

The Macedon Ranges are now even greener!

YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLING AND WASTE DISPOSAL



The Macedon Ranges have never **bin** better!



We've made our bin collection better,
and as a result the Macedon Ranges are
NOW EVEN GREENER.



moving towards **ZERO WASTE** page 2

In line with Council's environmental policy and the State Government's **Toward Zero Waste** strategy, it is our goal to reduce waste generation and increase recycling, while making our services more reliable and easier to use. We are dedicated to ensuring we live in a greener environment, which is why we now provide a more **complete** recycling service.



Recycling is a very environmentally-friendly activity. However, there are ways that you can make it even **greener**. By using your yellow recycling bin, your green garden bin (if you have one), and the free Green Drop service at Council Transfer Stations, you will significantly reduce your impact on the environment.

An amazing 65% of recyclable materials and garden organics goes into landfill across Victoria. Currently only 35% of material collected in the shire is recycled, and a further 20–30% could be diverted for recycling purposes.

By recycling, you are helping to save water and energy usage, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. You are also helping to close the loop – recyclable items are put back into the system and processed into new items, making better use of our resources.

By separating your disposables into different bins at home (garbage, recyclables and garden organics), you prevent cross-contamination, which destroys everyone's recycling efforts. **One contaminated bin can consign the entire truck load to landfill.**

We've improved our waste line!

THERE ARE NOW THREE BINS

Garbage for non-recyclable general waste;
Recycling for bottles, containers, jars, cartons, paper, cardboard and cans; and
Garden (designated areas only) for lawn clippings, twigs, leaves and non-noxious weeds.

PLUS there is now a **FREE** Green Drop service at Council Transfer Stations.



Organic waste in landfill

If you have a lawn, a hedge, a veggie patch, flowers, shrubs or trees at home, then you produce recyclable organic materials. Organic garden material is the highest, single recyclable product found in our domestic garbage stream. It can be composted and converted into mulch and wood chips for parks and gardens.

To understand our waste stream, Council conducts audits of garbage truck contents from collections in the shire. These audits indicate that 8–20% of every truck load is comprised of recyclable garden materials.

In landfill, organic waste decomposes anaerobically (without oxygen) and this produces methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Organic materials also contribute to landfill leakage which contaminates ground water systems.

By diverting garden organics from landfill into recycling, the material is composted aerobically (with oxygen), and therefore does not produce as much greenhouse gas. It also helps keep our groundwater clean and healthy.

How recycling saves you money

Did you know that you can help keep your annual landfill levy down by recycling more?

The more we recycle, the less money Council must pay to the State Government for waste going into landfill. This will minimise increases in your landfill levy, which is a separate charge on your annual rates notice.

A new and more reliable collection service

We have gone out of our way to ensure we provide the best, most reliable and greenest service possible. We have engaged contractor **Wheelie Waste** to collect garbage, recyclables and garden organics from households across the shire. One of the benefits of this new service is that we are now able to offer a NEW garden organics collection to designated residential areas, and to extend our garbage and recycling service to rural areas across the shire.

Wheelie Waste is an Australian-owned and operated company, based in regional Victoria, which specialises in large-scale waste collection in rural and regional municipalities. Wheelie Waste prides itself on its level of service, having never missed a scheduled collection day in the history of the company. They employ local people, use local industry and contractors wherever possible, and have a large operational base in Woodend.

Council is also streamlining maintenance of current bins and, as part of the new service, there will be a more rapid turnaround for the repair or replacement of damaged bins.

To report a damaged bin, call 1800 999 690.



Wheelie Waste is the contractor for rubbish and recycling collection across the Macedon Ranges.



garbage bin

collected weekly



NO

- X garden clippings
- X syringes
- X paint or solvents
- X building materials
- X pesticides, oils or chemicals
- X recyclables



Your 140 litre garbage bin with a red or dark green lid is for all general household waste that you have identified as non-recyclable, and is collected every week. If you already have a garbage bin with a green lid this will remain the same.

Garbage Bin Guidelines

- Bins will not be collected if rubbish is overflowing.
- Bins will not be collected if they weigh more than 40kg.
- Bins will not be collected if they contain any of the following: hot ashes, tree stumps, liquids such as oil and paint, large pieces of metal or stone, and building materials.
- Rubbish left beside your bin will not be collected.

YES

- ✓ household garbage or food waste
- ✓ nappies (wrapped)
- ✓ polystyrene and foam trays
- ✓ broken glassware and crockery
- ✓ broken mirrors, light bulbs and glass



The Macedon Ranges Shire Council also accepts larger quantities of garbage at our Transfer Stations. Please visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au or contact Council Customer Service on 5422 0333 for more details.



recycling bin

collected fortnightly



NO

- X plastic bags, wraps or packaging
- X household garbage or food waste
- X broken glass or ceramics
- X polystyrene or foam trays
- X clothing or shoes
- X garden organics
- X syringes



Your 240 litre recycling bin with a yellow lid is for all recyclable plastics, paper, cardboard and glass and is collected fortnightly, on the alternate week to your green garden bin (if you have one).

Recycling Bin Guidelines

- Recyclables are sorted at a materials recovery facility. To enable sorting, recyclable material must be loose, not bagged or tied in bundles.
- Recyclables discarded in plastic bags are difficult to sort and ultimately end up in landfill – a waste of all your effort.
- Make your effort count and place items loosely in the recycling bin.
- Look for the plastic recycling code on the container.
- Plastic bags and soft plastics such as chip packets cannot be recycled.

YES

- ✓ steel cans including aerosol and aluminium cans, aluminium foil and pie trays
- ✓ milk, juice and egg cartons
- ✓ cardboard boxes, cereal and food boxes
- ✓ junk mail, flyers, brochures, newspapers and magazines, telephone books, school and office papers, envelopes
- ✓ glass bottles and jars (including lids)
- ✓ plastic containers and bottles with codes



Why use a recycling bin?

It takes a long time for recyclable material to decompose in landfill. For example, glass and aluminium can take up to 4,000 years to decompose, yet they can be recycled indefinitely and significantly reduce the cost to the earth. Recycling a single plastic bottle saves anything from 100 to 1000 years in landfill, but also saves the environment from the emissions in producing new bottles. For every one ton of plastic that is recycled we save the equivalent of two people's energy use for one year, and the amount of water used by one person in two months.

Council also accepts larger quantities of sorted recyclables at our Transfer Stations for free. For more details phone 5422 0333.



garden bin

collected fortnightly



NO

- ✗ rose prunings
- ✗ garden pots
- ✗ food waste
- ✗ soiled items
- ✗ building materials
- ✗ animal faeces



The 240 litre dark green garden bin with the light green lid is for all approved garden organics. This bin is collected on the alternate fortnight to your recycling bin (yellow lid).

Garden Bin Guidelines

- Place the correct type of garden material into your bin. This ensures that the entire truck load is not contaminated and taken to landfill.
- Do not put kitchen waste in your garden bin. This rots and putrefies, producing bacteria which are harmful to the treatment process.
- Place grass clippings near the top of the bin to make it easier to empty and stop them sticking to the bottom of your bin.
- Shake the soil off any plants, grass or weeds.
- Cut up branches and prunings so they fit easily.
- For a more efficient composting process, cut branches and prunings as small as possible, and mix them with your softer vegetation – such as leaves, weeds and grass clippings.
- Branches should be less than 3cm in diameter and no longer than 30cm.

YES

- ✓ grass clippings
- ✓ flowers
- ✓ small twigs and branches
- ✓ non-noxious weeds



Why use a garden bin?

Your garden bin gives you an easy, convenient, environmentally-friendly way to dispose of your garden materials without having to put them in your garbage bin, take them to a transfer station, or burn them off (which is damaging to the environment).

Every recyclable garden item put in your garden bin is one less piece of waste going to landfill – this saves you money AND protects the environment. Organics that go into landfill contribute to the annual landfill levy you pay to the State Government (as part of your rates notice).

Garden organics in landfill also create unnecessary greenhouse gas, as they don't have the oxygen to decompose as nature intended. By being an active garden organics recycler you are playing an important role in protecting the environment.

You can do even more for the environment by also recycling and composting organic materials at home. Turn the page for more information and ideas.



garden recycling and composting

FREE Green Drop at Transfer Stations!

As part of our commitment to recycling green garden material, from 1 October 2011 Council is also providing a free Green Drop service at all Council Transfer Stations – 12 months of the year.

The FREE Green Drop service does not include the types of waste collected from the green garden bins. It covers larger, woody item such as branches and thicker prunings that can be turned into wood chips.

A cleaner, more complete garden recycling system

When you put your garden organics out for collection in your green garden bin, or take larger items to a Council Transfer Station, they are converted into green products which enhance biodiversity and reduce water use. Everything is carefully treated and processed to become either compost, mulch, soil enhancers or horticulture products.



Every year, Victorians throw out enough food waste to fill the MCG three times! Up to 50% of the contents of the average household rubbish bin could be composted at home.

We encourage all residents to take up composting as a very effective way to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The best form of waste reduction certainly starts at home – and it's easy!

Items you can compost at home include

- Fruit and vegetable peelings
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Flowers and grass cuttings
- Cardboard and egg cartons
- Straw and hay
- Shredded paper
- Garden prunings
- Natural fibre clothing (wool and cotton)

Composting is nature's way of recycling

Composting puts your waste to work. It is an efficient and environmentally-friendly way to reduce the amount of waste that you put into your rubbish bin. Composting has many benefits:

- It greatly improves the health and fertility of soil, including its ability to retain moisture.
- It is a fantastic fertiliser for your garden, vegetable patch and pot plants.
- It saves limited space in landfill sites and reduces greenhouse gas emissions (methane).
- It reduces the cost of rubbish disposal.

A good compost bin must have a balance of nitrogen (green) and carbon (brown) materials, which are ideally added in layers. When you add kitchen scraps and garden to cover them with a layer of paper, straw or sawdust to break the materials down quickly and to keep away flies.

Not everything can be composted – keep out meat, dairy and weeds.

Worm farms

If you don't have a lot of space, a worm farm is a fun and easy way to recycle, with the added bonus of creating a valuable fertiliser for your garden. Worm farms are a particularly good way for recycling food scraps and can be purchased from most hardware stores – or you can easily build your own.



important information

Please prevent street litter

Ensure that your bins are not overflowing and that the bin lids are properly closed so contents cannot fall out. Excess recyclables or garden waste placed beside your bins will not be collected.

Damaged, missing or uncollected bins

Please check your bins regularly for worn or damaged hinge pins, lids or wheels. If repairs are required, we will carry them out free of charge and aim to do so within three working days. **To report a damaged bin, please phone the Council's contractor, Wheelie Waste, on 1800 999 690.**

Waste and recycling bins remain the property of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and must not be taken from the property when relocating. **If your bin goes missing, please inform Wheelie Waste on 1800 999 690.** Council will require a statutory declaration for missing or stolen bins.

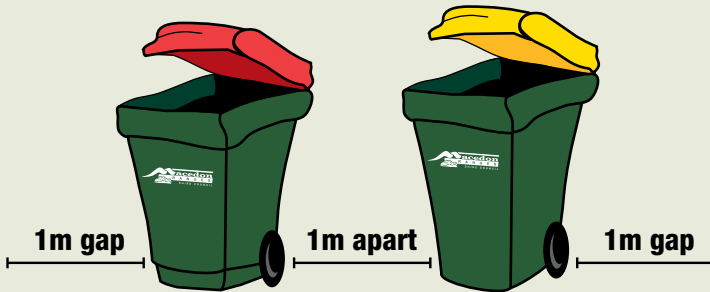
If your bin was not collected, first check that you put it out on time on the right day, positioned it correctly (see below) and that the bin is not contaminated or overloaded. If you are confident of all of these things, then contact 1800 999 690 to arrange collection.

Putting your bins out correctly

To ensure your bins are collected, please place them correctly every time:

- Make sure your bins are ready by 6am or the night before your collection day.
- Place bins close to the road in a safe location with the handles facing towards your property.
- Place your bins at least one metre apart.
- Don't overfill your bin – the lid must close with no obstructions on top.
- Ensure bins are not obstructed by a parked vehicle on the day of collection.
- Do not place your bin under or close to a tree, power pole, street sign or fire hydrant. Leave a one metre gap from any large obstructions.

Leave a one metre gap from any obstructions.



Place bins close to the road with the handles facing towards your property.

Christmas and Public Holidays

Bins will not be collected on Good Friday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but will be collected the following day (even if it is a weekend). Bin collection dates will not change for other public holidays.

Code Red Fire danger days

Council will not provide a collection service on Code Red days – your bins will be collected from these areas as soon as possible after the Code Red downgrade, even if this occurs on the weekend.

Other types of waste

Council Transfer Stations accept a wide range of hard and electronic waste, including scrap metal, whitegoods, batteries, engine oil and computer items.

Sharps containers for syringes can be obtained from Council by calling 5422 0333. These can be filled and returned to Council offices for safe disposal.

For more information about how to recycle or dispose of specific items, see our A-Z Guide to Waste and Recycling on our website, www.mrsc.vic.gov.au



Contact details

Damaged, missing or uncollected bins

Wheelie Waste 1800 999 690

Council Customer Service

Macedon Ranges Shire Council
PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444

Phone enquiries:

From within the shire: (03) 5422 0333 or 1300 656 577

From outside the shire: (03) 5422 0333

Fax: (03) 5422 3623

Email: mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au

www.mrsc.vic.gov.au

Transfer Stations

Kyneton Transfer Station

140 Redesdale Road, Kyneton

Romsey Transfer Station

21 Johnston Court, Romsey

Woodend Transfer Station

149 Quarry Road, Woodend



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