

Australia

Australia has made circular economy a priority of the **National Waste Policy 2018 and the National Waste Action Plan 2019** with several ambitious targets for reducing waste and waste to landfill by **2030. The National Waste Policy outlines the five key principles for waste management that will** enable Australia to transition to a circular economy. These include: to avoid waste, to improve resource recovery, to increase the use of recycled materials and build demand and markets for recycled products, to better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy and to improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

The 2019 **National Waste Action Plan** drives the implementation of seven ambitious targets, including: to regulate waste exports, to reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030, to recover 80% of all waste by 2030, to significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry, to phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025, to halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030 and to provide data to support better decisions.

Supporting the ambitious goals, the Australian government has established a **Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF)** which is a national initiative that is expanding Australia's capacity to sort, process and remanufacture glass, plastic, tyres, paper and cardboard.

The **National Plastics Plan** of 2021 outlines Australia's approach to increase plastic recycling, find alternatives to unnecessary plastics and reduce the impact of plastic on the environment.

Australia has instituted **product stewardship schemes and priorities** for several products including a mandatory scheme for oil, co-regulatory arrangements for TV's, computers, packaging and plastics and Government Accredited industry-led voluntary schemes for mobile phones, tyres, large plastic bags, batteries, and aluminium cladding.

Australia regularly produces a **National Waste Report** providing data and information on Australia's waste generation, recovery and fate for all waste streams and various material categories by state and territory and on a per capita basis.

The national policy efforts are complementary to the various initiatives of Australia's State and Territory governments to reduce waste, improve the management of end-of-life materials and resource recovery and to drive towards a circular economy. All levels of government are working together to achieve the waste reduction, recycling and circular economy outcomes at national, State, and community levels.

In 2022 Australia's Environment Ministers agreed **to work with the private sector to design out waste and pollution, keep materials in use and foster markets to achieve a circular economy by 2030.** Fostering recycling, reducing waste and clean energy is also a focus of the Australian government's National Reconstruction Fund, a 15-billion-dollar investment in manufacturing, creating jobs, to grow local capacity and rebuild Australia's industrial base.

In 2022, the Australian Environment Minister announced the establishment of a **ministerial advisory group for the circular economy** to inform the minister about the regulatory, commercial and other barriers to a more circular economy, to identify best practice initiatives that show promise for adoption and expansion in Australia, to foster circular economy research, development and innovation needs and to enable the effective measurement and communication about progress towards Australia's circular economy.