



The Australian Capital Territory

**Action Plan for  
The Australian Packaging Covenant  
2011 - 2016**

**Australian Capital Territory Government**

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## 2011– 2016 Australian Packaging Covenant Action Plan for the ACT Government

### Introduction and Executive Summary

The ACT Government recognises that waste management is an integral part of a sustainable Canberra and is an issue that affects every individual and organisation in the ACT. The ACT Government's role in regional waste management is unique in Australia as it fulfils both the roles of a Territory and a Local Government.

The Territory's long term resource recovery objectives as outlined in the *draft ACT Sustainable Waste Strategy 2010-2025* are:

1. less waste generated;
2. full resource recovery;
3. a clean environment; and a
4. carbon neutral waste sector.

The ACT Government is a signatory to the Australian Packaging Covenant ("Covenant") which it recognises as having potential to further the Territory's waste management objectives. The ACT is committed to promoting and achieving the Covenant's goals, namely:

- ensuring the design of packaging is more resource efficient and more recyclable;
- increasing the recovery and recycling of used packaging from households, businesses, at events and in public places; and
- taking action to reduce the incidence and impacts of litter.

The ACT Government is committed to the 'waste hierarchy'. The waste hierarchy is a fundamental and well-recognised principle of waste management and is embedded in the *Waste Minimisation Act 2001* (the Act). The Act provides the legal framework for the management, regulation and reduction of waste in the ACT. It directs us to avoid products becoming waste in the first place (reduce and reuse), to find alternative uses for waste (recycle and recover) and, as a last resort, to safely dispose of waste.

The Act allows for Industry Waste Reduction Plans (IWRP) and the supply of waste management services and waste disposal facilities. The key objectives of IWRP is to achieve greater producer responsibility for consumer packaging waste and to minimise the natural resources consumed in the manufacture, use, recycling and final disposal of packaging in the ACT.

The ACT Government remains focused on working closely with the community and business to implement efficient waste management solutions. The development of a sustainable community and improved resource efficiency are key commitments of the ACT Government. This is exemplified in the:

- draft ACT Sustainable Waste Strategy (replacing the *ACT No Waste 2010 Strategy*) which recognises waste as a valuable resource which, when recovered (reused, recycled or processed), reduces the need for raw materials and can help to address climate change;
- promotion of practical and educational programs to improve energy, water and resource efficiency;
- adoption and support of innovative and leading technologies to improve resource efficiency; and
- provision of an extensive and well-supported household waste collection and recycling services for the Territory.

Through a suite of initiatives, including pricing strategies, programs, services, community consultation and education, the ACT has sought to continually improved its resource recovery over the past decade. By the end of the 2009-10 financial year, over 70% of all waste generated in the ACT was being diverted from landfill for reuse and recycling. The new waste strategy outlines actions to increase resource recovery to 80% by 2015 and over 90% by 2025.

The ACT currently has an established and well supported household recyclables collection service (yellow top bin). When combined with resource recovery centres, garden waste drop off facilities and other niche recycling services, the current waste management system in the ACT promote a low cost and effective approach to diverting a large proportion of dry recyclables and green waste from landfill. The Government will maintain this highly effective system.

The ACT Government will continue to provide a high-quality kerbside recycling collection service for the ACT residents and will look for opportunities to actively increase resource recovery in all sectors.

The ACT Government has been working to improve the recovery of commercial waste through programs and facilitations of infrastructure provision. Two examples of this are the ACTSmart Business and Office programs and the establishment of a Material Recovery Facility for mixed dry commercial wastes (Commercial MRF).

The following summary outlines the main actions that the ACT Government will take with regard to packaging waste. These actions are linked to targets and quantifiable Key Performance Indicators that shall be reported annually to the Covenant.

**Terms of Action Plan**

The ACT Government Action Plan for the Australian Packaging Covenant covers the first five (5) years of the Covenant (2011-2016). The ACT Action Plan addresses the Covenant commitments and outlines the actions that we will undertake in order to meet our obligations in supporting the Covenant goals, namely Design, Recycling and Product stewardship.

Performance against three goals will be evaluated and reported annually as outlined below. Progress against targets will be monitored and, quantitative data will be used where available.

Goals, Outcomes and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)			Reporting	
Priority Area	Actions	Target	Performance indicators	MONITORING AND REVIEW
<p><b>1. Design:</b> optimise packaging to achieve resource efficiency and reduce environmental impact without compromising product quality and safety.</p>	<p>Implement "Sustainable Procurement" throughout the ACT Government to support products with more sustainable packaging and avoid packaging where possible.</p> <p>Include Sustainable Procurement as an element in action plans of ACTSmart Business and Office recycling program (ACTSmart) participants.</p> <p>Ban on single-use plastic shopping bags.</p>	<p>All ACT Government procurement contracts include Sustainable Procurement Criteria by 2016</p> <p>Number of accredited ACTSmart participants</p> <p>2011 100 2012 150 2013 200</p> <p>This program not funded past 12/13</p> <p>Plastic bag ban enforced by November 2011.</p>	<p>Number of registered ACTSmart participants</p> <p>Number of infringement notices issued under the PSBB Act 2010.</p>	<p>ACTSmart participants will be audited annually, with advice provided regarding Sustainable Procurement procedures and practices.</p> <p>Number of accredited ACTSmart participants will be reported each year.</p> <p>Review PSBB Act in 2013-14</p>
<p><b>2. Recycling:</b></p>	<p>Facilitate the construction of a</p>	<p>2011 Negotiate contract with</p>	<p>Progress of the</p>	<p>The amount of waste</p>

<p>The efficient collection and recycling of packaging</p>	<p>Material Recovery Facility for mixed dry commercial waste (commercial MRF) in the ACT</p> <p>Improve workplace recycling through the ACTSmart program.</p> <p>ACTSmart Public Event 12 month trial in 2011 to provide recycling facilities at public events.</p> <p>Implement public place recycling (PPR) in Civic (Canberra's CBD). Assess the PPR program and consider the wider installation of public place recycling systems thought out the ACT.</p> <p>Investigate the provision of a mixed residual waste Material Recovery Facility (residual MRF) in the ACT.</p> <p>Develop markets for recyclable materials in the ACT.</p>	<p>preferred supplier of Commercial MRF</p> <p>2012 construction of Commercial MRF underway</p> <p>2013 Commercial MRF is operational.</p> <p>Number of accredited ACTSmart participants (as above)</p> <p>Major events held in the ACT have public event recycling in place subject to a successful trial and funding.</p> <p>Public place recycling implemented in Civic by 2012. PPR Program evaluated 2014. Decision made of further public place recycling 2015.</p> <p>Government decision made on the provision of the residual MRF by 2014.</p> <p>Continued operation of Materials Recovery Facility receiving dry recyclables from households and commercial customers.</p>	<p>Commercial MRF development.</p> <p>Tonnes of material recovered by the Commercial MRF.</p> <p>Number of accredited ACT Smart participants (as above).</p> <p>Average reduction in waste to landfill from ACTSmart participants from accreditation.</p> <p>Tonnes and/or volume of material recovered by ACTSmart participants.</p> <p>Number of events providing public event recycling vs. total number of events.</p> <p>Cubic meters of material recovered from events with recycling.</p> <p>Tonnes of commercial waste to landfill in the ACT.</p> <p>Total material recovered in the ACT.</p>	<p>generated in the ACT is estimated via the annual Resource Recovery Surveys. Waste to landfill is measured continuously over the weighbridges at the Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres and is classified by sector.</p> <p>Population is determined by the ABS census every four years. Estimates of population are made in the intervening years.</p> <p>The ACTSmart Business and Office programs provide assistance and accreditation for efficient waste management and recycling for businesses and offices. Organisations provide pre-program and post-program data on waste and recycling volumes.</p> <p>Waste streams include organics, mixed recyclable, cardboard, secure, paper, and landfill. Data is recorded by each organisation on a pre-program audit and a post-program audit. Provision of the audits may vary from one</p>
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			<p>Total material landfilled in the ACT.</p>	<p>organisation to the next. This means statistical information may not be available for the calendar year.</p> <p>The ACTSmart database generates statistics such as waste stream percentages pre and post program, number of staff who have access to the programs, number of organisations participating in the programs, reduction of waste-to-landfill and increases in recycling.</p> <p>Operation of domestic collection services and MRF will be monitored on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p><b>3. Product Stewardship:</b> A commitment to Product stewardship by the supply chain and other signatories</p>	<p>Support the EPHC product stewardship framework.</p>	<p>Implement National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme in the ACT</p>	<p>Number of TV's and computers directed to recyclers (each year)</p> <p>Tonnes of e-waste diverted to recyclers (each year)</p>	<p>Record numbers received at ACT Government collection points and tonnes sent to recycling.</p>
<p><b>4. Action to reduce the incidence and impact of litter</b></p>	<p>Public place recycling (see above) Event recycling (see above)</p>	<p>Amount of litter audit steady or falling. Retain top place in Australian city rankings for litter quantities.</p>	<p>Litter incidence Tonnes of material collected by litter sweepers.</p>	<p>2011 APC Audits of contents of bins and street sweepings in Civic, Manuka and Kingston.</p>

	<p>Manage litter through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• placement of conventional litter bins in public place</li><li>• mechanical sweeping</li><li>• handpicking</li></ul> <p>Trial composting of litter sweepings.</p>			<p>Data from National litter audits.</p> <p>Data from trial of litter sweepings composting.</p>
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