

2025–26
Program
guidelines

Precinct Resource Recovery Program

Released
November 2025



Government
of South Australia

Green Industries SA

Contents

About Green Industries SA.....	3
South Australia's waste strategy	3
About the Precinct Resource Recovery Program	3
Program overview	5
Conditions of support	6
Submitting your application	8
Assessment process.....	8
Memorandum of Understanding.....	10
Publicity, promotion and case studies	10

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.

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 Precinct Resource Recovery Program supports implementation of [South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025](#).

South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025 is underpinned by the internationally recognised waste management hierarchy, which is the 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 Precinct Resource Recovery Program emphasises:

- the higher rungs of the waste management hierarchy – avoid, reduce, reuse, and recycle – where unnecessary use of materials is avoided or reduced, 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.

About the Precinct Resource Recovery Program

The Precinct Resource Recovery Program has been developed to support small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to increase the diversion of source separated materials from landfill, with a particular focus on source separated organics, food waste and compostables (organics).

Avoiding food waste in the commercial and industrial (C&I) sector, along with recovering and processing food waste is a strategic priority for South Australia, as outlined in the 2021 food waste strategy, *Valuing our Food Waste*. Auditing data indicates approximately 85,000 tonnes of food waste continues to be sent to landfill each year by businesses.

Providing support to procure segregated organics collections within precincts is identified as an action item in *Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030*.

Complementing GISA's strategic policy objectives, the South Australian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is undertaking a review of the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010*. The discussion paper *Beyond recycling: Moving SA towards a circular economy* released in September 2024 consulted on several actions to address food waste sent to landfill from businesses.

Aim

The Precinct Resource Recovery Program will help to determine the level of assistance required by SMEs to reduce food wastage and implement systems to divert food waste from landfill. The outcomes will inform future programs to support increased diversion of organics from landfill, recognising the need for greater support where businesses have not previously engaged private waste contracted organics services.

Objectives

The Precinct Resource Recovery Program will support projects that:

- create awareness or respond to demand from business and industry, demonstrating the need for support and a willingness from participants to engage with project delivery
- target a geographically defined group of businesses that produce appreciable amounts of organic waste, where consolidated waste management practices are a feasible option (considering the waste streams generated and space available for source segregation of recyclables)
- empower participants to implement better-practice waste avoidance measures and waste management systems reducing the quantity of materials sent to landfill
- investigate common challenges and opportunities for waste avoidance and waste management in precincts and identify actions to address these findings.

Outcomes

- Implement better-practice waste management systems
- Increase recycling of organic waste and other resource recovery streams
- Consolidate waste collections to maximise efficiency
- Empower businesses to seek out cost-competitive quotes through tender where privately contracted services are engaged
- Optimise waste management costs for businesses when implementing better-practice systems
- Support other precincts through case study reporting

Program overview

Expressions of interest (EOI) are sought from local government, main street or trader associations, property and shopping centre management groups for the Precinct Resource Recovery Program. The program will support up to 5 precincts to implement food waste avoidance practices, implement organics collection services, consolidate collections, and support competitive procurement of privately contracted waste services within precincts. GISA will partner precincts with specialist waste management consultants (consultants) to deliver expert advice and resources.

Participants will represent businesses in a defined precinct including, but not limited to, food retail and hospitality businesses. The program will address challenges and barriers to privately contracting waste collection services for SMEs. A collaborative, precinct-based approach supports the procurement of cost-competitive waste collections while increasing waste diversion from landfill.

Advice for all resource recovery streams is included within the scope of the program to increase the diversion of source separated materials and minimise collective costs within the precinct. This may include advice about collection frequency or appropriate bin sizes for a range of resource recovery streams. A pre-requisite for participation in this project is the inclusion of organics in the consolidated services.

The program outcomes will be documented as a case study and shared with participants for wider distribution through their networks.

Who can apply?

- Local government (where local government has been engaged regarding waste management in the precinct)
- Shopping centre management groups (where waste collections are contracted directly through property management)
- Property or facility managers (where waste collections are contracted directly through property management)
- Main street associations
- Food retailers in a defined precinct
- Hospitality businesses in a defined precinct

Expected outcomes

- Engage with and educate relevant stakeholders on waste avoidance practices that divert organic material to highest value uses
- Work with a GISA-allocated waste consultant to develop an action plan for the precinct's waste management arrangements
- Provide resources (including internal bin infrastructure) and guidance to businesses seeking competitive tenders for consolidated, private waste collection through procurement and contract advice
- Implement better practice waste collection systems for food retail and hospitality precincts to support increased resource recovery
- Promote the outcomes (minimising costs and increasing diversion) through case study reports to share with networks

Program delivery

The program is comprised of 3 stages:

1. Site assessment and review of current waste servicing arrangements

Successful applicants will be partnered with a consultant (engaged separately by Green Industries SA) who will conduct a site assessment with key staff members to understand current waste collection arrangements. The consultant will arrange a roundtable discussion session with all participating businesses to discuss current arrangements. Waste invoices and details of servicing arrangements will be collated and used to develop an action plan for the precinct's individualised needs.

2. Present action plan and provide implementation assistance

The consultant will distribute and discuss proposed changes as outlined in the prepared action plan with all participating businesses. Businesses will be supported to implement the action plan and new contracting arrangements.

3. Review of the program and outcomes

The consultant will conduct a follow-up site visit and roundtable session to discuss the program outcomes. Waste quantities and changes to contracting arrangements will be discussed to quantify the benefits to businesses and tonnages of waste diverted from landfill.

Program outcomes will be shared with relevant stakeholders as case studies to assist other precincts in their sustainable waste management journeys.

Conditions of support

Eligibility criteria

EOIs for the Precinct Resource Recovery Program will be accepted from:

- local governments seeking to assist precincts with waste management
- shopping centre/plaza management groups responsible for waste management within retail precincts
- main street trader associations comprised of businesses that individually manage waste collection services where there is scope for consolidation of services and/or joint procurement
- business owners in a defined precinct that individually manage waste services and where there is scope for consolidation of services and/or joint procurement.

For projects that will take place in a defined precinct where:

- there are no less than 7 and no more than 20 participating retailers
- businesses (or property managers) have control over waste management within the precinct and will share invoicing and waste management data
- source separation of recyclables, including organic waste, and consolidated waste management between businesses is feasible

- commercial segregated organics collection services are available (Metropolitan Adelaide and selected regional)
- materials collected through commercial organics collections are destined for commercial composting activities to produce soil improvement products for market.

Applicants must:

- represent businesses in a defined precinct where at least 50% of businesses have waste collection services through a private waste contractor
 - Note: The collection of council-serviced kerbside bins remains within the jurisdiction of local government although high-level advice may be provided where this supports the aims of the program
- provide written confirmation from all participating businesses that they will participate in the program and share all required information with the GISA-engaged consultant
- provide written confirmation from a local government waste officer (if the project includes council-serviced kerbside bins or bins held on public land, and the applicant is not a local government authority) that they will participate in the program and share required information with the GISA engaged consultant
- demonstrate a willingness to engage in program delivery to extend current practices and achieve program objectives, noting this will be formally documented through a memorandum of understanding to be signed by the applicant and GISA
- have pre-existing organics collection services in place, or be prepared to implement new organics collection through a private waste provider
- be willing to change waste collection arrangements and work collaboratively with other stakeholders
- disclose current waste contract arrangements and invoicing with a GISA-engaged consultant
- be operating in South Australia for the duration of the proposed project
- ensure a sufficient level of resourcing will be available for the duration of the project to enable effective delivery of outputs and outcomes
- ensure waste bin storage areas comply with all relevant local government regulations
- comply with all federal, state and local government laws, regulations, and any applicable EPA requirements.

What will not be supported

The following are not eligible to apply for the Precinct Resource Recovery Program:

- State and federal government entities
- Organisations with a non-business or community focus
- Organisations that provide and/or represent the interests of waste management service providers, such as commercial recyclers, landfill operators, waste transport operators and waste transfer station operators.

Support through the program is **not available** for:

- operating costs, including but not limited to rent, electricity, water, trade waste, and waste collection services, subscription, lease, or licensing fees, and so on
- precincts that intend to contract packaged organics collections
- precincts that form part of mixed-use developments (that is, multi-unit dwellings with

retail businesses operating in the same building)

- organics collections that are not destined for an EPA-licensed composting facility
- any project that GISA deems to be inconsistent with the program aim, objectives, and outcomes
- any project deemed more appropriate to fit under an alternative grant funding program (administered by GISA or another organisation).

Timing

GISA aims to be flexible regarding timeframes for program delivery and intends for trials to be completed 6 months from the date of finalisation, or as otherwise negotiated and agreed by GISA. It is expected that precincts will be selected in February 2026, with support to commence in March/April 2026.

Twelve months post-program, GISA will conduct a check-in with precincts to discuss the long-term outcomes of the program and any key learnings. This will be coordinated and undertaken by GISA in the form of brief discussions in person with key staff members.

Submitting your application

All applications must:

- use the relevant application form, as provided by GISA staff
- be submitted with a declaration signed by an appropriately authorised representative from the applicant organisation such as the chief executive, executive officer, chairperson, or equivalent
- be submitted electronically (Microsoft Word file) to Maddy Coopman at Maddalena.coopman@sa.gov.au by 5 pm 12 December 2025 with the subject line 'Precinct Resource Recovery Program – application.'

All applications will be acknowledged as 'received' via return email within 3 business days of the submission date. If an application is sent via email and not acknowledged within that timeframe, please contact 0437 018 158.

Late applications will not be assessed without prior written extension granted by GISA, via Maddy Coopman, Project Officer Food Waste and Organics or Jessica Wundke, Manager Policy Reform. GISA has ultimate discretion in relation to management of late applications.

Further information

For further information, or to discuss your application and eligibility, contact Program Manager Maddy Coopman at Maddalena.coopman@sa.gov.au or on 0437 018 158.

Assessment process

- Applications will be reviewed by GISA staff to confirm eligibility with reference to the *Eligibility criteria* and *What will not be*. GISA has ultimate discretion in eligibility assessment.
- All eligible applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel convened by GISA against the program assessment criteria included in these guidelines. The evaluation panel will

assess applications based on the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation provided by the applicant with their application. The evaluation panel may be comprised of GISA staff and/or external specialists at GISA's discretion. All panel members will uphold confidentiality and conflict of interest principles.

- If required, additional written information may be requested from the applicant 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.
- An interview with eligible applicants may also be required as part of the evaluation process.
- GISA may conduct due diligence checks on project partners named in the application as required for project delivery. The applicant must ensure that project partners agree to cooperate with this requirement and provide information at GISA's request.
- GISA reserves the right not to award support to applicants where the due diligence risk (including that of project partners) is unsatisfactory or is not able to be effectively managed.
- GISA has the ultimate discretion in relation to decisions and applicants should note that irrespective of eligibility and merit, there is no guarantee that an offer of support will be made.
- Should there be any changes to the applicant's entity (such as name, structure and type) during the assessment process, applicants should notify GISA of the changes immediately. Failure to notify GISA of the changes in a timely manner may terminate the assessment process and the application may be deemed ineligible for support.
- The duration of the assessment process may vary depending on the nature of applications and GISA staff availability.
- GISA will consider evaluation panel outcomes when making final decisions regarding application success.

Assessment criteria

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

Eligible applications will be assessed against the criteria below.

- Evidence to demonstrate that business participants within the precinct have an interest in program outcomes (25%)
- Evidence to demonstrate that business participants within the precinct are committed to engaging with program delivery (30%)
- Variety and density of business types within the applying precinct (15%)
- Current waste contracting arrangements and ability to increase efficiency of services within the precinct (25%)
- Presence of an existing traders association, alliance, group or network (5%)

It is expected that meetings with shortlisted precincts will be undertaken as part of the selection process. This will be coordinated with the main applicant.

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 prior written approval of GISA.

Memorandum of Understanding

Successful applicants will be required to enter a high-level Memorandum of Understanding with GISA. This memorandum will outline the roles and responsibilities of the applicant, precinct businesses and any other relevant stakeholder (i.e. property management group) including providing access to invoicing data, dedicating time to round table discussions and modifying waste contracting arrangements to increase resource circularity and minimise waste costs within the precinct.

Publicity, promotion and case studies

Successful applicants are not permitted to publicise projects without gaining prior written approval from GISA via Maddy Coopman, Project Officer Food Waste and Organics or their nominated delegate. GISA has ultimate discretion on publicity of projects and GISA must be acknowledged in all media and promotional activities relating to successful projects.

Successful applicants must be willing to cooperate and participate in the development of case study or other public-facing materials based on supported activities 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 participating businesses.

Unsuccessful applications

Applicants who have been unsuccessful in receiving program support will be notified in writing.

When the reason for an unsuccessful outcome is not related to program limitations, the applicant may request a review of the outcome within 30 calendar days of the decision being issued. GISA will undertake an independent decision review and notify the applicant of the outcome of the review, confirming the original decision or issuing a new decision.

Please contact the program manager for further information.