



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kerbside Waste Audit 2025 – Macedon Ranges Shire Council

BACKGROUND

In July 2025, Macedon Ranges Shire Council engaged Sustainable Solutions Now (SSN) to conduct a kerbside bin audit to measure waste performance, contamination, and household behaviours. The audit covered 250 properties across landfill, recycling, FOGO, and glass streams in randomly selected areas of Macedon over two weeks. In total, 3,206 kilograms (23,269 litres) of material was audited.

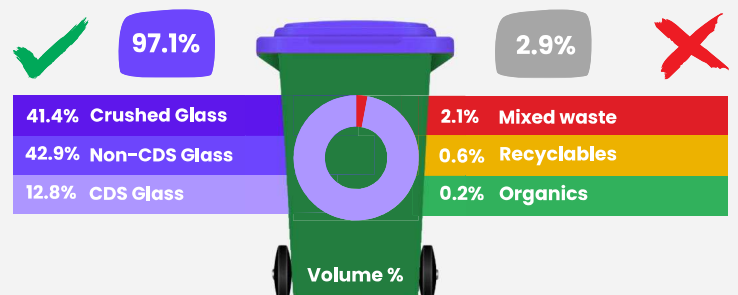
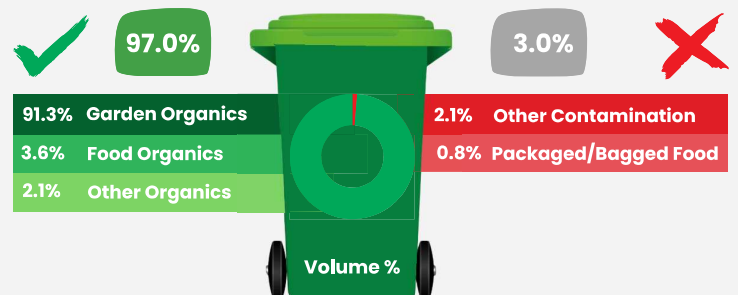
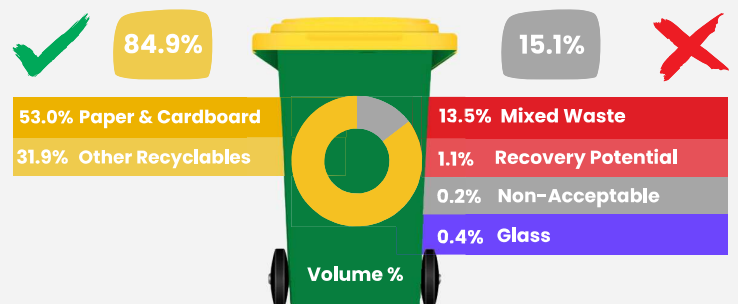
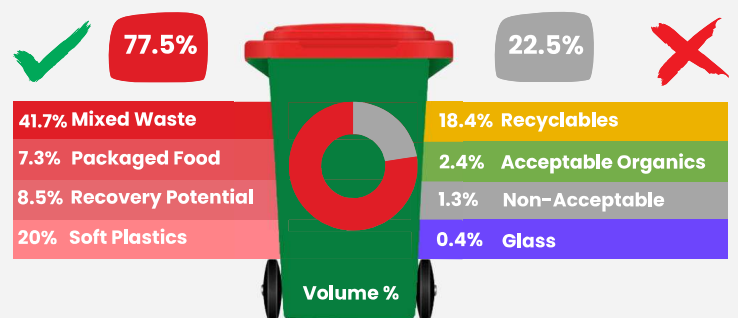
SCOPE & OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives were to:

- Analyse the composition of landfill, recycling, FOGO, and glass bins to identify key material streams and their distribution
- Measure contamination levels in recycling, FOGO, and glass bins to assess separation practices
- Identify organics, recyclables, soft plastics, e-waste, and other recoverables in landfill bins
- Provide data-driven insights to support behaviour change campaigns that increase diversion rates and reduce landfill reliance

RESULTS

The figures on the right summarise bin content by volume, with the following page outlining each stream and overall trends compared to the 2024 audit.





Landfill Stream

Households dispose an average of 6.4 kg (59L) into the landfill bin each week. Of this, 84.5% by weight (77.5% by volume) is considered acceptable landfill waste. In 2024, the corresponding figures were 82.8% by weight and 68.5% by volume, indicating a reduction in recoverable materials being discarded. Packaged food waste accounts for 14% by weight, with potential for source separation into the organics bin if de-packaged. Recyclables make up almost 7% by weight and 18.4% by volume, while acceptable organics represent 6.1% by weight and 2.4% by volume. Non-acceptable kerbside waste, including hazardous items, comprises around 1.8% by weight (down from 2.3% in 2024) and 1.3% by volume.



Recycling Stream

Households dispose an average of 3.2 kg (76L) into the recycling bin each week. Of this, 75% by weight (85% by volume) is considered acceptable recycling, compared to 75% by weight and 86% by volume in 2024. Paper and cardboard dominate the stream, accounting for 51% by weight and 53% by volume. Landfill material makes up around 21% by weight and 14.5% by volume. Glass comprises 2.7% by weight, up from 1.3% in 2024, while non-kerbside-acceptable material accounts for 0.7% by weight, roughly half the proportion compared to 2024.



Organics Stream (FOGO)

Households dispose an average of 16 kg (128L) into the organics bin each week. Of this, 95.5% by weight (97% by volume) is considered acceptable, compared to 97.5% by weight and 96% by volume in 2024, indicating a slight contamination increase. Packaged and incorrectly bagged food waste accounts for 2% by weight, 2.4% by weight is general waste, and recyclables account for 0.1% by weight. No hazardous items were found in the organics stream.



Glass Stream

Households dispose an average of 3.6 kg (7.6L) into the glass bin each week. Of this, 98.3% by weight (97% by volume) is considered acceptable. Contamination consists of 2.1% mixed waste, 0.6% recycling, and 0.2% organics by volume. No glass stream audit was conducted in 2024 for comparison.



Soft Plastics

In 2024, when the [soft plastics roll-out](#) in orange bags (recoverable) had just begun, 1.25 kg of soft plastics in orange bags were collected across 125 recycling bins, averaging 10 g per household per week. In 2025, 10.6 kg were collected across 250 recycling bins, averaging 20 g per household per week: double the 2024 amount, indicating greater uptake. Bagged soft plastics accounted for 0.7% by weight of the total recycling stream (up from 0.16% in 2024), with a contamination of 2.3% by weight. Based on the weekly household average, this program recovers approximately 20 tonnes of soft plastics in orange bags across the Shire annually. On the other hand, loose (unrecoverable) soft plastics in the landfill bin decreased to 5.4% by weight, down from 6.6% in 2024, while loose soft plastics in the recycling bin rose to 1.4% by weight, up from 1.0% in 2024.



CDS Containers

On average, 0.6% of the landfill bin content, 3.8% of the recycling bin content and almost 20% of the glass bin content by weight is CDS containers (10c bottles and cans). Across Macedon's households, this equates to 8.3 million CDS containers per year, or eight (8) containers per household per week.



Batteries and Vapes

Batteries accounted for 0.08% by weight in the landfill bin and 0.01% in the recycling bin in 2024. In 2025, this increased to 0.1% in landfill and 0.09% in recycling, indicating a rise in improper disposal. Across the 500 bins audited, 129 batteries and 11 vapes were recorded, which equates to over 260,000 batteries and vapes disposed of in household bins across the Shire annually. Incorrect disposal of these items poses a fire hazard, highlighting the safety risk associated with batteries and vapes entering the kerbside waste stream.



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council