

## New recycling systems....new recovery opportunities

May 2025



### What's in our bins?





### FOGO

#### NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041

Mandates food waste separation

- > by 2030 all NSW households
  - Food (FO)
  - Food and garden (FOGO)





## FOGO

# APC data - 19 FOGO services 3787 hhlds

### Various Service options

Caddies

### > Bags

- FOGO weekly / fortnightly
- General waste weekly / fortnightly



	% containerised food in garbage	% food in FOGO	recovery rate
28%	13%	6%	20%
15%	14%	18%	75%
16%	13%	24%	61%
29%	14%	8%	15%
15%	11%	2%	25%
12%	8%	2.50%	34%
19%	8%	3%	22%
18%	7%	78%	37%
16%	12%		75%
20%	11%	87%	32%
16%	12%	4.4%	38%
14%	9%	4.4%	43%
15%	9%	3.5%	33%
18%	8%	21%	67%
17%	12%	9%	49%
33%	?	6%	18%
32%	8%	5%	8%
14%	14%	4%	35%
37%	1%	3%	15%

## Glass recovery bins in Victoria

#### Victoria mandated separate glass bin

- By July 2027
- > Of the 79 Vic Councils
  - 22 have introduced glass bin
  - 18 regional / rural
  - 4 metro



## Glass is getting its own bin so more of it can be recycled.







### **Glass recovery**

Glass NSW data

- General waste bin 1.5%
- Recycling bin 27%
- Recovery rate 81%



#### Current recycling composition

Remove glass = increase contamination

## **Textiles**

### Almost 80 per cent of unwanted textiles end up in landfill, a report finds

### **Current options**

1. Good quality - "wearable used clothing", linen, towels Donation - Op shops or clothing bins

2. Poor quality - "unwearable"

Recycling @ selected waste facilities for local/ OS recycling

- 3. Kerbside bins (APC data)
- > 5% in red bin + 1% in recycling bin = wish recycling
- > 20kg per hhld pa







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### Textile kerbside collection - "bag in a bin"

First kerbside clothing collection scheme in Oz by Handy Bin Services

Pilot @ Coffs Coast in 2013 and 2014 of good quality clean clothing to determine weight, volume, type, quality, contamination

Collected by truck and extracted at MRF pick line

Partnership with local Op shop – sorted saleable, export, rag, waste. 42% saleable, 35% export grade, 10% rage, 14% waste

### Textile kerbside collection - "bag in a bin"

### Learnings

- Community embraced program
- 3 bags pa x 3.7 kgs / bag = 500 T from landfill
- 50% bags in bin, 50% bags beside bin
- 10% bag breakage seams split / compaction
- 240L bins full need to upsize to 360L recycling bin
- Bags easily removed at front end MRF
- 2<sup>nd</sup> trial 360L vrs 240L recycling bins = 4kgs more / collection
- Added volume = truck re-routing required Issue
- Charities couldn't keep up with supply





## Textile recovery and reprocessing

Shoalhaven City Council - value-based end uses

Aligned to waste hierarchy: reuse, repurpose, energy recovery

**Domestic Textiles:** 252 T pa **Sources:** Clothing, bedding, towels, curtains, soft furnishings

### Pathways:

- Reuse: Saleable via charity networks or SCC's Buy-Back Shops
- Repurpose: mechanically deconstructed to manufacture:
  - > Removalist blankets, camping mats, rugs and decorative items
- **Recovery:** manufacture Process Engineered Fuel (PEF)
  - Textiles, mattresses, lounges, plastics, timbers and foams





## Bag in a bin - Soft plastics

- Currently 500,000 tonnes soft plastics landfill
- Average red bin contains 7% by wt !
- IQRenew & Curby undertook 5 years of pilot projects
- Late 2020 Curby soft plastics kerbside recycling program launched
- Using any device with a web browser to register <u>CurbyRewards.com</u>
  - Put household soft plastics into a Curby Program Bag
  - Scan the QR code using the Curby website <u>CurbyRewards.com</u>
  - Place the Curby Program bag into the yellow kerbside bin
- If bagged but not a Curby Program Bag = contamination
- 1% bag breakage





Curbcycle

## Bag in a bin - Soft plastics

- Average bag weight 550g
- Average hhold recycles every fortnight
- MRF / week –6,000 bags = 2-3 T
- 39,000 active users, across 4 NSW Councils
- Diverted 350 T of soft plastic from landfill



- IQrenew built 1<sup>st</sup> Soft Plastic Engineered Commodity (SPEC) facility @ Taree
- Mechanically sorts and processes post consumer soft plastic by:
  - > polymer type
  - > colour
  - into 3 grades pellets





Thank you

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