

# Case study: Bayside Community Recycling Innovation Hub

**COUNCIL NAME**

Bayside Council

**WEB ADDRESS**

[bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://bayside.nsw.gov.au)

**SIZE**

50 square kilometres

**POPULATION**

156,058

## Overview

Bayside Council's Community Recycling Drop Off events allow residents the opportunity to drop off items at two locations, over 22 annual events. The program is continuously improving, including the list of materials that are accepted for recycling. It is estimated that Council received approximately 44 tonnes at the drop off events, and achieved a high rate of recovery. A recycling innovation hub is being developed and has been resurfaced with Reconophalt, a new asphalt product that incorporates recycled materials like soft plastics, glass, toner from used cartridges and reclaimed asphalt.



## Background

Council knew that the convenience of kerbside clean-up dates was an issue based on customer feedback. Analysis of the types of illegally dumped waste confirmed that some residents were having difficulty adhering to clean up dates and correct disposal practices. The clean-up processors highlighted the difficulty of recovering compacted materials from the clean-up stream.

The Community Recycling Drop Off events are a major initiative under Action 2 of Council's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy 2030: Recovering Resources. The use of recycled content Reconophalt also falls under Action 2 through supporting and championing innovative projects to increase resource recovery.

## Implementation

As a recently amalgamated Council, it is important to increase the level of service provided to the community and services provide safety and convenience to new residents, as well as residents of both former Councils.

Council aimed to improve its resource recovery by providing more options for recycling. Compaction of materials reduces the ease with which materials can be recycled. Additionally, there are some materials that residents wanted to see recycled that can't currently be collected as part of kerbside services.

Recovering unacceptable materials through drop off events results in less illegal dumping, kerbside contamination and higher resource recovery. To control residents sneaking in commercial quantities of waste, there are limits on what a resident can bring in per drop off.

Recycling processors have flagged insufficient markets for recycled products as a major reason for increased processing costs and reduced resource recovery. Council's objective was to find markets within Council for buying recycled content products.

## Outcomes

Bayside Council has increased the level of service provided to the community to 22 events per year held on Saturdays for resident convenience. In the first quarter of 2019, 544 visitors dropped off approximately 44 tonnes to these events, with approximately 39 tonnes recovered (90%). It is anticipated that over 160 tonnes will be dropped off in 12 months, with further growth expected as popularity builds.

Council officers have referred residents to the drop off events when they enquire about how to recycle or dispose of an unwanted item. Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations Officers are now able to educate residents that have incorrectly placed materials on the kerbside outside of clean updates, that they should bring the material along to the next drop off event and the residents agree to do this.

The amount of recycled material used in Reconophalt asphalt product is equivalent to 314,558 plastic bags, 25,882 glass bottles and 7,142 toner cartridges. While other councils have recently trialled the use of AC10 Reconophalt on public roads, this use of the heavy duty AC14 Reconophalt is a NSW first. Council anticipates that it will provide market confidence and encourage other governments at all levels and industry stakeholders to use recycled materials in civil works projects.

## Key Learnings

As all residents don't access information in the same way, promotion of events needs to be implemented through various means (waste app, website, guides, recycling calendar). Waste education and regulation staff participate in the drop off event program to help promote and educate residents on the program. This is a useful tool in combating incorrect waste behaviour.

Residents often still bring materials to the event that are not accepted. Providing information on how they can dispose of these materials correctly helps avoid customer dissatisfaction and prevents illegal dumping. Having a red card traffic management officer at events means traffic control plans can be safely changed immediately before or during an event without compromising resident satisfaction or safety.

Continuous infrastructure improvements to the depot will ensure the depot is able to cope with increases in drop off event use as the events become more popular and more materials are accepted. This should help improve the types of accepted material based on available markets, operational requirements and community needs.

## Contact

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This project was the 2019 winner of the Community Waste Services Award at the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards