

‘A Zero Waste Future by 2040’



In August 2020, Council adopted its *Towards Zero Waste Policy*. The policy sets out Council’s commitment to work towards eliminating waste. The objectives of the policy are to:

- demonstrate leadership in reducing waste in Council operations and service delivery
- define a framework that supports Council and the community to pursue zero waste targets.

Our *Towards Zero Waste Strategy* also aligns with our *Climate Change Policy* target of ‘Net Zero by 2030’. Adoption of these policies marks a shift in Council’s priorities and the way we manage waste. Evolving from a Council that provides adequate waste management services, to one of leadership and innovation in resource management, whilst embedding circular economy principles into our everyday activities. Such ambition requires a focused and strategic plan. The start of our journey towards zero waste is outlined within this Strategy, starting with zero waste to landfill.

Zero waste for Tweed means that nothing is placed in landfill that doesn’t need to be and all material are recycled or recovered.

The vision of this strategy is ‘A Zero Waste Future by 2040’. Three key guiding principles have been defined that categorise the strategic objectives in moving towards this vision:



lead by example and embed a local circular economy



engage and educate households and businesses on the value of resources



maximise the recovery of resources.



A shared responsibility.

Where are we now?

- Council provides a three-bin collection system to approx. two thirds of residents:
 - red lid landfill bins collected fortnightly,
 - yellow lid recycling bins collected fortnightly,
 - green lid food and garden organics (FOGO) bins are collected weekly.
- Remaining one third of residents (in rural or medium and high-density housing) do not have an organics bin and receive weekly landfill waste collections.
- Council's waste infrastructure comprises a landfill site; drop off centre; tip shop (to facilitate reuse), bulking and transfer facilities, and organics and concrete/tile material processing (to facilitate resource recovery).
- Council-managed waste has decreased from 96,000 tonnes in 2016–17 to 62,000 tonnes in 2018–19, largely due to the lack of a landfill levy in Queensland which saw landfill customers choosing cheaper alternatives in South East Queensland for waste disposal. Queensland introduced a levy in ? which is still lower than the NSW levy.
- Our household waste landfill diversion rate is currently 56% and our household waste generation rate is 7 kg/person/week.
- 90% of material excavated from Council worksites is repurposed.

- Council offers an optional recycling and organics service to businesses as well as advice and tools to assist them to divert waste and reduce their impact on the environment.

Where do we want to be?

- We want to send zero waste to landfill and embed the principles of a circular economy into how we manage our resources, in order to maintain the value of products and materials for as long as possible.
- We want to start a significant internal cultural change to how we think about waste across Council.
- We want to set the conditions for change to support our stakeholders across the community as we have a shared responsibility in achieving our goals.
- We want to take a system-based approach to minimise wastage and increase our contribution to reducing carbon emissions from waste.

How are we going to get there?

- By showing leadership, Council will lead by example to implement important changes across the whole of our organisation, changing our culture and setting the conditions for change within our community.
- By engaging with and educating our community and business sector on the value and importance of circular thinking and the opportunities and benefits it presents.
- By embedding circular economy principles across Council operations and seeking to influence waste generation beyond Councils direct control.
- By maximising the recovery of resources by investing in new processing systems, setting ambitious recycling targets for all waste streams, and minimizing contamination of our separately collected streams.

A Zero Waste Future by 2040



By June 2025 we will divert 70% of all Council managed waste from landfill

By June 2030 we will divert 90% of all Council managed waste from landfill



Lead by example and embed local circular economy



Engage and educate households and businesses on resource value



Maximise recovery of resources

Strategic objectives

1. By June 2022, we will establish baseline and target waste prevention and landfill diversion KPI's for each Council Division.
2. By June 2024, we will evaluate data management across all Council Divisions and waste generation sources with a view to implementing data management procedures.
3. By June 2024, Council will undertake cost/benefit analysis on the procurement of goods that include recycled materials that are reusable or recyclable at the end of their useful life.
4. By June 2025, we will establish Council as a proactive advocate for a local circular economy.
5. By June 2030, we will identify (and where feasible, implement) emissions reduction measures within our waste activities and contracts.
6. Council will target a 25% reduction in waste generation from a 2021 baseline across Council waste streams through a combination of education, advocacy, and innovation to support cultural change.

1. By June 2023, we will develop a behaviour change strategy to deliver our towards zero waste objectives to be supported by a coordinated monitoring system.
2. By June 2025, we will increase community knowledge of circular economy principles.
3. By June 2030, we will achieve 25% reduction in waste generation over the 2021 baseline figure across the household and business sector.

1. By December 2021, conduct a kerbside collection performance review and incorporate circular economy principles to be considered in all future waste collection and processing contracts.
2. By June 2025, we will increase waste diversion from landfill from household and business sources to over 70%.
3. By June 2025, we will increase the diversion of Council generated waste from landfill by 10% over the 2021 baseline figure.
4. By June 2025, we will target a reduction in the contamination in recycling bins to <5%, and in the organic waste bins to <1%.
5. By June 2025, we will establish a Council position statement on an 'energy from waste' treatment solution for landfill bound waste.



Lead by example and embed a local circular economy

No.	Action	Waste generator	Timeframe (years)		
			1–2	3–5	5+
Strategic objective 1.1: By June 2022, we will establish baseline and target waste prevention and landfill diversion KPI's for each Council Division.					
1.1a	By December 2021, investigate and present to Council the business case and role requirements for a temporary 'Zero Waste Officer' position to support the delivery of this strategy and assist in the transition and incorporation of changes into existing systems.	Council	●		
1.1b	By June 2022, establish a clear framework of responsibilities and regular six monthly Towards Zero Waste progress meetings with managers from within Divisions to report on activities and progress towards achieving Strategy targets.	Council	●		
Strategic objective 1.2: By June 2024, we will evaluate data management across all Council Divisions and waste generation sources with a view to implementing data management procedures.					
1.2a	By June 2022, develop a reporting system to accurately track all waste generated by Council across Council buildings, operations and construction, and use this information to guide future planning and to track the effectiveness of the measures implemented.	Council	●		
Strategic objective 1.3: By June 2024, Council will undertake cost/benefit analysis on the procurement of goods that include recycled materials of that are reusable or recyclable at the end of their useful life.					
1.3a	By June 2022, review the existing procurement policy to evaluate successes to date and to understand where opportunities exist to embed the Towards Zero Waste Policy objectives and principles into the procurement process.	Council	●		
1.3b	By June 2022, work with the procurement team to understand the current spend and future pipeline to identify short, medium and longer term sustainable procurement priorities which impact on waste generation.	Council	●		
1.3c	By June 2023, conduct materiality and life cycle assessments into the high-level categories of goods currently procured by Council and develop sustainable procurement targets for these goods.	Council	●		

No.	Action	Waste generator	Timeframe (years)		
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Strategic objective 1.3: By June 2024, Council will undertake cost/benefit analysis on the procurement of goods that include recycled materials of that are reusable or recyclable at the end of their useful life. (Continued)					
1.3d	By June 2024, investigate and compare whole-of-life costs and value for money of procuring recycled content alternatives to business-as-usual materials across Council, specifically considering recycled glass sand, recycled plastic fibres in footpath cement, and recycled plastics products, to assist in creating a market demand.	Council	●		
1.3e	By June 2023, update procurement processes to incorporate information developed in the assessment undertaken in 1.3a.	Council			
1.3f	By June 2024, introduce and provide training for new procurement processes across all Divisions, in order to increase knowledge of changes required.	Council	●		
1.3g	By June 2024, develop a guidance document for improving procurement of recycled goods and reducing waste generation for construction projects.	Businesses and Council	●		
1.3h	By June 2024 review Council's IT strategy (for e.g. replacement cycles, procurement options and disposal) to understand how circular economy principles can be included.	Council		●	
Strategic objective 1.4: By June 2025, we will establish Council as a proactive advocate for a local circular economy.					
1.4a	On an ongoing basis, actively seek opportunities to collaborate with other local authorities, State and Federal Governments, industry experts, designers and universities to explore and promote circular innovation.	Council	●		
1.4b	Ongoing promotion and enhancement of external programs and organisations that support the elimination and or reduction of wastes that are problematic for the community and the environment, such as pollution of waterways and oceans by plastics and litter.	Council	●		
1.4c	On an ongoing basis, engage early with services and supplier markets to identify appropriate industry standards to include in specifications prior to tendering, encourage suppliers to consider waste reduction in their own supply chains, and work with service areas to consider innovative options.	Council	●		

No.	Action	Waste generator	Timeframe (years)		
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Strategic objective 1.5: By June 2030, we will identify (and where feasible, implement) emissions reduction measures within our waste activities and contracts.					
1.5a	By June 2022, carry out assessment of Council’s carbon footprint from its waste operations to determine baseline emissions and identify key opportunities for abatement, including optimising landfill gas management to mitigate emissions impacts and assessing technology options for waste transport and collection vehicles.	All	●		
1.5b	By June 2023, provide a clear and evidenced position on what, how and why carbon intensive materials will be targeted for diversion from landfill, and implement the process required to divert the identified materials by 2030.	All	●		
1.5c	By June 2025, carry out a detailed business case for the identified emissions abatement opportunities, for implementation by 2030.	All		●	
Strategic objective 1.6: Council will target a 25% reduction in waste generation from a 2021 baseline across Council waste streams through a combination of education, advocacy, and innovation to support cultural change.					
1.6a	By June 2023, investigate and implement programs within Council that avoid the need to purchase products and therefore avoid unnecessary waste generation and resource use, such as sharing, borrowing and leasing arrangements.	Council	●		
1.6b	By June 2024, undertake a detailed circular scan and resource efficiency study across Council’s own waste streams to identify opportunities for waste prevention, reuse and repair.	Council		●	
1.6c	By June 2024, ban the use of single use plastic items (straws, cups, stirrers, cutlery and takeaway containers) across all Council facilities and events.	Council		●	
1.6d	Actively advocate to state and federal government for stronger extended producer responsibility and circular business models.	All	●	●	●



Engage and educate households and businesses on the value of resources

No.	Action	Waste generator	Timeframe (years)		
			1–2	3–5	5+
Strategic objective 2.1: By June 2023, we will develop a behaviour change strategy to deliver our towards zero waste objectives to be supported by a coordinated monitoring system.					
2.1a	By June 2022, develop a behaviour change strategy and coordinated communications strategy for use with households and businesses.	Households and businesses	●		
2.1b	Council will continue to undertake annual audits of the kerbside waste collection service.	Households and businesses	●		
2.1c	By June 2021, engage a bin inspection resource to undertake kerbside inspections of household services to gather information assist with behaviour change issues.	Households	●		
Strategic objective 2.2: By June 2025, we will increase community knowledge of circular economy principles.					
2.2a	By December 2022, develop an online suite of local, domestic and international circular economy case studies to promote the waste prevention benefits of a circular economy, and the need for innovation and investment from businesses.	Households and businesses	●		
2.2b	By June 2023, develop a communication strategy to increase community and business awareness and knowledge of circular economy opportunities for waste materials.	Households and businesses		●	
2.2c	By June 2024, integrate circular principles into existing school waste education and engagement programs.	Schools and households		●	
Strategic objective 2.3: By June 2030, we will achieve 25% reduction in waste generation over the 2021 baseline figure across the household and business sector.					
2.3a	By June 2022, establish a standard method for measuring success of engagement in reuse and repair initiatives such as website views, customer satisfaction and engagement surveys for households/businesses.	Households and businesses	●	●	●
2.3b	Continue to promote local reuse and repair initiatives such as Circular Cafes, Sustainable Salons, Council's Innovation Fund and Second hand Saturday, while monitoring and publishing participation on an annual basis.	Households and businesses	●	●	
2.3c	Continue to provide ongoing education to the community (householders/schools/businesses) on waste prevention activities and success measurements identified in the behaviour change strategy such as choosing packaging free items.	Households and businesses	●	●	●

No.	Action	Waste generator	Timeframe (years)		
			1–2	3–5	5+
Strategic objective 2.3: By June 2030, we will achieve 25% reduction in waste generation over the 2021 baseline figure across the household and business sector. (Continued)					
2.3d	Continue to collaborate with regional groups to provide business waste education and engagement programs, around providing an understanding of their waste composition and options, such as Bin Trim audits, and actions to reduce specific materials being disposed in the landfill bound waste stream.	Households and businesses	●	●	●
2.3e	By June 2023, investigate and implement programs for the community that present options around avoiding the need to purchase products and therefore avoid unnecessary waste generation and resource use, such as sharing, borrowing and leasing arrangements.	Households and businesses	●		
2.3f	By June 2023, deliver a Love Food Hate Waste campaign with a specific focus on reducing avoidable food waste.	Households and businesses	●		
2.3g	By June 2024, work with local businesses and other stakeholders to develop a local Food Waste Prevention Program to support food donation schemes and surplus food redistribution.	Businesses		●	



Maximise the recovery of resources

No.	Action	Waste generator	Timeframe (years)		
			1–2	3–5	5+

Strategic objective 3.1: By December 2021, conduct a kerbside collection performance review and incorporate circular economy principles to be considered in all future waste collection and processing contracts.

3.1a	By December 2021, conduct a review of collection design: frequencies and materials targeted to support circular economy principles, contamination management and continuous improved KPIs into the procurement of all new waste contracts – collection, processing specifications and service delivery models, ensuring contract flexibility during the contract period.	Households and businesses	●		
3.1b	By June 2027, conduct a review of the collection design, and materials targeted in order to update the next waste collection and processing contract specifications and service delivery model.	Households and businesses			●

Strategic objective 3.2: By June 2025, we will increase waste diversion from landfill from household and business sources to over 70%.

3.2a	Conduct annual review in the budget process of the pricing structure of Council kerbside collection services for businesses to ensure alignment of messaging with other education and engagement programs, and to maximise uptake of resource recovery options.	Businesses	●	●	●
3.2b	Conduct annual review of the disposal pricing structure at TRLC to promote source separation and to encourage the recovery of waste.	Households and businesses	●	●	●
3.2c	During annual budget process consider how to incentivise households and businesses to opt for reduced landfill bin capacity, whilst encouraging increased resource recovery through the organics and recycling services.	Households and businesses	●		

No.	Action	Waste generator	Timeframe (years)		
			1-2	3-5	5+
Strategic objective 3.2: By June 2025, we will increase waste diversion from landfill from household and business sources to over 70%. (Continued)					
3.2d	By June 2022 investigate the options for further segregation of food and garden organics out of the landfill bin for both rural and medium/high density properties, and implement viable solutions by 2024, including intensive community engagement campaign to maximise source separation.	Households	●		
3.2e	By June 2023, audit incoming landfill waste to drop off area at the TRLC to identify opportunities for diversion and include this information in the Transfer Station design.	Households	●		
3.2f	By June 2023 investigate options for textiles recovery.	Households	●	●	
3.2g	By June 2024, carry out audits of mixed commercial waste and builders waste at TRLC to identify opportunities for diversion from landfill.	Council	●	●	
3.2h	By June 2023, investigate the options and develop a business case for the processing and sorting of construction and demolition waste at TRLC.	Businesses	●	●	
3.2i	By June 2023, investigate options for improving diversion of household bulky waste from landfill (such as tip voucher schemes, replacing compactor trucks with flat-bed trucks, or salvaging recoverable materials from the kerbside prior to collection).	Households	●	●	
3.2j	By June 2027, develop and implement a roadmap for tackling the remaining contents of the landfill bin for residents and businesses, and work with stakeholders to identify innovative solutions.	Households and businesses			●

No.	Action	Waste generator	Timeframe (years)		
			1–2	3–5	5+

Strategic objective 3.3: By June 2025, we will increase the diversion of Council generated waste from landfill by 10% over the 2021 baseline figure.

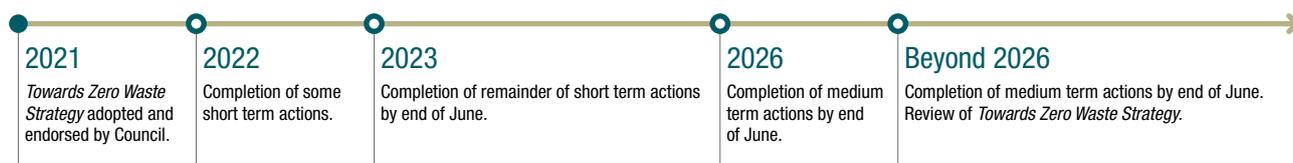
3.3a	By June 2022, establish an accurate method for measuring Council's own waste generation and the waste that is diverted from landfill, including material that is not processed at the TRLC.	Council	●		
3.3b	By June 2023, develop options to deal with waste across Council that could viably be recovered but which is currently going to landfill.	Council	●		
3.3c	By June 2022, establish food waste collection services in all Council offices in Tweed Shire.	Council	●		

Strategic objective 3.4: By June 2025, we will target a reduction in the contamination in recycling bins to <5%, and in the organic waste bins to <1%.

3.4a	By December 2021, develop a Contamination Management Plan based on the annual kerbside audits to reduce contamination in kerbside recycling and organics service.	Households and businesses	●		
3.4b	Provide annual targeted education initiatives, until 2030, to eliminate disposal of recoverable materials in the landfill bin, and monitor the performance via annual waste composition audits.	Households and businesses	●	●	●
3.4c	Provide annual targeted education initiatives, until 2030, to eliminate disposal of non-compliant materials in the recycling and organics bins (households and businesses), and monitor changes via regular waste composition audits.	Households and businesses	●	●	●
3.4d	By June 2022, embed contamination management requirements in new collections and processing contracts.	Households and businesses	●		

No.	Action	Waste generator	Timeframe (years)		
			1–2	3–5	5+
Strategic objective 3.5: By June 2025, we will establish a Council position statement on an ‘energy from waste’ treatment solution for landfill bound waste.					
3.5a	By December 2022, undertake a feedstock analysis as a viability assessment of Council’s landfill waste to determine the suitability of utilising the waste stream in an energy recovery facility.	All	●		
3.5b	By June 2023 present a report to Council to get a position on Council’s involvement in an energy recovery facility. If Council choose to not be involved explain the consequences of this in pursuing zero waste aspirations.	All	●		

Timeline



For further information, please contact:

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