

Glen Eira's

Draft Circular Economy Plan

2026 - 2030



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH, BENTLEIGH EAST, BRIGHTON EAST, CARNEGIE, CAULFIELD, ELSTERNWICK,
GARDENVALE, GLEN HUNTLY, MCKINNON, MURRUMBEENA, ORMOND, ST KILDA EAST

Document Control

Adopted/Approved by	
Date first adopted	
Dates amended	
Review due by	
Contact	

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	4
Message from the Mayor	5
Foreword from the Chief Executive Officer.....	6
1. Introduction.....	7
1.1 City of Glen Eira.....	7
1.2 Who we are and what we do.....	7
1.3 How we plan	7
1.4 Our Council Plan strategic directions 2025–2029.....	8
1.5 How we engage.....	8
2. Why do we need a Circular Economy Plan?	9
2.1 Purpose.....	9
2.2 Strategic context and alignment.....	10
3. Evidence and insights.....	13
3.1 Progress to date and evidence gathered.....	13
3.2 Challenges and opportunities	16
3.3 Listening to our community.....	18
3.4 What we heard from our community	19
4. Our approach.....	20
4.1 Our strategic goal.....	20
4.2 Strategic objectives	21
4.3 Our continued focus of delivery	24
4.5 Risks and assumptions	25
4.6 Monitoring, reporting and review.....	26
Appendices.....	27
Appendix A: Summary of key CE Plan 2022-26 achievements.....	27
Appendix B: Community Engagement.....	29
Appendix C: Relevant legislation, plans and policies.....	30
Appendix D: Glossary	31

Acknowledgement of Country

Glen Eira City Council acknowledges the Boonwurrung/ Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and uphold the Traditional Owners' continuing relationship to land and waterways. Council extends its respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Council honours the rich histories and cultures of First Nations peoples and recognises and values the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in enriching our community.

We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to a *Reconciliation Action Plan* which is underpinned by the principles of self-determination. We work towards improved outcomes and long-term generational change, and to consolidate Glen Eira as a culturally safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are committed to achieving equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to live healthy and prosperous lives and to improve life outcomes for current and future generations.

Glen Eira resides on country that always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Message from the Mayor

[To be written post public exhibition period]

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Foreword from the Chief Executive Officer

[To be written post public exhibition period]

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1. Introduction

1.1 City of Glen Eira

Glen Eira is located in Melbourne's south-east, just 10 kilometres from the CBD. We're a proudly diverse municipality, home to more than 161,000 people, with a rich mix of cultural backgrounds, life experiences and community connections.

Our suburbs include Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Carnegie, Caulfield, Caulfield East, Caulfield North, Caulfield South, Elsternwick, Gardenvale, Glen Huntly, McKinnon, Murrumbeena and Ormond, and parts of the suburbs of Brighton East and St Kilda East.

1.2 Who we are and what we do

Council plays a vital role in supporting a thriving, connected, and sustainable community. We do this by:

- Delivering services that support the health, wellbeing, and everyday needs of our residents
- Maintaining public assets and infrastructure — including parks, roads, footpaths, and community facilities
- Planning for and regulating the built environment, ensuring development supports community needs and sustainability goals
- Working in partnership with community groups, service providers, and other levels of government
- Advocating on behalf of our community to influence decisions and secure resources
- Informing and empowering our residents to make decisions that benefit them and their communities

1.3 How we plan

We take an integrated approach to planning, guided by our [Glen Eira 2040 Community Vision](#):
A thriving, and empowered community working together for an inclusive and sustainable future.

To respond to the *Community Vision*, our *Council Plan* establishes strategic directions and objectives for the next four years, including our priorities for community services, facilities, and infrastructure. All our other strategies are aligned to and guided by our *Council Plan* strategic directions.



Image 1: Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

1.4 Our Council Plan strategic directions 2025–2029

While each plan has its own focus and outcomes, all Council strategies contribute to four overarching strategic directions:

1. Community safety, cohesion, health and wellbeing
2. Diverse, welcoming and accessible places
3. Environmental stewardship
4. Innovative and financially sustainable

These strategic directions were developed through extensive community engagement and help guide Council decision making and focus areas., [Council Plan 2025–2029](#).

1.5 How we engage

We regularly conduct community engagement to better understand our community's needs, seek out new ideas, and strengthen relationships between Council and our community.

Engagement for the Circular Economy Plan 2026–2030 occurred over two stages. The first stage included detailed revision of the extensive engagement activities that were undertaken with the community during the extensive Future Waste program (2024-25).

This involved 21,000 responses across multiple engagements, alongside consultation with internal stakeholders and with Council's Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC). We engaged with the community as part of our Council Plan 2025-29 and Council Plan Action Plan development. Council also led a series of targeted internal workshops to ensure cross Council representation was included and helped inform the Plan development.

Stage 2, public exhibition of the draft Plan will run from **5 August – 1 September 2026** and will focus on identifying gaps and ensuring the Plan aligns with community priorities.

Engagement activities will include an online Have Your Say survey, pop-up and drop-in sessions, targeted workshops, and expert-led discussions for more complex issues.

Our engagement activities will target groups who have been identified as underrepresented in previous consultations. These groups include people living in apartments and other multi-unit dwellings, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, people with disabilities, and young people. Targeting these groups will help us to address gaps and ensure a representative evidence base for our decisions.

Following the public exhibition period, Council will report back key findings and demonstrating how feedback has influenced the final Plan.

2. Why do we need a Circular Economy Plan?

2.1 Purpose

Building on the achievements of our Circular Economy Plan 2022–2026, this Circular Economy Plan 2026–2030 sets out how Glen Eira will continue to reduce waste, use resources more efficiently, and create a more sustainable future for our community.

We need this Plan because the traditional approach of taking resources, making products, and then throwing them away is placing increasing pressure on our environment, waste systems, and finances. A circular economy offers a different approach. It focuses on keeping materials and resources in use for as long as possible through reducing waste, reusing and repairing products, recycling materials, and designing systems that minimise environmental impact.

By supporting a local circular economy, we can reduce waste sent to landfill, lower greenhouse gas emissions, make better use of valuable resources, and strengthen our local economy. These actions also help build a more resilient community and support the wellbeing of current and future generations.

The previous Plan established a strong foundation by raising awareness of the circular economy and testing ways for Council and the community to take action. This new Plan builds on that work and provides a clear roadmap for the next four years.

Through this Circular Economy Plan 2026 - 2030, we will work with our community, businesses, and partners to support a more sustainable future, helping to protect our environment, strengthen our local economy, and improve outcomes for current and future generations.

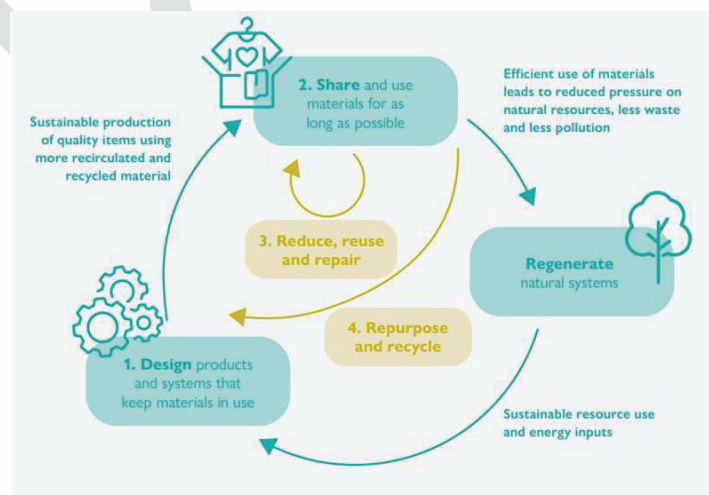


Image 2: Summary of the circular economy principles in action.

This Plan provides a clear direction in the form of strategic objectives:

- lead by example in our own operations and decision-making
- support our community and local businesses to take practical action
- improve resource recovery and reduce waste
- design services that are more efficient, accessible and resilient

Delivery of the Plan is supported through annual action plans that translate these strategic objectives into practical, measurable initiatives.

Supporting our local circular economy is one of our most tangible means of reducing our environmental impact and addressing climate change. As such, it is core to achieving Council's Environmental Stewardship objectives and our community's vision for a more sustainable Glen Eira.

For Glen Eira, reducing waste is not just an environmental responsibility, it is a practical response to rising costs and the growing pressures on our waste systems. Better management of our resources can also help us to improve service outcomes and build a more resilient organisation and community. Embedding circular economy practices doesn't need to be difficult, but it does require thinking differently about how we plan, design, procure and deliver our services.

2.2 Strategic context and alignment

This Plan will support delivery of the strategic objectives and actions as set out in our Council Plan 2025 – 2029, the Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025 – 2029, and the Elster Creek Litter Action Plan 2026 – 2031.

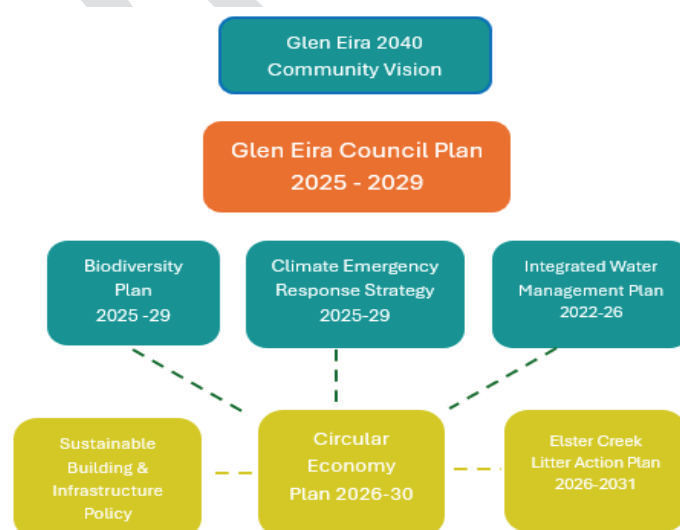


Image 3: The Circular Economy Plan links to associated Council Strategies and Plans

Legislative Context

Victoria's circular economy transition is guided by the state's circular economy policy *Recycling Victoria: A New Economy*. Released in February 2020, this 10-year policy and action plan seeks to transform the way our economy uses materials and establish a more reliable recycling system. The four goals of the policy are:

- **Make** – Design products so they last longer and can be repaired and recycled
- **Use** – Get more value out of the products we use
- **Recycle** – Recover and reuse more materials
- **Manage** – Reduce harm caused by waste and pollution

This policy is supported by the *Victorian Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*. This law sets up a statewide framework for moving to a circular economy. It also requires councils to provide waste and recycling services and meet standards set by the Minister. Other important laws that support this include:

- Environment Protection (Resource Efficiency) Act 2002 (Vic)
- Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (Vic)
- Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) (waste facility approvals)

At the national level, the Circular Economy Plan aligns with:

- The *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020*
- The *National Waste Policy 2018*

Local Context

The Circular Economy Plan 2026–2030 contributes to all four strategic directions of the Council Plan 2025–2029.

Environmental stewardship

By reducing waste, keeping materials in use for longer, and lowering the environmental impacts of Council operations and community activities.

Innovative and financially sustainable

By improving resource efficiency, reducing reliance on disposal, and using Council's purchasing power to influence markets and deliver better long-term value.

Diverse, welcoming and accessible places

By designing waste and recycling services that are easy to use, accessible for all members of the community, and responsive to different housing types and needs.

Community safety, cohesion, health and wellbeing

By supporting community participation in reuse, repair and recycling activities, and ensuring safe, responsible management of waste and materials.

The Circular Economy Plan's four strategic objectives align with and were informed by Glen Eira's Climate Emergency Response Strategy (2025-29).

Objective	Circular Economy Plan	Climate Emergency Response Strategy (2025-29)	Objective
1	Leading the circular economy transition by example	Lead by example and use purchasing power	2.1
2	Support the community take action to create a circular economy	Empower community members to become active members of the circular economy	1.1
		Support community to improve material circularity	2.4
2.1	Advocate for policies, systems and partnerships that support a circular economy	Advocate to other levels of government to support	2.5
3	Recover more resources from waste	Advocate to other levels of government to support	2.2
		Improve waste reduction / waste diversion in SME's and MUD's	2.3
4	Design our waste and resource recovery services to be more circular and resilient	Support community to improve material circularity	2.4

Table 1: Alignment between the CE Plan 2026-30 and Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025-29

This Plan also responds to broader system changes, including increasing landfill constraints, changing waste markets, and national and state ambitions to transition to a circular economy. Importantly, it complements Council's waste services by expanding the focus from managing waste to designing systems that reduce waste, recover value, and support a more resilient local economy.

3. Evidence and insights

3.1 Progress to date and evidence gathered

Following the conclusion of Glen Eira’s first Circular Economy Plan, Council now has a clearer picture of our local circular economy with respect to what is working, what is not, and how best to support community action.

Glen Eira has its own waste and circular economy challenges shaped by its population, housing and infrastructure. Waste data helps us understand the scale of these challenges and where action is needed.

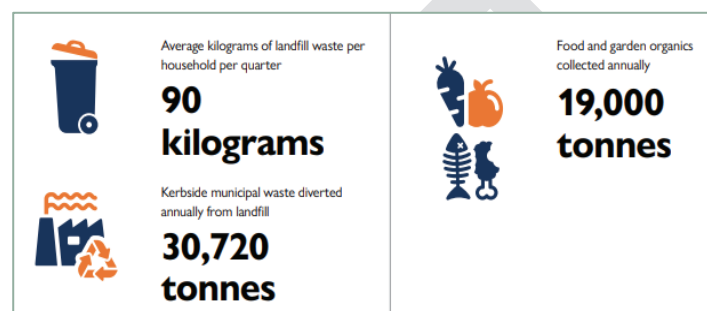


Image 4: Waste, recycling and food and garden organics snapshot Council Plan (2025-29)

The circular economy is about more than waste, but waste data is still a useful way to measure progress. This Plan draws on:

- household bin audits and Council waste audits,
- bin inspection programs,
- improved waste reporting,
- use of recycled material in Council activities, and
- community feedback on waste and circular practices.

Council has tracked waste trends, tested ways to avoid waste, trialled repair and reuse hubs such as repair cafés, and continued education programs. These evidence and insights are detailed below.

The community is becoming more familiar with the term Circular Economy

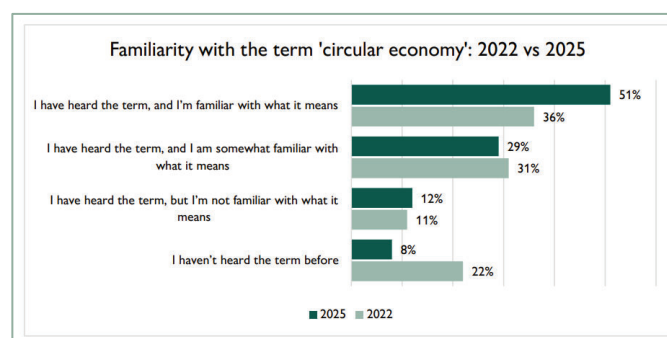


Fig 1: Testing community knowledge of the circular economy in 2022 and in 2025

Future Waste Service Innovation to enable more change in future

A key part of the first Plan was setting up four major waste contracts with circular economy goals built in. They improve services now and allow more sustainable options over time. Key features include:

- Low-emissions vehicles: Helping cut emissions from waste collection.
- Annual innovation plans: Keeping services up to date with new technology, changing needs and good practice.
- Better customer service and data systems: Supporting better reporting, service delivery and performance tracking.
- More service options: Exploring FOGO and other options for apartments, commercial customers and booked collections.

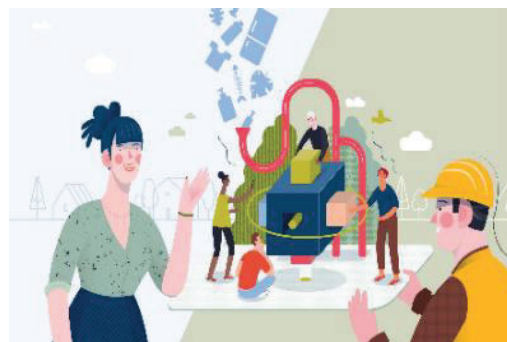


Image 5: Future Waste Innovations

Diverting more valuable materials from landfill – but contamination an issue

During the first Plan, the community kept more valuable material out of landfill. That is good progress, but it has slowed. In a circular economy, landfill should keep falling as more materials are reused and recycled.

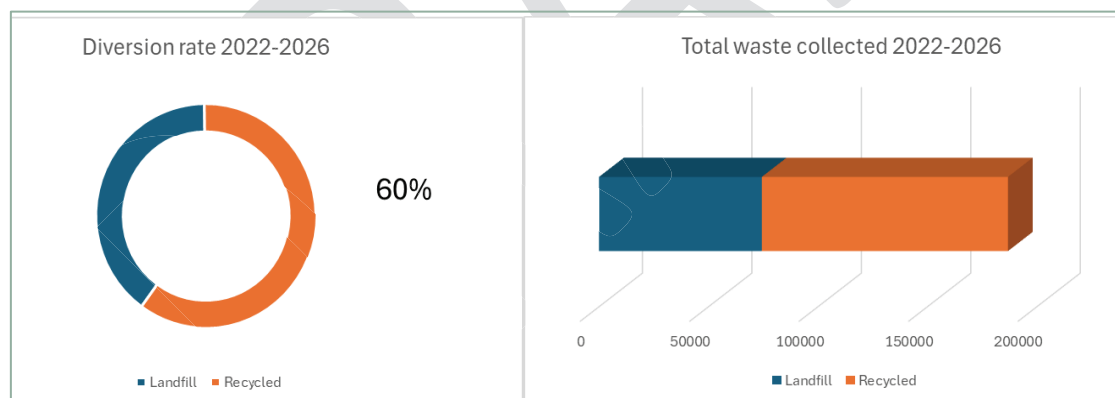


Fig 2 - total kerbside waste collected in Glen Eira and diversion rate over 4 years of first CE plan

A large reason is contamination. Kerbside services work best when people sort items correctly and use the right bins. Contamination reduces how much material can be recovered and sends more waste to landfill, which costs more and harms the environment. Bin audits show contamination across all kerbside bins. This means more valuable material could still be recovered through composting, soil improvement and new products.



Image 6 – contamination of kerbside waste from glen Eira litter bin audits (2025)

Increasing Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) a key to driving further change

One of the easiest ways people can help is by keeping food and garden waste out of red landfill bins and putting it in the light green FOGO bin. If organic waste goes to landfill, it creates methane. If it goes in the green bin, it can be safely processed instead.

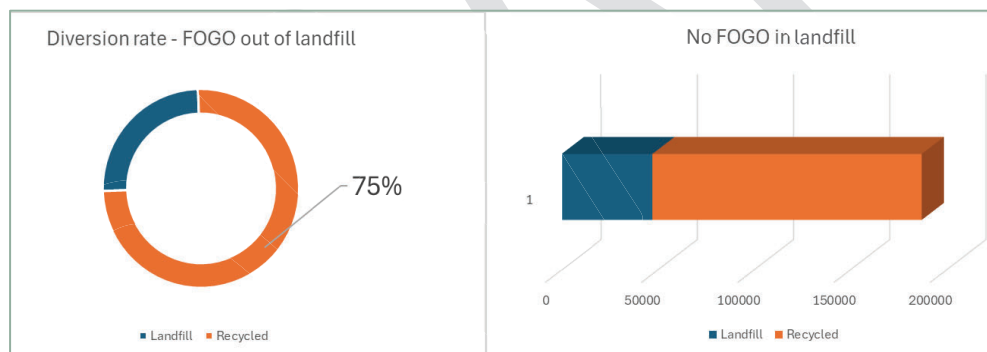


Fig 3 – potential diversion with FOGO contamination removed from general waste/landfill

Increasing understanding of recycling is also necessary

Contamination in the yellow recycling bin also lowers the quality of materials and makes recycling harder. In some cases, contaminated recycling ends up in landfill.

The community want to learn, share, repair and reuse materials as part of their contribution to environmental stewardship

Research shows more residents, businesses and schools want to take part in the circular economy. This Plan builds on successful pilots such as repair hubs, Going Circular, Bin Trim and Sustainability Champions programs.

Glen Eira Sustainability Champions	Sustainable ideas for people and businesses. Providing training and structure to bring these ideas life
Glen Eira Multi Unit Development (MUDs) program	Program on waste /recycling behavioural barriers, resources and infrastructure for apartments
Glen Eira Bin Trim program	- A program to reduce material waste and lift circular outcomes - Helps businesses cut waste and grow their profit and markets

Image 7 – examples of successful programs to be carried forward in the Circular Economy Plan 2026-30

This Plan builds on these programs and the growing interest from Glen Eira residents who want to live more sustainably.

Evidence that our choices matter

Good planning, consultation and communication can lead to real change. When weekly collections of the green bin commenced in July 2021, our diversion rate jumped dramatically.

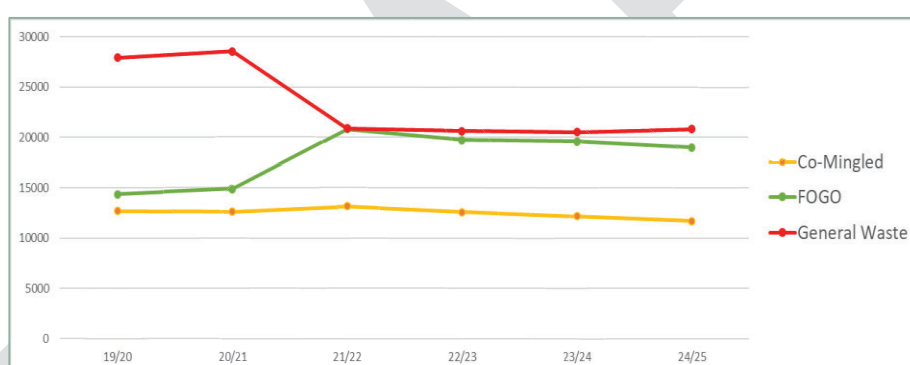


Fig 4 – introduction of FOGO service timeline and effect on Glen Eira's general waste volume

These actions matter. They can reduce the amount and cost of useful material sent to landfill, cut methane emissions, and help recover FOGO to improve soil.

3.2 Challenges and opportunities

The circular economy is not just a local issue. Across Australia, there is growing pressure to move away from the old “take, make, dispose” model so we can cut waste, reduce emissions and make better use of resources.

The *Australia's Circular Economy Framework* sets a national goal to double Australia's circularity by 2035. Its targets are to:

- reduce the amount of material each person uses,
- use materials more productively, and
- recover more resources for productive use.

Right now, Australia uses a lot of material and recovers too little for reuse and remanufacturing. That means change is needed across governments, businesses and communities.

Population growth and rising consumption

Victoria's growing population is increasing demand for housing, transport, food, consumer goods and waste services. As communities grow, more materials flow through the economy.

That puts pressure on waste and recycling systems, Council services, landfill space, and the cost and supply of raw materials.

At the same time, products are often replaced more quickly and are still hard to repair or recycle. That creates more waste and loses valuable materials.

Landfill constraints and changing waste systems

Victoria's landfill system is also changing. Several metropolitan landfills are expected to close in coming years, with no new ones planned. This is putting more pressure on the state's waste system and pushing up disposal and transport costs.

The *Environment Protection Act 2017* says we should avoid waste first, then reuse it, recycle it, recover energy from it, contain it, and only use landfill as a last resort. This is known as the Waste Hierarchy and prioritises preferred waste management action ahead of least preferred waste management actions:

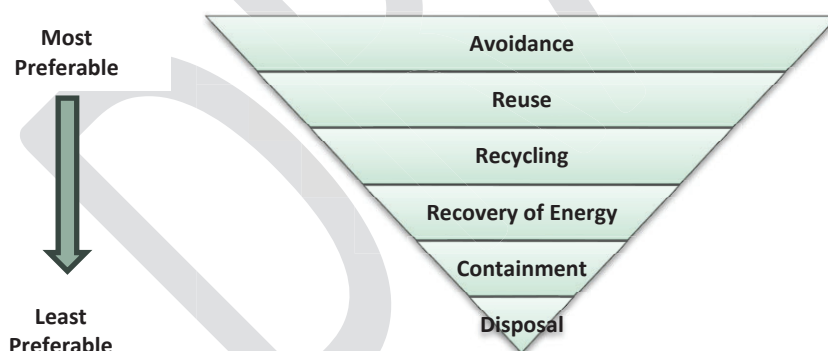


Image 8 – the Victorian Waste Management Hierarchy

The Victorian Government's *Recycling Victoria: a new economy* states waste-to-energy may have a role in the future waste system. These processes are designed to convert waste materials into usable forms of energy, typically electricity or heat encompasses waste treatment technologies converting waste into energy using heat, most commonly through incineration.

However, these facilities are still some years away and require detailed approvals before they commence. This demonstrates why we need to avoid waste, reuse more, repair more and recover more before disposal. A circular economy relies on landfill less and keeping materials in use longer.

Supply chain disruptions and material security

Recent global events have also shown how fragile supply chains can be, especially when we rely on new raw materials and overseas manufacturing. Delays and higher costs affect councils, businesses and communities alike.

Circular economy approaches can make us more resilient by supporting local reuse, repair, remanufacturing and recycled content. That can reduce supply risks and support local jobs and innovation.

Local government helps make circular economy outcomes possible through:

- procurement and purchasing,
- infrastructure and asset management,
- waste and recycling services,
- community education,
- advocacy to state and federal governments, and
- partnerships with industry and community organisations.

Councils are expected to deliver services that are affordable, resilient and aligned with community expectations on climate action and resource recovery.

Staying with a linear economy will increase costs, waste and supply risks. A circular economy gives us a chance to:

- reduce long-term costs,
- use resources more efficiently,
- support local economic activity,
- build resilience,
- and reduce environmental impacts.

This Plan responds by building circular economy practices into Council operations, services, infrastructure planning and community work.

3.3 Listening to our community

Our Circular Economy Plan 2026–2030 is for the whole community. We know reducing waste matters to Glen Eira residents, almost 90 per cent of our community says it is important. Whether we mend a sock, borrow a book or compost food, we all play a part in Glen Eira's circular economy. Our work will make these choices easier and more practical.

Making better use of resources benefits everyone. It can cut waste, save money and improve access. Examples include repair cafés, where volunteers fix items for free, and the Library of Things, where people can borrow household items instead of buying them.

This strategy reaches across Council. To make circular practices part of everyday work, all parts of the organisation need to be involved, from planning through to delivery.

We will also build the skills of Council staff so they can support better circular outcomes, especially in design, procurement and community development.

We also want our communication to be easy to understand, practical and inclusive. This includes colour-blind friendly designs, Easy Read versions, and communication that includes people of all gender identities.

3.4 What we heard from our community

To help draft the Circular Economy Plan 2026–2030, Council brought together findings from community engagement. This included 21,000 responses across 28 projects between 2017 and 2025, including *Future Waste*, *Greener Glen Eira*, *Our Place*, *Our Plan* and the *Community Voice* survey.

What we heard was clear: the community supports a circular economy, is already taking action to reduce waste, and wants Council to make it easier to do more.

Key findings from the report included:

1. Reliable waste services matter. Residents want strong core services such as bin collection, hard rubbish and street cleaning.
2. Recycling and education are top priorities. The community want clearer information, more recycling options and better help to reduce contamination.
3. Reuse and repair are growing in popularity. The community are interested in repair cafés, tool libraries, swap events and second-hand markets.
4. Litter and illegal dumping are still concerns. The community supports stronger enforcement, more public bins and education.
5. Equity and accessibility matter. Residents want circular economy opportunities to work for apartment dwellers, people without cars, people with disability and culturally diverse communities.

[The outcome of the next stage of engagement 5 August – 1 September 2026, will be detailed here prior to finalisation of the Plan]

4. Our approach

4.1 Our strategic goal

As caretakers of the environment, Glen Eira wants to be a place where the community protects the environment and values resources. We aim to keep materials in use for as long as possible, find new ways to meet our needs, and reduce waste wherever we can.

By using circular economy practices, we will support a strong and successful community that lives within environmental limits and improves social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone. This Plan recognises the challenge ahead and builds on the work started in the 2022–2026 Circular Economy Plan. Key lessons from that plan are:

- Circular economy is becoming better known, but many still don't fully understand it.
- Council must continue to lead by example.
- Circular economy is a whole-system change, not just a waste strategy.
- We need ways to measure progress, not just set goals.
- Changing behaviour is just as important as building infrastructure.
- Strong community engagement is essential.
- We need to think in systems and connect circular economy with climate impacts.
- Markets and incentives are needed for a circular economy to succeed, and Council will advocate for state and federal governments to help lead this change.

Building on what we have learned and achieved with our partners, we will speed up action in priority areas, strengthen our organisation, and find new ways to reduce waste, keep materials in use, and support community-led change.

This Plan continues the shift away from seeing waste only as a problem. Instead, it focuses on smarter ways to use resources, apply good practice, and rethink how services can be delivered so they create less waste in the first place. Together, we will create a more circular, resilient and sustainable future for our municipality.

4.2 Strategic objectives

As part of this Plan, we listened to what matters most to the community and where attention should be focused. We combined this feedback with research and examples of good practice to create clear, measurable strategic objectives that will guide our work over the next four years.

This Plan uses an evidence-based approach, as outlined in section 3, and aligns with the goals of the Council Plan, the Climate Emergency Response Strategy and the Glen Eira Community Vision 2040. Together, these documents describe a future where we take our environmental responsibilities seriously and work within the limits of the environment.

We know that moving to a more circular future takes time. Over the next four years, we will build on what we achieved in our first Plan and take the next steps needed to meet our 2040 Community Vision and other long-term goals.

To make our priorities clear, we will focus on four strategic objectives:

1. Lead the circular economy transition by example
2. Help the community take action to build a circular economy
3. Recover more resources from waste
4. Design our waste and resource recovery services to be more circular and resilient

The next section explains these four strategic objectives. They are supported by an Annual Action Plan, attached to this Plan, which sets out the specific activities under each objective. Together, they show why each objective matters, what we will do, and how we will measure success.

Strategic objective 1: Lead the circular economy transition by example

Why this is important

Local government is in a strong position to help the shift to a circular economy through the way it plans, buys, manages assets and delivers services. By building circular principles into Council planning and into how we buy, build and work, we can reduce waste, lower costs, make resources last longer, and show the community practical ways to do the same.

Leading by example helps build support for circular practices and makes it easier for others to adopt them. It strengthens our organisation's capability, builds confidence in circular approaches, and encourages residents, businesses and partners to do the same.

What we will do

- Use Council's buying power to support the circular economy
- Apply circular design principles to Council infrastructure and major works
- Build the organisation's capability to work in more circular ways
- Reduce waste from Council operations

How we know when we have succeeded

- Circular economy principles are built into decisions about major works, purchasing and service design from the start, rather than added later.
- More Council projects use recycled or reused materials, or use fewer materials overall, compared with previous years.
- Staff across the organisation understand what a circular economy means for their role and use it in day-to-day decisions.
- Waste from Council operations decreases over time, with more materials reused internally or kept out of landfill.

Strategic objective 2: Support the community take action to create a circular economy

Why this is important

A circular economy can only happen if everyone plays a part. By helping residents, businesses and community groups reduce waste, reuse resources and make more sustainable choices, Council can support long-term change, build community resilience and deliver local environmental benefits.

What we will do

- Advocate for a circular economy
- Engage with and educate residents about the benefits of the circular economy
- Collaborate with our local community to increase participation in reuse, repair and recycling
- Help local businesses move to a circular economy.

How we know when we have succeeded

- More residents are reusing, repairing and recycling their waste.
- Participation increases across a wide range of the community, including people in multi-unit housing and culturally diverse groups.
- More local businesses are adopting circular practices.

Strategic objective 3: Recover more resources from waste

Why this is important

The data shows Council can recover more materials from waste streams if people separate their waste correctly. By reducing contamination and improving the quality and amount of materials collected through kerbside services, Council can keep more valuable resources in use, support stronger recycling systems and move closer to a circular economy.

What we will do

- Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill
- Increase the amount of waste that is composted, reducing landfill and greenhouse emissions
- Remove barriers that prevent community members from recycling
- Assist our community to reduce contamination, which results in compostable and recyclable waste being sent to landfill.

How we know when we have succeeded

- Less waste is sent to landfill.
- More materials are recovered for reuse or recycling.
- An increasing amount of waste is being composted using the Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) stream.
- Contamination in recycling and FOGO decreases over time.

Strategic objective 4: Design our waste and resource recovery services to be more circular and resilient

Why this is important

The way we design waste and resource recovery services affects how well materials stay in use and how well we respond to changing risks and demands. By building circular economy principles into service design, Council can reduce waste, improve resource recovery, adapt to future pressures, and provide more sustainable and reliable services for the community.

What we will do

- Improve the recovery and recirculation of bulky household items
- Better understand and improve access to safe and sustainable waste disposal

- Achieve better community and environmental outcomes from our waste services

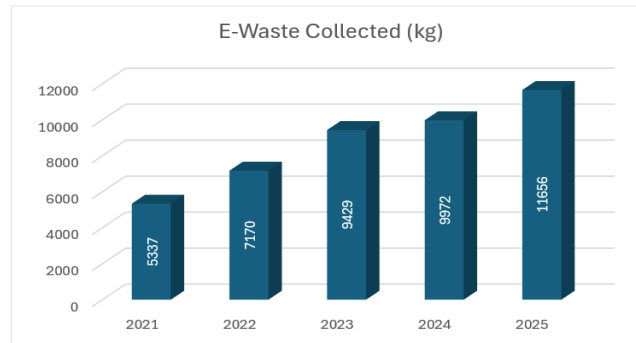


Fig 5 –trajectory of E-Waste collection for Glen Eira

How we know when we have succeeded

- Waste and recycling services are becoming more accessible and more responsive to community needs.
- Council is testing and putting in place service improvements that increase reuse and recovery, not just disposal.
- We are better capturing opportunities to recover value from materials, especially hard waste and difficult items.
- Council can respond to changes in the waste and recycling system, including market changes and infrastructure limits, without reducing service outcomes.
- Data, trials and community feedback are used to keep improving service design and performance.

4.3 Our continued focus of delivery

We will focus our efforts in four main areas:

1. Embedding circular economy principles into core business processes

We will build circular design, efficient use of resources and whole-of-life thinking into:

- capital works planning and design
- procurement and contract management
- service planning and delivery

This will make circular economy thinking part of our everyday business, not an extra step.

2. Building organisational capability and accountability

We will strengthen our evidence base by:

- reviewing baseline performance (e.g. waste, contamination, material flows)
- improving data collection and reporting
- trialling targeted initiatives to test what works

This will help us decide where to invest and expand the most effective solutions over time.

3. Partnering to enable system-level change

Council does not control every part of the circular economy system. We will work with:

- state government and regional partners
- industry, contractors and suppliers
- community organisations and local businesses

to advocate for better systems, influence markets, and support broader change beyond Council operations.

4. Our sequencing and focus

We will prioritise:

- understanding current performance and identifying opportunities for improvement
- further embedding circular practices into key processes
- trialling practical initiatives that can be scaled up

In later years, we will build on this foundation by expanding successful pilots, strengthening partnerships, and delivering measurable improvements in resource recovery, reuse and waste reduction.

4.5 Risks and assumptions

Circular economy remains a clear priority in both the Council Plan Action Plan 2025–26 and Glen Eira’s Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025–29.

The success of this Plan depends on some outside factors. Key risks that could affect delivery include:

- Global events that disrupt supply chains and markets
- Limited investment in future technologies and facilities in the sector
- Rising costs of delivering resource recovery services

- The future closure of several metropolitan landfills, which will put pressure on existing infrastructure, while proposed alternative technologies are not yet operating

4.6 Monitoring, reporting and review

We will monitor progress through a combination of:

- defined success indicators for each strategic objective
- regular reporting through Council's planning and performance framework
- ongoing review of annual action plans

This approach will help keep the Plan responsive, evidence-based and focused on delivering meaningful outcomes for the organisation and community.

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of key CE Plan 2022-26 achievements

Significant progress has been made under the previous Circular Economy Plan 2022-2026, with a strong focus on empowering the Glen Eira community to reduce waste, increase reuse, and adopt more sustainable behaviours. A range of priority programs have been successfully delivered, demonstrating both innovation and measurable impact.

Community Programs and Behaviour Change Initiatives

The previous Circular Economy Plan (2022 - 26), delivered a suite of education, engagement and behaviour change initiatives to support residents in adopting circular economy principles:

- **Reusable crockery at community events**
Introduction of reusable service ware at major events has reduced reliance on single-use items. At the 2024 Groove and Graze Festival, this initiative avoided more than 2,897 single-use items, demonstrating a practical shift towards event-based circularity.
- **‘Going Circular’ training for businesses**
Helping local businesses to uncover the hidden potential of Circular Economy through upskilling, networking and supportive consultation via a six-week online training course
- **Glen Eira Repair Café**
Six Repair Café events were held across the 2024–2025 financial year, enabling residents to extend the life of household items, build repair skills and reduce waste sent to landfill.
- **National Recycling Week engagement**
A recycling truck visit at Library Storytime provided an interactive learning experience for families, helping embed recycling knowledge from an early age.
- **The Nappy Project**
Delivered educational workshops and reusable nappy kits for new parents and caregivers, supporting waste reduction in one of the highest waste-generating household categories.
- **Low-waste living workshops**
A series of community workshops featuring guest speakers focused on composting and reducing food waste at home, equipping residents with practical tools to minimise waste.
- **Reuse Market Stall at local farmers markets**
Staff-led activities promoted the value of reuse and waste avoidance, engaging directly with the community in high-traffic local settings.

- **Recycling education pop-ups in libraries**

Informal drop-in sessions provided accessible information and support to improve recycling practices.

- **Community recycling workshops**

Targeted workshops for community groups helped build knowledge and confidence in correct waste sorting and circular behaviours.

- **Small Acts Big Impact campaign**

A behaviour change campaign supported by targeted advertising to improve recycling practices and reduce contamination across the municipality.

- **Waste Champions Program**

Supported residents in shared bin environments to improve recycling outcomes and reduce contamination in multi-unit developments.

- **“Trash with a Porpoise” educational show**

Delivered by the Trash Puppets, this engaging comedy performance raised awareness of waste and environmental issues through creative storytelling.

- **30 Days of Actions campaign**

A calendar-based engagement initiative encouraged residents to adopt daily actions aligned with circular economy principles—reduce, reuse and recycle.

Appendix B: Community Engagement

[To be written post public exhibition period]

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Appendix C: Relevant legislation, plans and policies

The following is an outline of the relevant Acts, legislation, and guidelines that underpin the development of the Glen Eira Circular Economy Plan 2026 – 30. The Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 is the key enabling statute, with councils' roles further shaped by the Environment Protection Act 2017 and the Local Government Act 2020, plus subsequent amendment legislation and subordinate instruments:

- Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (Vic): This Act is the direct legislative anchor for council circular economy plans, kerbside reform, and service delivery.
- Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic): Supports circular economy outcomes by regulating environmental risks, waste facilities, and approvals, than prescribing council services directly.
- Environment Legislation Amendment (Circular Economy and Other Matters) Act 2022 (Vic): Enhances and operationalises the circular economy legislative framework affecting councils indirectly.
- Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) (and amendments): Provides the institutional and financial powers councils use to implement circular economy obligations.

External documents

- Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021: [Circular Economy \(Waste Reduction and Recycling\) Act 2021 | legislation.vic.gov.au](https://legislation.vic.gov.au/Circular-Economy-Waste-Reduction-and-Recycling-Act-2021)
- Circular Economy and other Matters Bill 2022: [Environment Legislation Amendment \(Circular Economy and Other Matters\) Bill 2022 | legislation.vic.gov.au](https://legislation.vic.gov.au/Environment-Legislation-Amendment-Circular-Economy-and-Other-Matters-Bill-2022)
- Victoria's Plan for a Circular Economy - Recycling Victoria: A New Economy [Victoria's plan for a circular economy | vic.gov.au](https://vic.gov.au/victorias-plan-for-a-circular-economy)
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 (Cth): [Review of the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act - DCCEEW](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/waste/recycling-and-waste-reduction-act-2020)
- The National Waste Policy 2018: [National Waste Policy 2018](https://www.nsw.gov.au/national-waste-policy)

Glen Eira City Council strategies and plans

- Glen Eira Circular Economy Plan 2022-2026: [Glen Eira Circular Economy Plan 2022-2026](#)
- Glen Eira City Council, Council Plan 2025 – 2029: [Glen Eira Council Plan 2025–2029 | Glen Eira City Council](#)
- Glen Eira City Council, Council Plan Action Plan 2025-26: [gecc-council-plan-action-plan-2025-2026.pdf](#)
- Glen Eira City Council, Climate Emergency Strategy 2025-2026: [glen-3702_climateemergencyresponsestrategy_2025-2029.pdf](#)

Appendix D: Glossary

Term	Definition
Acts	An Act generally refers to a formal decision or law made by a legislative body.
Advocacy	Advocacy for councils involves using the voice of the community to influence decision-makers to make positive changes that affect the local area.
Circular Economy	The circular economy is a comprehensive approach to managing resources and waste aiming to reduce waste, save energy, and limit environmental impacts.
Circularity	Circularity is a measure of how materials and, products are kept in circulation through processes, such as maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting.
Climate Emergency Response Strategy	Glen Eira's Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025–2029 outlines urgent, community-driven actions to reduce emissions, enhance resilience, and embed climate action across council operations and the wider community
Engagement	Engagement made by councils refers to the process of involving community members in decision-making and policy development.
Legislation	Legislation refers to laws made by Parliament, also known as statutes or Acts of Parliament, which govern the country and can be amended or repealed over time.
Product Stewardship	An approach where manufacturers, retailers and other parties share responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of a product throughout its life cycle, including disposal.
Resource recovery	Resource recovery is the process of reclaiming valuable materials and energy from waste to reduce landfill use, conserve resources, and support a circular economy
Recycling	Recycling is the process of collecting, processing, and repurposing waste materials into new products, helping to conserve natural resources and reduce environmental impact.
Strategy	Strategy is a high-level plan or framework of choices designed to achieve a specific, long-term goal under conditions of uncertainty. It defines overall direction and dictates where to focus your resources on.
Sustainability	Sustainability is the practice of living, producing, and consuming in a way that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. It relies on balancing environmental health, economic vitality, and social equity.
Waste	Waste is any material or substance that is discarded after its primary use or is considered worthless, defective, or of no further use.
Waste Hierarchy	A framework that ranks waste management practices in order of their environmental impact. It prioritises actions as follows: 1. Avoidance: Avoiding waste generation in the first place. 2. Reuse: Finding new uses for items instead of discarding them. 3. Recycling: Processing materials to make new products. 4. Recovery of Energy: Converting waste into usable energy. 5. Containment: Safely isolating and containing waste if it cannot be processed higher up the hierarchy. 6. Disposal: The absolute least preferred option. Sending waste to landfill is a last resort when all other alternatives have been exhausted

Term	Definition
Waste to Energy	Waste-to-energy (WtE) refers to a series of processes designed to convert waste materials into usable forms of energy, typically electricity or heat encompasses waste treatment technologies that convert waste into energy using heat, most commonly through incineration. It is a form of energy recovery that transforms waste material into energy products like heat or electricity, providing value from waste that would otherwise go to landfill.

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[BACK COVER]

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