

Circular Infrastructure Program

2025-26
Grant Funding
Guidelines

Circular Infrastructure Grants

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Government
of South Australia

Green Industries SA

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Acknowledgement of Country

Green Industries SA acknowledges and respects the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connections, and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

We extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their nations in South Australia, and across Australia.

Submitting your application

All applications must:

- use the form available on the grant program webpage
- be submitted with a signed declaration
- be no more than 20 pages (including attachments), and no more than 10MB
- be submitted electronically (Microsoft Word file) to justin.lang@sa.gov.au by **5pm ACST, Friday 25 July 2025** with the subject heading '*Circular Infrastructure Grants – application*'.

Further information

For further information, or to discuss your application, contact Manager, Local Government and Infrastructure Justin Lang at justin.lang@sa.gov.au or on +61 419 948 931.

About Green Industries SA

Green Industries SA (GISA) is an enabler and driver of change, supporting the development of the circular economy through diverse collaborations which improve productivity, resilience, resource efficiency and the environment.

GISA works to transform how South Australians use and value resources, and the agency's objectives under the *Green Industries SA Act 2004* are to:

- promote waste management practices that, as far as possible, eliminate waste or its consignment to landfill
- promote innovation and business activity in the waste management, resource recovery and green industry sectors, recognising these areas present valuable opportunities to contribute to the state's economic growth.

[Learn more about GISA.](#)

South Australia's waste strategy

The Circular Infrastructure Grants program supports implementation of [South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025](#). The strategy outlines actions that can contribute to a more circular economy in South Australia through:

- a clearly articulated policy and legislative framework that gives a solid platform for investment decisions and a stable and efficient market
- supporting innovation and commercialisation
- education, advocacy and awareness to support behavioural change in the way waste and resources are managed
- applying the waste management hierarchy consistently with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

This grant program aims to assist projects that support the objectives of the strategy.

Waste management hierarchy and circular economy

South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-25 is underpinned by the internationally recognised waste management hierarchy, which is a guiding principle of the *Green Industries SA Act 2004*. Its efforts focus on the highest levels of the hierarchy considering social, environmental and economic practicalities. A transition to a circular economy is also a priority and a guiding focus for the strategy.

The Circular Infrastructure Grants Program emphasises:

- the higher rungs of the waste management hierarchy – avoid, reduce, reuse, and recycle – where unnecessary use of materials is avoided or reduce, materials are separated as close as possible to their point of generation, and safely used for their highest order purpose
- the principles of a circular economy – reduced reliance on virgin materials by keeping materials circulating in the economy for as long as possible, at their highest value use, and thereby reducing waste and pollution, and harm to the environment.

South Australia's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan

[South Australia's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan](#) has been developed to provide a clear guide for future waste and resource recovery infrastructure needs across the state and support a resource efficient economy in South Australia.

The [plan](#) and [companion report](#) provide intelligence for industry that assist in informing investment decisions, identify potential infrastructure needs for specialised and problematic waste streams and consider soft infrastructure supporting waste and resource recovery industry development.

Information session: Submitting a better application

An online information session will be held from 10 am on Friday 11 July, to offer support for applicants. To register for the session, contact program manager Justin Lang at justin.lang@sa.gov.au by no later than 10 am, Thursday 10 July.

Aim of the Circular Infrastructure Grants

These grants will assist companies, local authorities and organisations to purchase and install infrastructure and provide innovative approaches to increase the types, quantities and quality of resources that are kept circulating in the South Australian economy for as long as possible, at their higher possible value, and to recover resources and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill each year. The program encourages applications for infrastructure projects that will contribute to achieving these aims and demonstrate economic, environmental and social benefits for South Australia.

Priority will be given to:

- projects that support highest value use of resources and/or circular economy principles such as waste avoidance, reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacture
- projects for purchasing new, or upgrading existing infrastructure and/or equipment to enable remanufacturing/value adding of targeted material streams for local use (preferred)
- projects that support improved sorting and/or processing to enhance recoverable material quality through reduced contamination levels for local use or re-entry into export markets
- projects aimed at improving reuse, recycling and resource recovery – noting these should target recyclable materials most affected by low commodity prices, specifically:
 - recovered paper, cardboard, glass and plastics
 - food waste recovery
- projects that address emerging, problematic or complex material streams such as solar PV panels, lithium-ion batteries, wind turbine blades, CCA treated timber and textiles – noting these will need to demonstrate clear end markets for materials and project viability.

Priority may be given to applicants that do not have any outstanding grants with GISA at the commencement of the next project.

The funding is open to applications from any South Australian company, local authority or authorities, or organisation that meets eligibility criteria, including but not limited to recycling and composting businesses, charities, and First Nations businesses.

Available funding

- Applications from \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$300,000 (excluding GST) per project are invited.
- Up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) may be available for large scale projects of state significance that involve significant capital expenditure. Applications are also invited for projects which benefit the local economy and/or 3 or more council areas.
- Councils seeking more than \$300,000 (excluding GST) must demonstrate a financial commitment by at least 3 councils as evidenced through a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

Matching grant funding

Awarded grants will **contribute a maximum of 50% of eligible project costs**, up to the maximum value listed above. Applicants should be able to demonstrate, at a minimum, matched funding from other sources (excluding the South Australian government). Applicants should not include 'in-kind' (non-financial) payments as matching funds.

For example:

Big Green Company is seeking a \$300,000 grant for its project. They will also need to contribute at least \$300,000 from other sources to the total project cost (1:1).

Eligibility

The overall aim of the grant program is to encourage innovation to increase the circularity and/or recovery of materials in South Australia and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill each year.

This program prioritises projects by South Australian businesses and local governments that reuse, repair, refurbish or remanufacture, recover, handle and process recyclable materials with the opportunity to invest in equipment, technology and processes to respond to the prevailing market conditions.

To be eligible the project must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Target recovery and recycling of fibre (paper, cardboard, newspaper etc), and/or plastics and/or glass recyclables or organics from municipal kerbside waste collections and/or commercial and industrial sources.
- Improve source separation and processing performance or enhanced resource recovery and recycling through investment and subsequent installation of equipment and technology that reduces contamination and improves the quality and volume of kerbside and/or commercial and industrial recyclable materials, particularly fibre, plastics and glass.
- Demonstrates through market analysis that recycled material will enter a beneficial remanufacture, secondary processing, or recycling market for local use (preferred) or that can be exported at a higher value to a recognised end market.
- Demonstrates waste avoidance and/or landfill diversion through effective reuse, repair, refurbishment or remanufacture of materials / products within South Australia.

Other projects which are eligible include:

- projects with the objective of improving the recycling of materials banned from landfill under the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010* (see list of banned materials in appendix 1)
- projects that target food rescue infrastructure to support the charity/not-for-profit sector
- projects that target commercial and industrial or municipal solid waste streams.

All applicants must:

- contribute at least 50% of funding (excluding in-kind contributions and ineligible activities) from sources other than GISA funds
- have infrastructure/plant/equipment commissioned within 2 years of the grant being offered. Projects which have a commissioning date of 30 June 2026 or before will be given priority.

Ineligible activities

Grant funds will not be available for:

- retrospective projects (to be eligible, projects must start after the applications closing date, 25 July 2025, subject to notification of success through the grant assessment process)
- energy from waste projects
- construction and demolition waste sorting or processing
- landfill (compliance, development, extension or closure)
- operational expenses, including fuel, electricity, maintenance, project monitoring, motor vehicles or trucks (specialised equipment for vehicles may be considered)
- advertising costs
- education and training programs
- salaries, studies, investigations or research and development activities
- building purchase, lease or other general service provision, or projects with a primary focus on construction (without additional elements)
- land purchase or lease
- machinery leasing – equipment must be purchased outright
- projects that promote low value recovery of resources.

Assessment criteria

Green Industries SA has the discretion to not consider incomplete applications. The following criteria in the application must be assessed as sufficient for the application to be regarded as eligible for potential grant funding:

- **Project management:** capability and capacity to manage the project is demonstrated through adequate market research, staff experience, risk assessment, and appropriate evaluation of the project.
- **Timing:** demonstrate in the budget a timeframe for each step in the project process (from equipment ordering through to commissioning of equipment). Priority will be given to projects that can be delivered within 2 years from offer of grant.
- **Focus on priority materials:** processing of materials which are banned from landfill under the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010* (see Appendix 1 for list of materials).

Applications that meet eligibility criteria and are assessed as sufficient in the above criteria, will be assessed against the funding priorities and the extent to which it meets the following criteria:

- **Contribution to circular economy:** fostering economic activity that helps achieve carbon reduction, waste and economic development objectives, and/or extended product/material lifespan, and the extent to which this is coupled with improvements in social wellbeing and/or reduced environmental harm.
- **Landfill diversion:** avoidance of landfill disposal and/or additional material being diverted from landfill, including how the estimates for avoidance/diversion have been calculated.
- **Product value and sustainability benefits:** high value recovery or end use (from an economic, employment and environmental perspective) of waste materials and processes, or from reuse/repair/remanufacturing systems and processes. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions (where relevant). Projects which focus on local markets and supply chains will be prioritised.
- **Process improvement/innovation:** overcoming existing barriers, improvements to efficiency and targeting new market segments.
- **Financial viability:** demonstrates the financial viability of the organisation and the project including relevant experience of the people involved and existing business (changes in commodity prices should also be considered if relevant to the project).
- **Local benefits/locally sourced equipment:** the extent to which the project will benefit South Australia's economy, environment and society, such as:
 - increased local employment
 - use of local recycled materials and/or development of recycled content products
 - stabilisation of markets and/or local supply chains.
- **Value for money:** clear demonstration of the need for government support, the extent that grant funding is leveraged with other funding and/or consideration to outcomes (environmental, economic, social) expected from grant funding investment.

Access to intellectual property

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have access to any intellectual property necessary to carry out the project. It is expected that in most cases there would be dual ownership of any intellectual property resulting from the project.

Privacy and commercial-in-confidence considerations

All applications will be treated as commercial-in-confidence. GISA reserves the right to include third party evaluations as part of the assessment process and has the ultimate discretion in relation to publicity for successful applications. Applicants are not permitted to publicise their projects without the approval in the first instance of GISA.

Insurance

For the duration of the proposed project, the proponent must hold and maintain workers compensation insurance, public liability insurance for a minimum of \$1 million per claim and personal accident insurance of \$100,000 per participant.

Assessment process

- All applicants will be notified within 5 business days of the submission date to confirm receipt of their proposals. If an email is sent and not acknowledged within that timeframe, please contact +61 419 948 931 in case there has been a technical issue in transmission.
- Late applications will not be assessed without prior written extension granted by GISA. GISA has ultimate discretion in relation to management of late applications.
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel comprising GISA personnel and external specialists. The panel will assess all eligible applications against the assessment criteria.
- If required, additional written information may be requested from the applicant, or third parties in the case of solvency checks, to assist with the assessment. Failure to provide information requested by GISA in a timely manner may terminate the assessment process and the application may be deemed ineligible for funding.
- The panel will recommend projects to be funded and funding amounts to the Chief Executive of Green Industries SA for decision.

Funding agreement and publicity

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Government of South Australian. This agreement will set out the terms of the grant, conditions, payment schedules, project timing, key performance indicators, reporting and evaluation requirements and other matters. It is expected applicants will be advised in December 2025 of success (or otherwise) due to SA Government processes relating to funding availability.

The agreement will also include terms relating to publicity of the project, noting GISA must be acknowledged in all media and promotional activities relating to successful projects. All publicity must be approved in the first instance by GISA.

A copy of standard funding agreement can be provided on request.

The funding agreement must be signed within 30 days of receipt to guarantee the grant acceptance, or as otherwise negotiated and agreed by GISA.

All successful applicants must, if requested, supply a high-resolution logo, and authorise its use on the GISA website and to be listed as a program participant. The value of grants will be listed against the successful applicant's name on the GISA website, with a short description of the funded project.

Successful applicants must be willing to cooperate and participate in the development of case studies or other public-facing materials based on funded projects (using information of a non-sensitive nature) if requested by GISA. The purpose of case studies and related materials is to encourage other organisations to undertake similar initiatives, and may be used as an educational resource by GISA and/or the successful applicant. Case studies and other materials are usually made publicly available via the GISA website and may be used by successful applicants for their own promotional and/or educational purposes.

Reporting

GISA requires successful applicants to provide reporting on the project progress and outcomes. Requirements of reporting will be specified in funding agreements and may vary on a case-by-case basis in accordance with project type and deliverables.

Typically, within 6 to 12 months following commissioning of equipment, GISA requires successful applicants to provide template reports that include information on employment generated via the project, landfill diversion achievements, quantity and types of products

received for processing (if relevant) and other relevant measurable outputs. Reporting and payment milestone timelines will be agreed with the applicant before funding is offered and included in funding agreements.

Appendix 1: Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010 – Landfill Bans

From 1 September 2010

Hazardous waste, Lead acid batteries, Liquid waste, Medical waste, oil, Whole tyres¹, Aggregated cardboard and paper², Aggregated glass packaging³, Aggregated metals⁴, Aggregated PET or HDPE plastic packaging⁵, Vegetative matter collected by councils⁶.

From 1 September 2011

Vehicles, PP or LDPE plastic packaging⁷, Whitegoods.

From 1 September 2012

PVC or PS plastic packaging⁸, Fluorescent lighting⁹ (Adelaide Metro only), Computer monitors & televisions¹⁰ (Adelaide Metro only), Whole earth mover tyres.

From 1 September 2013

Fluorescent lighting¹¹, Computer monitors & televisions¹², Other electrical or electronic equipment.

Notes

1. Whole tyres other than earth mover tyres and tyres that have been exposed to radioactive materials through mining operations.
2. Aggregated for resource recovery separate from other waste.
3. Aggregated for resource recovery.
4. Aluminium, copper, steel or iron or a blend or alloy of any such metals aggregated for resource recovery (whether alone or with other recyclables), other than metal products with components of different metals that cannot be readily separated.
5. Aggregated for resource recovery (whether alone or with other recyclables).
6. Aggregated for resource recovery and collected by a council by a kerbside waste collection service operated as a separate collection service for such waste, other than such waste collected from within a quarantine area under the Fruit & Plant Protection Act 1992.
7. Aggregated for resource recovery (whether alone or with other recyclables).
8. Aggregated for resource recovery (whether alone or with other recyclables).
9. And any other lighting that contains mercury.
10. Including components, subassemblies and consumables that are part of the equipment when discarded.
11. And any other lighting that contains mercury.
12. Including components, subassemblies and consumables that are part of the equipment when discarded.