

recycle right newsletter

A publication helping Western Australians to reduce their household waste, recycle right and live more sustainably.



BIN TAGGING 2021 HELPS RESIDENTS TO 'RECYCLE RIGHT'

Our bin tagging program re-commenced on 15 February in selected households across the region to help educate residents to 'recycle right'.

The program is part of the rollout of the new 3-bin FOGO system that was implemented during 2019 in the City of Melville, City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle. Inspection of the 2-bin system in some of the City of Fremantle's multi-unit developments and apartments will also be undertaken to gain baseline data.

The SMRC is undertaking the education program on behalf of the three Councils, with funding support through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account, administered by the Waste Authority.

Community Waste Education Officers will work in pairs by checking for contamination (wrong items in the bin), such as recyclables in the General Waste bin, or contamination in the Recycling bins and Food Organics/Garden Organics (FOGO) bins.

Following inspection, they will place a 'happy' or 'sad' tag on the handle of the bin providing feedback about how well residents are using the bins or what can be improved. This feedback can help to clarify any misconceptions or confusion residents may have about the new bin system and offers positive reinforcement to households sorting their waste correctly.



COMMON CONTAMINANTS IN RECYCLING

- **Bagged recycling:** Recyclables (paper, cardboard, metal cans, glass, hard plastics) must be placed loose in the recycling bin (not in bags). Our sorters do not open or empty bags for safety reasons and so the recyclable material ends up in landfill.
- **Soft plastics:** such as chip packets, bread bags or lolly wrappers, cannot be sorted in our Materials Recovery Facility, so please place in the general waste bin or take to your local REDCycle drop off points found at major supermarkets.
- **Electronic waste:** Most electronic items such as TVs and Computers are recyclable – just not through your kerbside bins. Please take these items to an e-waste drop off centre.
- **Households Hazardous Waste:** Hazardous materials like lightbulbs, paint, aerosol cans, batteries and gas bottles, can all be recycled but not through your kerbside bins. They can cause fires when compressed in the trucks or at the Materials Recovery Facilities where you recycling is taken to be sorted. Please take these items to a drop off centre where they can be recycled safely.
- **Plastic bottle lids:** Please remove the lids from your bottles and either take them to a drop off centre to be recycled or place them into your general waste bin.
- **Textiles:** Clothing and other textiles can't be recycled through the kerbside recycling bin. If they are still in usable condition, they can be donated through charity shops. If not, they should be placed in the general waste bin.

To find your nearest drop off centre for items which cannot be recycled through the kerbside bins visit the Recycle Right '[Find My Nearest](#)'.



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UPCOMING RRRC COMMUNITY TOUR



Come and see what happens to your recycling bin once it leaves the kerb! A RRRC tour is a perfect opportunity to learn a little more about an everyday activity.

Free 1.5 hour tours of the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale educate visitors about the recycling process and allow safe and exciting views from observation decks into the various facilities. To find out more, or to book a tour of the RRRC for your school or group, email tours@smrc.com.au.

The next Community Tour is scheduled during the School Holidays at 10am on Wednesday 14 April. Visit [School Holidays Community Tour: Regional Resource Recovery Centre](#) to book.



Deputy Mayor Andrew Sullivan
and local MP Simone McGurk

FREMANTLE HHW FACILITY OPENS

The household hazardous waste facility at Fremantle Recycling Centre has been officially opened by Fremantle's Deputy Mayor Andrew Sullivan and local MP Simone McGurk who 'cut the ribbon' on 2 March.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes items like aerosols, batteries, flammables, poisons, pool chemicals, cleaning products and paint that can't be disposed of in household bins. This service is available to all residents including those outside of the City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle.

Fremantle Councillor Doug Thompson, who is also Chair of SMRC Council and Chair of WALGA's Municipal Waste Advisory Council, said Western Australia had the best HHW program in the country.

"The reason our program works so well is that it is based on collaboration, cooperation and partnership," Cr Thompson said. "The program was collaboratively designed by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and local government represented by WALGA.

"It's operated cooperatively and in partnership, with local governments providing the staffing and locations and the state government the funding to ensure the collection, transport and recovery of the material collected. Virtually nothing that's collected through the program goes to landfill. It's all recycled or recovered in one way or another."

Read more at the [Fremantle Recycling Centre website](#).

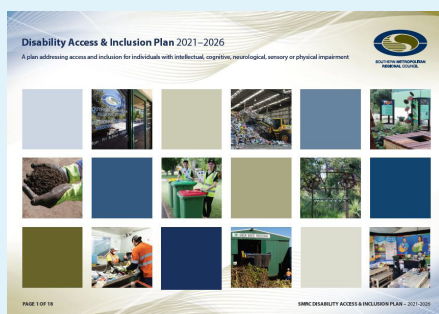
The Fremantle Recycling Centre is opposite the golf course on Montreal Street and is open 12-4pm on Friday and 8am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday.



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SMRC: DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2021-2026



The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) has written a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP).

The *Disability Services Act 1993* requires all local government and selected State Government agencies to develop a DAIP. The plan describes how the SMRC is working to make sure its services are accessible to everyone including people with disabilities. This covers services and events, buildings and facilities, information, quality of service, complaints, consultation processes and employment.

The plan was endorsed by the SMRC Council on 25 February 2021.

It can be viewed on the [SMRC Website](https://www.smarc.wa.gov.au) or copies can be made available on request and in alternative formats if required.



[Photo: ABC Perth]

HELP TO AVOID 'HOT LOADS'

A fire in a waste truck can be very dangerous. If they are not detected early they can cause serious injury to drivers or members of the public. Fires are often caused by the compression of hazardous items, such as batteries or aerosol cans, which should not have been placed in the kerbside bins. Sadly, this happens so often the waste industry has now coined the term 'a hot load'. When a hot load occurs during a route, a well-trained driver will normally eject the load into the road, often causing a traffic hazard, inconvenience and requiring cleanup.

It's just another great example of why hazardous items like batteries, aerosols and chemicals need to be kept out of our kerbside bins. Batteries are found in so many of our everyday devices—mobile phones, laptops, kids' toys, cars etc, but are putting lives at risk if they are not disposed of properly. Aerosols that are not completely empty when compacted, can explode. Chemicals can mix with each other and cause reactions leading to fire. It's essential that batteries, aerosols and other hazardous waste are not be placed in kerbside bins, but instead are taken to a drop-off centre for correct disposal.



Head to [Recycle Right 'Find My Nearest'](#) to find your nearest drop off centre for batteries and other items that can't be recycled through kerbside bins.



newsletter

WHICH BIN?

TIPS TO HELP YOU TO RECYCLE RIGHT THIS EASTER



This Easter, remember to collect Easter egg foil wrappers into a ball of at least 5cm in diameter (or about the size of a tennis ball) before popping it in your recycling bin. This way we can make sure the foil is correctly sorted by the machines that help to process our recycling as small pieces might not be picked up!

Did you know cardboard and hard plastic Easter egg packaging can be placed in your yellow-lidded Recycling bin?

For a comprehensive list of what you can take to REDcycle head to the [REDcycle website](https://www.redcycle.org.au).



Here's our top tips:

- Flatten cartons and boxes to create space in the bin
- Try to remove sticky tape where possible
- Avoid boxes covered in glitter or textiles as these cannot be recycled



Save your soft plastics from ending up in landfill or contaminating our recycling streams by collecting them up and dropping them off at a REDcycle bin in front of your local supermarket. This includes hot cross bun bags and other soft plastic packaging from your Easter sweet treats.

Bulk Verge Collection Review



We're reviewing how we manage bulk waste to make sure we're meeting community needs and working toward waste reduction targets.



We'd like to hear about your experiences of the current bulk verge collection and drop-off service, and ideas and preferences for going forward. Your input will help inform our future service provision for bulk waste.

For more information and to share your thoughts visit My Say Freo by Sunday 18 April 2021:

mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/vergereview

LIKE US ON [FACEBOOK](#) AND [INSTAGRAM](#) OR VISIT OUR [YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#) FOR MORE NEWS, TIPS AND TRICKS ON ALL THINGS WASTE, RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY!

