, test and identify potential users for a non-destructive, continuous measure of paper strength. By controlling quality continuously, it is intended that recycled content can be increased in existing paper products while still meeting quality and performance requirements.	\$30,000.00
Rentiers Machinery Pty Ltd	Accelerating Adoption of Recycled Organics through Subsoil Amelioration in Agriculture	This project seeks to overcome barriers to the adoption of subsoil amelioration with recycled organics. These barriers include required machinery innovations, agronomic knowledge and local organics supply chains.	\$115,000.00
Resilience Farming	Receival and storage bunkers	Concrete bunkers will be installed to enable the incorporation of additional feedstocks to produce compost more suitable for the horticulture market. Vegetable growers will be engaged via field day to increase product uptake.	\$11,200.00
RMIT University	RMIT - Novel Recycled Plastic Products for Structural Applications	Developing roof purlins and panels for roof infrastructure using recycled materials as sustainable alternatives to steel and aluminium products.	\$100,000.00
RMIT University	RMIT - Recycled cardboard trusses for housing construction	Relevant research, construction and testing of a recycled cardboard truss. This proof-of-concept design and application will be tested to Australian Standard loading conditions in the laboratory and evaluated by industry partners with practical application to case study sites.	\$25,584.00
RMIT University	RMIT - Re-qualifying cardboard waste to develop light-weight precast concrete structures	Develop a low carbon concrete containing pre-treated cardboard waste as partial replacement for natural coarse and fine aggregates. This mix-design will be developed for adoption in a light and efficient precast wall panel system which is capable of being used in multi-unit residential and commercial constructions.	\$87,788.38
RMIT University	Manufactured Novel Concrete products integrating Reclaimed Waste for Commercial Applications	This project aims to develop, demonstrate and test concrete roof tiles, precast acoustic barrier panels and concrete bricks made using upcycled textile, paper-cardboard, and waste glass.	\$239,983.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
RMIT University	Upcycling plastic waste into graphene for boosting solar cell performances	RMIT will partner with a Victorian plastic recycler, EQ Plastics, to develop a technology to transform unsorted plastic waste into a product that can be used to boost the energy efficiency of solar panels.	\$200,000.00
Robovoid Pty Ltd	Commercialisation of novel ROBOVOID solution for concrete applications	Demonstration, business development and marketing for Robovoid's patented recycled plastic void former system. Void formers are used to fill non-working areas and create voids in concrete foundations, beams and slabs.	\$180,000.00
Sacyr Environment Australia Pty Ltd	Sacyr's Compost Facility Upgrade in Dandenong	The project is to re-engineer the FOGO pre-processing line to improve decontamination of FOGO. The project aims to increase circularity and reduce re-processing and land-filling of outputs.	\$730,051.36
Sequence Digital Pty Ltd	New life for resource recovery centre harvested Lithium-ion batteries	Sequence Digital Pty Ltd will develop a proof-of-concept, scalable Li-ion battery management system (BMS), designed for use with discarded 18650 batteries (type of batteries). The BMS will be powering and will be charged by a temperature monitoring device currently manufactured by Sequence Digital.	\$20,000.00
Swinburne University of Technology	Converting Used Tyres to Road Safety Roller Barrier: Technology Development	This project will develop a technology to use ground tyre rubbers (GTR) in manufacturing ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA)-based road safety roller barriers.	\$125,000.00
Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne - Composite spacers from recycled plastics and rubber	This project will develop a new process for recycling polystyrene with tyre crumbs to manufacture pod spacers for concrete applications.	\$100,000.00
Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne - Injection Moulding of Reinforced Recycled Plastics for Innovative Bedding Solutions	The project will explore new applications for utilisation of recycled plastics in innovative bedding solutions, including frames and mattresses.	\$25,000.00
The Trustee for the Total Viticulture Solutions Trust	TVS - Agriculture Compost Market Expansion	The project will update the existing equipment with the aim to increase efficiencies up to 70%, decreasing the cost of compost and mulch products to the end users.	\$40,000.00
University of Melbourne	Educational Institution Post-Consumer Plastic Packaging to Additive Manufacturing	Melbourne University will develop a process to support onsite recycling of the educational institutions own plastic waste back into valuable 3D printing filament.	\$80,000.00
University of Melbourne	Innovative advanced catalytic microwave pyrolysis for recycling polystyrene waste	To develop a new, low-cost, low-energy catalytic microwave pyrolysis (LCMP) process to recover styrene monomer from polystyrene waste, the precursor material for producing polystyrene.	\$60,000.00
University of Melbourne	Waste Tyre Permeable Kerbs; Design, Testing and Field Monitoring	The project will focus on the demonstration and performance monitoring of the waste tyre permeable kerb and channel system (physical barrier between road and surrounding landscape) as well as assessment of the suitability for use in large scale carparks.	\$200,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Upper Goulburn Landcare Network	A home for Alexandra soil food	A community compost project that aims to overcome current and unforeseen obstacles to make the organic waste product financially viable. The intended outcome is to create a market for both Soil Food and worm castings.	\$14,300.00
Victoria University	Used textile and cardboard fibres as reinforcing-agents in structural concrete	The project aims to develop research-grade fibre-reinforced concrete beams from used synthetic textile and pre-treated cardboard fibres.	\$130,000.00
Victoria University	Victoria University - Recycled Material Blends to Backfill Sewer Trenches in Trafficable Areas	To develop recycled material mix-designs for backfilling excavated trenches in "trafficable areas".	\$37,145.15
		TOTAL	\$5,268,342.34

Non-Regulatory Support for Landfill Ban

The objective of this program is to provide non-regulatory support for the implementation of Victoria's electronic waste (e-waste) landfill ban.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
City of Melton	E-waste Infrastructure Upgrade - Melton Recycling Facility	Upgrade of e-waste collection and storage infrastructure at Melton Recycling Facility. This will provide reasonable access to the Victorian community to safe e-waste disposal points of an agreed standard and enable compliance with new regulatory requirements specifying how e-waste must be managed.	\$100,000.00
CRDC Victoria Pty Ltd	CRDC Vic - E-waste and Mixed Plastic Resin8 project	Investment in an e-waste plastic and mixed (soft and hard) plastics processing plant to produce RESIN8 - a lightweight aggregate alternative for use in concrete mixes.	\$500,000.00
Envirostream	Electrolyte Management in Rechargeable Battery Recycling	Investment in new infrastructure to safely recycle increased volumes of mixed batteries and expand capacity to process lithium-ion batteries by 300 tpa at Envirostream's Victorian facility.	\$33,953.80
Mitchell Shire Council	E-waste Infrastructure Upgrade - Mitchell Shire Council - Seymour Resource Recovery Facility	Upgrade of e-waste collection and storage infrastructure at Seymour Resource Recovery Facility.	\$70,000.00
Resource Pty Ltd	Low Grade E-waste Processing	Investment in a new low grade e-waste processing plant for sorting and size reduction and storage infrastructure for incoming e-waste, resulting in viable commodities ready for end markets.	\$140,000.00
Scipher Technologies Pty Ltd	Scipher Technologies Plastics and Mixed Metal Fractions Recovery Project	Installation and commission of a multi-sensor sorting system for mixed contaminated plastics and course metal fractions, generated from pre-processing of e-waste at Scipher Technologies' processing facility in Dandenong.	\$39,000.00
		TOTAL	\$882,953.80

Single Use Plastics Business Engagement

The objectives of this program are to support Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) with its regulatory obligations to develop legislation and assist in communicating the policy to priority stakeholders likely to be most affected, Support Victorian small to medium enterprises to implement avoidance and reusable solutions, and increase awareness of problematic single-use plastic (SUP) items and alternatives.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Billy van Creamy	Ice Cream RE-CONTAINED	Under this pilot project the funding will be used to source and procure re-usable take home containers for ice cream and collaborate with other reuse solution providers. Purchase custom, branded re-usable containers for ice cream, install signage, create online marketing collateral and other communication items.	\$23,554.12
Cercle Co Pty Ltd	Cercle Melbourne Pilot	This project will establish the Cercle reuse system at two major office buildings in Melbourne's central business district and target the removal of 240,000 disposable cups from landfill per year. The project will create an on-site washing facility that will wash Cercle's reusable assets for this project as well as future reusable systems.	\$5,000.00
Free to Feed	The round and round table	This project will enable Free to Feed to provide its catering in reusable and returnable packaging. Purchase containers, forks and postcard collateral. Produce a comprehensive evaluation report on the success of the pilot.	\$1,600.00
Huskee Pty Ltd	HuskeeSwap Collaboration with CoGround Social Enterprise	Deliver the HuskeeSwap system to reduce single-use coffee cups and lids. Purchase reusable HuskeeCups and lids, a commercial dishwasher, fund App development, and signage/marketing needs for the pilot project. Produce a comprehensive evaluation report on the success of the pilot.	\$2,000.00
Infinity Sustainable Solutions	Sorrento Returnables pilot	The pilot project is to offer an innovative reusable food and beverage packaging solution to approximately 30 restaurants within the Sorrento area.	\$12,010.51
Investa Asset Management Pty Ltd	Eliminate SUP @ 567 Collins	This project will implement the Returnr Micropool reuse system for Investa Asset Management's 23 tenants at 567 Collins Street. Investa will purchase 23 Micropool sets to support 4600 users per month to switch from disposables to reusable items. This project will also test the impact of initiatives on an individual's willingness to use returnable containers.	\$3,860.00
Monash University	Monash University Ditch Disposables	Through the Monash University Ditch Disposables program, Monash University will promote and provide reusable solutions. Monash University will implement a centralised reusable crockery and cutlery system to support three food outlets at Clayton campus.	\$12,000.00
One Good Cup Pty Ltd	Reusable Coffee Cup Pilot with Barwon Health	OneGood Cup will provide reusable cups and software so that Barwon Health Staff (nurses, doctors, administrators etc) can easily reduce single-use coffee cups at work.	\$1,000.00
Responsible Cafes	Reuse program for single-use coffee cups and containers	Responsible Cafes has partnered with local councils and organizations to reduce waste from disposable coffee cups and food containers. Sixteen participating cafes will become accredited Responsible Cafes and receive reusable containers, coffee cups, lids, a resource pack, online visibility, and training to promote sustainability within their community.	\$5,000.00

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Sandringham Traders Association	Village Zero Sandringham Plastic Free	Sandringham Traders Association will work with multiple partners to trial two systems to increase reusables in the Sandringham business precinct that has 34 food outlets. The first system will focus on encouraging customers to bring their own containers and the second a reusable container system using Returnr and Infinity Box (outlet utilise reusable containers).	\$3,200.00
The Corner Store Network Ltd	A double shot of good	A double shot of good is a 'borrow, return, wash' program by Corner Store Network to remove single-use takeaway coffee cups across its five venues entirely. This will be implemented in both the permanent cafes and across the mobile coffee van service.	\$30,000.00
The Cube Wodonga	Cube Reusable Cup project	Wodonga City Council will install a water bottle refill station, purchase reusable cups to replace all current single-use cups used at water, tea, and coffee stations. This project also includes purchasing reusable stemless wineglasses to replace plastic cups for large outdoor events, where glass cannot be used.	\$3,000.00
Untwine	ZeroTag - a passport for reuse systems	ZeroTag is a virtual, multimedia label, and a passport that can be used for different reuse systems. The dishwasher-safe sticker with a QR code can be applied onto any reusable container, and when scanned, shows the brand and product information in full-colour. Vendors update the label when consumers refill with them. Vendors can reward customers for avoiding waste, warn of expiry dates, and suggest when to restock.	\$5,000.00
		TOTAL	\$107,224.63

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