

WASTE & RECYCLING FACT SHEET 2010

National Waste Report 2010

- 43 777 000 tonnes of waste were generated in Australia in 2006–07 including construction, industry and municipal waste. Only 52 per cent of this total waste was recycled.
- Per capita, Australia generated around 2.08 tonnes of waste in 2006–07, of which 1.08 tonnes was recycled.
- In 2009, 98% of Australian households with access to kerbside *reported* recycling some waste in the previous 12 months, and 86% had re-used waste during that period.
- In all, 99% of households *reported* engaging in some form of re-use or recycling, yet waste figures *show* that Australians recycle only 40 per cent of our municipal solid waste.
- A national survey found that only 52% of people have access to recycling facilities for plastic, steel, aluminium cans and glass at their workplace, but that 79% of employees would like to see more recycling bins for plastic packaging in the workplace and 77% would like more paper recycling bins.
- Another national survey in 2009, found that 89% of respondents said it was important to be able to recycle in the workplace in the same way as at home.
- The recycling and waste sector is valued at between \$7 billion and \$11.5 billion.

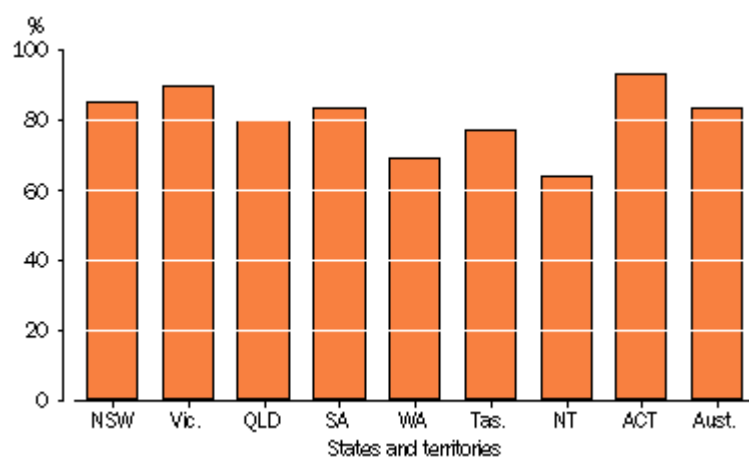
ABS Social Trends Report 2010

In 2007–08, the vast majority (84%) of Australians sorted out recyclable from non-recyclable waste all or most of the time. Overall, young adults (18–24 years) were the least likely to sort out recyclable waste (74%) compared with other age groups.

The proportion of those who reported sorting out recyclable from non-recyclable waste varied across the states and territories. The NT and WA had the lowest rates of recycling (64% and 69% respectively), whilst ACT had the highest reported recycled rates at 93%. The other rates reported included VIC (90%), NSW (86%), SA (83%) QLD (81%) and TAS (78%).

These differences were partially driven by differences in the availability of local waste collection services. In major cities, 97% of adults reported that they had recyclable waste collection services in their local area, compared with 65% in outer regional areas and 32% in remote areas.

PROPORTION OF ADULTS WHO SORTED OUT RECYCLABLE WASTE ALL OR MOST OF THE TIME, BY STATE OR TERRITORY - 2007-08



Source: ABS 2007-08 Environmental Views and Behaviour Survey

Keep Australia National Litter Index

Findings from the Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index 08/09 show non-specific litter produced the most litter by volume, followed by beverage containers at 32.2% of the total litter stream. Cigarette butts produce the most litter by item, followed by non-specified litter and beverage containers ranking third at 6.2%.

	% Items	% by Volume
Beverage	6.2%	32.2%
Not specified	44.4%	62.56%
Food	0.6%	0.4%
Tobacco	47.3%	0.04%
Publication	0.9%	4.6%
Retail	0.6%	0.2%
Total	100%	100.0%

Beverage Container Recycling

Australians consume more than 11 billion containers annually. Around 512,000 tonnes of these ends up in landfill.

Around 90% of households have access to kerbside recycling, with an average of 78% of the beverage containers we use at home recovered for recycling. The breakdown is:

- Glass - 76%
- Aluminium - 85%
- PET plastic - 75%

The challenge for beverage container recycling comes when people are out and about, with an average recovery rate of around 24%.

- Glass - 22%
- Aluminium - 32%
- PET plastic - 18%

Source: Australian Beverage Packaging Consumption, Recovery and Recycling Quantification Study - Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd

Quick Facts

- Recycling 1 aluminium can saves 3 litres of water, 187 grams of carbon and energy to boil 30 cups of tea.
- Recycling 1 glass bottle saves 400ml of water, 83g of carbon and enough energy to boil water for 11 cups of tea.
- 41 recycled plastic bottles represent enough energy savings to run a refrigerator for an hour. To run for a month it requires a tonne of plastics to be recycled.

Source: www.lgsa-plus.net