

Updates and Changes to the Waste Services Policy 2018 – to be called the Resource Recovery and Waste Services Policy 2023.

Changes to the policy include:

- Updates to collection frequency changes: rubbish moves to fortnightly, and FOGO moves to weekly. Recycling stays fortnightly.
- Removal of references to “optional organics bin” which will be replaced with the mandatory food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin and collection service to align with Council’s recently adopted Community Waste Resource Recovery Plan and the State Governments Recycling Victoria a New Economy Policy.
- Previously in place was an “additional garbage bin for medical reasons” which had a separate charge. This has been replaced with the provision of additional bins of each waste stream which will now be available to all residents and non-residential customers.
- Option for a smaller 120L recycling bin to be available for all properties, previously only available by request for retirement village properties or elderly people. This will benefit lower waste households and people with mobility limitations.
- Charges to change from 1 July 2023 and are applicable to new service commencement on 1 October 2023. Different service packages are available and allocated to properties based on which bin sizes and services on the property from 1 July 2023. Single bin charges also apply for individual additional bins of each stream.
- Improved wording of customer’s responsibility to notify council if services at the property do not match waste charges listed on the Rates notice. This will assist Council’s responses to customer requests.
- Alignment in terminology with Property and Rating land use definitions from The Valuation of Land Act 1960 to clearly identify properties that are residential or fit into the non-residential categories for waste services.
- Four free Recycling bins for schools, pre-schools and early learning centres have been available at no charge. This is to expand from 1 July 2024 to include FOGO bins. A limit of four ‘free’ bins are available and can be any combination of recycling or FOGO bins. This will assist with the ongoing waste avoidance, recycling and composting education of young people in our area.
- Alignment of non-residential customers (e.g., businesses, schools, churches, other non-residential organisations) collection schedule with the residential schedule.
 - This may be a significant change for some of the businesses that currently have Council’s commercial waste service with two 120L rubbish bin collections a week, moving to fortnightly will reduce to one rubbish collection a fortnight. However, the food and organic waste will be in the FOGO bin collected weekly which will help to balance this change.

- This change ensures Council is meeting its obligations to provide an equitable service to non-residential properties, creates service efficiencies for truck routes in our large municipality and avoids direct competition with commercial service providers.
- Update to public street and Park litterbin section 8 to reflect the ratio of recyclable material and the determination if material can be recycled or would need to be sent for disposal to landfill.
- A new section 9 has been added identifying the new State Government's Container Deposit Scheme and identifying that this scheme does not form part of Council's responsibilities and is not covered under this policy.
- This Policy now includes the common statement for minor and administrative changes that do not materially change the Policy and allows such changes to be approved by the CEO.

It is proposed the Policy will apply from 14 August 2023 and will be due for renewal in a shorter timeframe of 2 years (on 31 August 2025) to reflect the predicted upcoming changes which are:

- The State Government's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) implementation from November 2023 and its impact on the contents of Council's kerbside recycling collection, the street and park litter bins and a future kerbside glass service.
- Council's overdue need to improve policy for equitable and appropriate allocation of bins to sporting reserves for sporting clubs and other community organisations, and a method to recover the costs of the service.
- Introduction of a glass collection service in Yarra Ranges during 2025/2026 to increase resource recovery and meet our obligations under the Recycle Victoria, A New Economy Policy and the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021.
- Improving guidelines for planning considerations such as waste collections from private properties, from private roads and in multi-unit developments.
- Consideration of an improved system to manage shared or communal bins in multi-unit dwellings and retirement villages.
- Consideration of items and costs included in the Minimum Waste Charge and if any property types should be eligible for exclusion from this charge.