

Managing waste in the Commercial and Industrial sector

Whether you're a big business or a sole operator, the decisions your business makes from purchasing through to disposal have an impact on Tasmania's environment and on the wellbeing of future generations.

Good waste management practices also improve the efficiency of landfills, recycling and resource recovery services across the state and your efforts can be promoted as a source of competitive advantage to attract and retain like-minded customers. You may also find ways to reduce your business operating costs or generate new sources of income.

Here are some simple steps to help your business rethink waste...

1. Assess what waste your business generates

Write down the different waste types generated and where each goes. Does your general garbage contain recyclables, hazardous materials or organics that could be managed better?

Common commercial and industrial sector waste includes:

General garbage: waste that cannot be recycled, reused or sold second hand. Includes polystyrene; some soft plastics; cigarette butts; broken crockery; and tissues.

Recyclables: items that can be converted into new materials and objects via commercial or government services. Includes glass, paper, cardboard, some plastics and metal.

Hazardous materials: waste with properties that make them dangerous to human health or the environment. Includes computers and printers (components can also be recycled), medical waste, tyres, and toxic substances such as acetone and hydrogen peroxide.

Organics: waste that is biodegradable or compostable. Includes food scraps, lawn clippings, leaf litter, fish and dairy by-products, coffee grinds and tea bags.

Most Preferable



Least Preferable

2. Look for ways to minimise waste

Once you understand what kind of waste your business generates, review the waste management ladder to determine how individual waste items or entire waste streams may be moved up the steps.

Consider your supply chain too and engage providers with good waste management practices.

Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid purchasing products with excess packaging. - Avoid single use items such as disposable cups, bottled water and plastic wrap and bags. - Design products and processes to avoid generating waste.
Reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider changing a project's scope or the operating procedures of your business so that waste is reduced. - Can your product packaging be redesigned to be made lighter or made from recycled materials? - Can your products and processes be redesigned to minimise waste and maximise their recyclable components?
Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider if the by-products of your operations could be used as an input to another company's production line. - Rather than throwing out used stationery items, take a few minutes to salvage them so they can be reused. - Waste items in good condition can be sold or donated via online resale sites, Council tip shops, charitable organisations, Men's Sheds and community gardens. - Consider if products with faults can be reused in part or in whole rather than being sent to landfill. - Design products with reuse in mind. - Consider how you could reuse supply boxes.
Recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rather than throwing waste into a single garbage bin, place separate bins in your workplace to sort items into recyclable components for collection. - Design products that incorporate recycled materials and can be recycled.

3. Ensure your business is set up with the right waste management equipment and processes

Start by writing a waste management plan with your staff and suppliers to ensure that your business identifies and improves as many different waste sources as possible.

You can also consider having a Waste Reduction Assessment completed for your business with the help of a consultant or seek accreditation in a waste minimisation program relevant to your industry.

Consider:

- equipment such as bin types and sizes
- processes for purchasing
- protective equipment for workers handling or sorting waste
- signage and education requirements
- staff incentives and
- what can be managed in-house versus what may need to be outsourced.

RETHINK...

Search online for Commercial and Industrial Waste Management Plans to find time-saving templates and checklists.



4. Take note of local, state and national regulations

Rules exist for the safe disposal and transport of waste in Tasmania and interstate.

- *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (EMPCA)*
- *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2010*
- Regulations also relate to specific waste types such as tyres as found in the *Approved Management Method (AMM) for the Storage and Reuse of Waste Tyres 2017* accessible from the EPA Tasmania website.

Some Tasmanian landfills have permits issued by EPA Tasmania to accept certain types of controlled waste such as asbestos. There are many hazardous materials and chemicals that cannot be accepted by regulated landfills and instead require industrial waste contractors to collect and dispose of the material.

EPA Tasmania maintains a list of authorised controlled waste contractors, simply search 'controlled waste registered transporters and agents' on www.epa.tas.gov.au



5. Make the most of free waste management services and programs

Voluntary and regulated national product stewardship schemes help fund many programs targeted at high volume or potentially hazardous waste and provide either ongoing collection services or special drop-off events.

Examples include:

- Drum Muster and ChemClear.
- Paint Back.
- National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme.
- Tyrecycle.
- Planet Ark printer cartridge recycling.
- FluoroCycle.
- Mobile Muster programs.



6. Make informed choices about where your waste goes

Always choose reputable service providers when selecting waste contractors, processors or landfills; not only is this important for the environment but it can also protect your business reputation.

Registered landfills operate under an environment protection notice issued by EPA Tasmania which ensures that environmental protection best practices are followed by the operator and there is a plan for rehabilitation of the site in the future.

Registered landfills are regularly audited for compliance so you can be sure that your business is contributing to a safer, cleaner environment for all Tasmanians.

Want more information or advice?

Contact your local Council or visit:

Rethink Waste Tasmania: www.rethinkwaste.com.au

EPA Tasmania: www.epa.tas.gov.au/epa/resource-recovery-waste

National Product Stewardship Schemes:

www.environment.gov.au/protection/national-waste-policy/product-stewardship

