

Snapshot: Draft Northern Beaches Waste and Circular Economy Strategy 2040

Rethink. Reduce. Reuse

One of the key sustainability challenges we face as a society is reducing and managing the waste we create. We are serious about transforming our waste and litter services and empowering our community to create a meaningful impact.

About this strategy

This strategy explores our challenges and opportunities and sets a clear path to improving environmental outcomes by working together with our community, local businesses, and other levels of government.

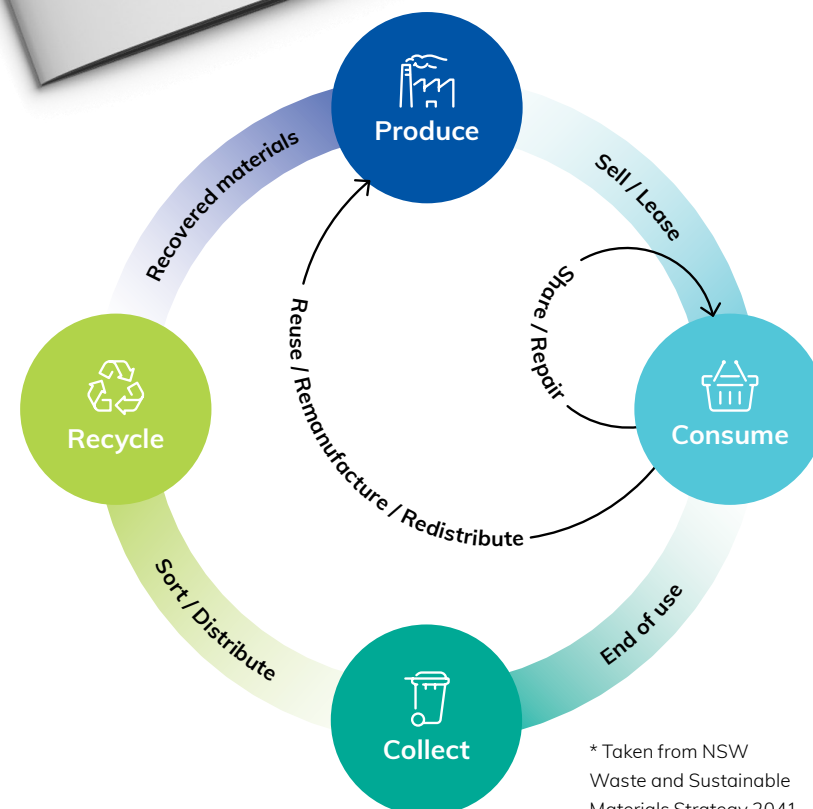
What is a circular economy?

The circular economy involves a transition from the linear 'take-make-dispose' economic system towards circulating materials in the economy for as long as possible at their highest value through **reuse, repair and recycling**.

The 'circular economy' is based on designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use and regenerating natural systems.

Our vision

A sustainable and easy to use waste and litter service that supports a thriving local circular economy and protects our environment.



* Taken from NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 Figure 1, Page 5

Waste and litter: State of play

Northern Beaches Council has one of the largest waste services in Sydney, with over 330,000 bins in service.

Our community creates over **100,000 tonnes** of household waste per year, which all needs to be collected, transported, sorted and processed at waste facilities. This is equivalent to **400kg per person** on average.

We're fortunate to have an engaged community, local waste infrastructure for some waste types, and economy of scale as a larger Council. But given the volume of waste we create, reducing and effectively managing waste presents us with a multitude of challenges.

Our key challenges include:

'Take, make, dispose' culture

Distance to large scale waste infrastructure

Restricted markets for some recyclable materials

Environmental impacts of waste

Impacts of natural disasters and pandemics

Guiding principles

The following principles have been developed from our consultation with the community and help guide the key priorities and actions in this strategy.

Empowering the community

Council provides the community and businesses with tailored education and incentives to help manage their waste and minimise their waste footprint.

Making it easy

Council's household and public waste network is designed to provide accessible, flexible and sustainable options for recycling and reuse, and appropriate disposal of waste at the end of its useful life

Innovating

Council supports and trials new systems, technologies and approaches that have the potential to significantly improve waste, litter, circular economy outcomes and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Building resilience

Council's services are reliable and adaptable to changes in population, markets, infrastructure and the climate, and have the capacity to endure unforeseen disruptions and shocks such as natural disasters and pandemics.

Influencing

Council leads by example, demonstrating and advocating the benefits of changing to a circular economy, where we reuse, repair and recycle more, with better waste management.



Key directions and actions in our waste and circular economy strategy for the next 5 years



Eliminating waste

| Key actions | Year Commencing |
|---|-----------------|
| Pilot local circular economy hub model to repair, reuse and recycle household items | 23/24 |
| Investigate opportunities for local business and manufacturers to share used materials for reuse or recycling | 23/24 |
| Advocate for stronger producer responsibility legislation and incentives to design out waste in products and promote more circular product design | 24/25 |
| Explore models for a 'Circular Economy Start Up Fund' for innovative circular business models | 24/25 |
| Investigate best practice education and user pays incentive schemes to reduce household waste | 25/26 |



Easy to use waste service

| Key actions | Year Commencing |
|--|-----------------|
| Consider options for more accessible collections for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> household chemicals, electronic waste and textiles offshore communities in Pittwater more flexible bulky goods service | 23/24 |
| Deliver education resources to improve use of bin system and resident sorting to maximise recycling | 23/24 |
| Provide separate collections of targeted recyclable bulky goods to divert more waste from landfill | 23/24 |
| Pilot new technology and systems to improve recycling outcomes and increase efficiency and community understanding of the waste service | 24/25 |



Tackling priority wastes

| Key actions | Year Commencing |
|---|-----------------|
| Advocate for phase out of single use or unrecyclable plastics | 23/24 |
| Implement phased approach to food waste collection | 24/25 |
| Support initiatives to reduce food waste being generated in the home, donate excess food and manage organic waste in home composting | 24/25 |
| Identify opportunities to support local businesses to use alternatives to single use plastics, including reusable containers* | 24/25 |
| Trial plastics recycling programs (where there are markets for the recycled products and support from the retailers or manufacturers of the products being collected to ensure producer responsibility) | 25/26 |



Green and clean environment

| Key actions | Year Commencing |
|--|-----------------|
| Work with businesses to phase out single use packaging in targeted CBDs and areas near beaches/ waterways* | 24/25 |
| Increase engagement with community volunteers in local litter campaigns* | 24/25 |
| Improve litterbin network to increase recycling of containers* | 25/26 |
| Pilot smart and emerging technologies to help deter litter and illegal dumping activities, and target point source litter (eg sporting fields, fishing areas)* | 25/26 |



Council leading the way

| Key actions | Year Commencing |
|--|-----------------|
| Promote best practice waste management at Council events and facilities | 23/24 |
| Council is a leading voice for best practice waste prevention and sustainable recycling | 24/25 |
| Improve waste management and circular economy principles, in Council's LEP, relevant DCP's, Waste Management Plan and supporting framework | 24/25 |
| Maximise uptake of infrastructure projects using recycled materials | 24/25 |
| Establish a panel of suppliers of sustainable products and materials – to reduce and recycle more waste* | 24/25 |

*Subject to available funding - in competitive budget bidding process

There's a lot to do but we believe by working together, it's possible.

What role Council plays?

- Collecting Northern Beaches household waste and providing associated waste processing, disposal and education services.
- Maintaining public space and protecting the environment.
- Planning how land is zoned and used for waste management and circular economy activities.
- Advocating for our community and local businesses and influencing other levels of government.

What role do you play?

We all need to move away from the 'take, make, dispose' culture and embrace a 'rethink - reduce - reuse' mind-set. Even the smallest attempts of reusing, repairing, and recycling waste can create positive impact. You play a big part.

- When purchasing, ask yourself 'do I really need this?' or 'could I buy this second hand?'
- How do I make the best use of Council services? E.g., effectively sorting my waste, reducing contamination.
- Try fixing something that is broken before discarding it.

We would love your help and have created lots of opportunities for you to get involved.

Be part of the solution.



Have your say! Do you want to know more about what happens to your waste and help drive a shift towards a circular economy?

Scan to have your say by 10 Dec.



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beaches
council