

SAIR Food Waste and Recycling Strategy

2021-2025 For our Foodland and
IGA supermarkets



**South Australian
Independent Retailers**
Supporting local

South Australian Independent Retailers Food Waste & Recycling Strategy

South Australian Independent Retailers (SAIR) is the local united voice for South Australian independent supermarket business owners.

This SAIR Food Waste & Recycling Strategy is prepared for our Foodland and IGA stores. The SAIR Food Waste & Recycling Strategy considers Foodland and IGA's sustainability commitments and takes a closer look at improving waste and resource management across their South Australian stores. Green Industries SA has generously supported the development of this plan, recognising it as an important element for achieving State and Commonwealth resource recovery and waste management goals.

Within this document are a list of waste initiatives that Foodland and IGA supermarkets can choose to implement based on their unique set of circumstances. Supporting this Strategy is an Implementation Plan [separate document] for SAIR and Foodland/ IGA Head Office to help supermarkets execute the waste initiatives they wish to implement.

Developing this SAIR Food Waste & Recycling Strategy

SAIR, supported by Green Industries SA, engaged Rawtec, a South Australian specialist waste, recycling and resource management consultancy, to assist in writing this Strategy. Rawtec was supported by a Project Steering Committee with representatives from SAIR, our supermarkets, the SA government and the composting industry. Rawtec visited a range of supermarkets and consulted [face to face and via survey] Foodland and IGA supermarket owners and operators to review waste management practices at stores, and gather input from store representatives. A waste audit was conducted at one of our Foodland supermarkets, which also identified opportunities to improve the way waste and resources are managed. Finally, store representatives attended a workshop to provide further input and feedback on waste initiatives included in this Strategy.



SAIR Food Waste and Recycling Strategy: 2021 – 2025

June 2021

Acknowledgements

The South Australian Independent Retailers (SAIR) Food Waste & Recycling Strategy was prepared by Rawtec in collaboration with SAIR and input from representatives from Foodland, IGA and the Project Steering Committee¹. South Australian Independent Retailers Inc. kindly acknowledges project funding and support from Government of South Australia, Green Industries SA. This document includes waste initiatives and targets for SAIR's Foodland and SA IGA stores based on feedback provided by Foodland and IGA store representatives.



¹ The Project Steering Committee includes representatives from SAIR, Rawtec, Green Industries South Australia, Foodland and IGA, Metcash, and the Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA)

Why are we improving how we manage our waste and resources?

Better practice waste and resource management makes sense. It is good for the environment, important for the community², provides local jobs, can decrease costs and is in line with state and federal government direction and policy. Did you know:

- Every tonne of food recycled via composting saves 250 kilograms of CO₂, 180 megajoules of energy and 440 litres of water³. It also puts carbon back in the soil, increasing soil health, soil nutrients and soil water retention, which helps farmers grow food that we purchase.
- For every 10,000 tonnes of waste processed, 9.2 jobs are associated for recycling materials and 2.8 jobs for the waste sent to landfill⁴.
- South Australians including our supermarkets pay a levy for every tonne of waste sent to landfill. The levy is \$143 per tonne (metro Adelaide) for 2020-21⁵. This levy increases each year, and is not paid for materials sent to recycling facilities.
- There are a range of targets for improving waste management at Australian businesses. For example:
 - » The National Waste Action plan⁶ sets targets for improving resource recovery, and reducing the amount of organic waste sent to landfill.
 - » South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-25⁷ targets 90% diversion of waste from landfill for metropolitan businesses
 - » The Australian Packaging Covenant⁸ has set four targets relating to packaging: **1)** 100% of packaging being reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025; **2)** 70% of plastic packaging being recycled or composted by 2025, **3)** 50% of average recycled content included in packaging by 2025, and **4)** phase out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging by 2025.

² For example, consultation on SA's single-use plastic discussion paper found "when people were asked if all checkout bags and produce bags should be made from compostable materials, 93% of the people responding agreed that these should be" (page 11, Single-use Plastics Consultation Summary Report [2019] [[greenindustries.sa.gov.au](https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au)])

³ See Appendix 5, page 110 of South Australia's Recycling Activity Survey 2018-19,

<https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/resources/recycling-activity-in-south-australia-2018-19>

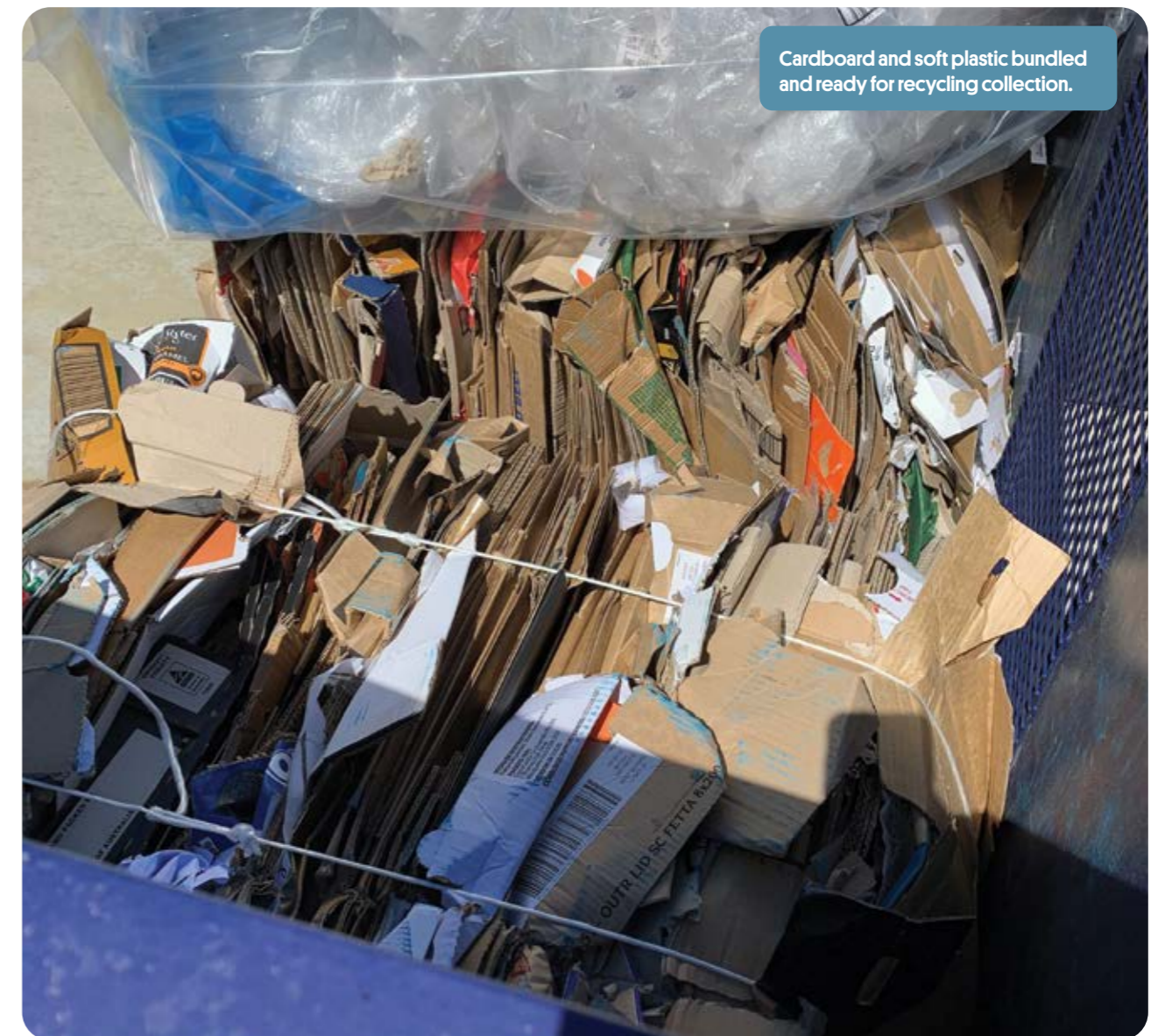
⁴ Access Economics, Employment in waste management and recycling, commissioned by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, July 2009

⁵ https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/business_and_industry/waste-levy

⁶ <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/publications/national-waste-policy-action-plan>

⁷ <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/resources/sa-waste-strategy-2020-2025>

⁸ <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/packaging-covenant>



By improving Foodland and IGA's waste and resource management, we are making positive changes and also inspiring others to do so. This includes the community, supply chain and neighbouring shops.

SAIR is committed to improving how we manage our waste and resources. An example of this is SAIR's leadership and contribution to the State's single-use plastic legislation. SAIR sits on the single use plastic legislation taskforce established to inform the development of legislation to phase-out single-use plastic products and other single-use items⁹. This legislation is the first of its kind in Australia and other states are now following South Australia's leadership. SAIR will remain on this taskforce and the actions within this Strategy will inform the feedback SAIR can provide to the SA government as it continues to phase out other single-use plastic items.

⁹ See <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/supp-taskforce>

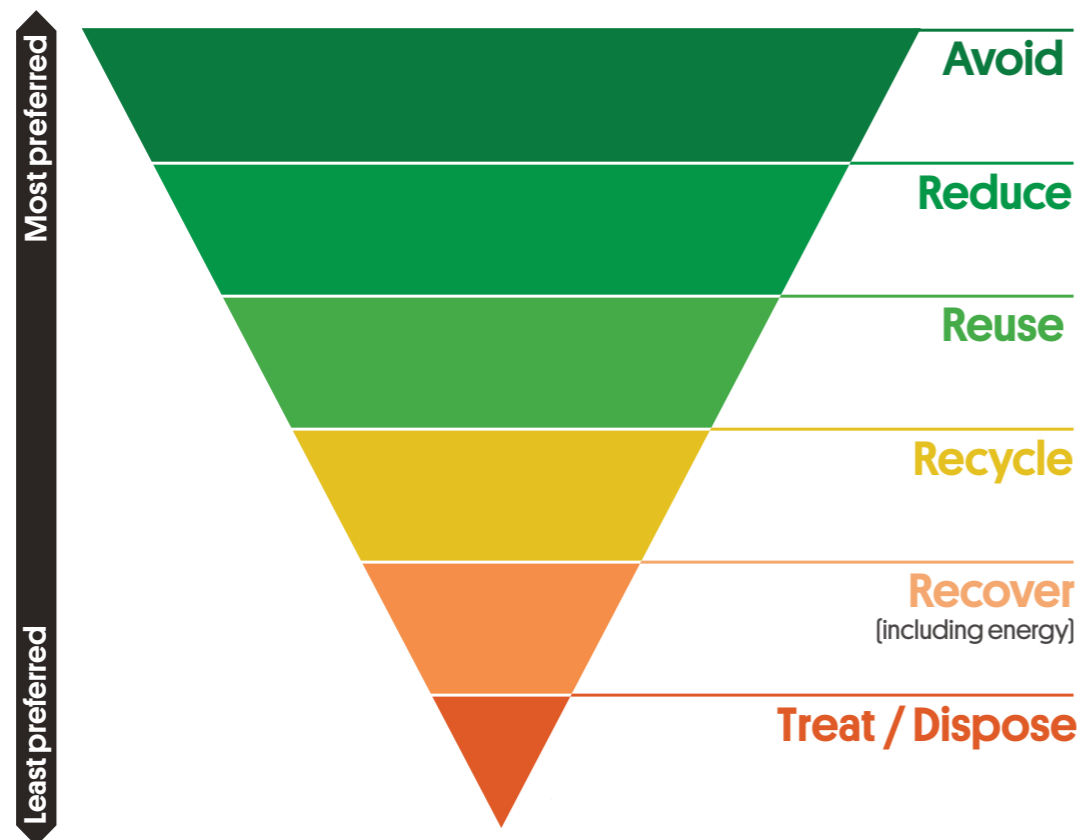
Guiding principles

This strategy was developed considering the following guiding principles.

Waste Management Hierarchy

The Waste Management Hierarchy is a nationally and internationally accepted guide for prioritising waste management practices with the objective of achieving optimal economic, social, and environmental outcomes. It sets out the preferred order of waste management practices. Wherever possible, we will aim to move up the hierarchy and avoid creating waste in the first place, reduce how much is created and reuse wherever possible. If these are not possible, we will recycle or recover as much as we can. Landfill is the lowest priority on the waste management hierarchy.

Figure 1: Waste Management Hierarchy¹⁰



¹⁰ Image credit: Green Industries SA Waste Strategy 2020-2025, page 12 <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/resources/sa-waste-strategy-2020-2025>

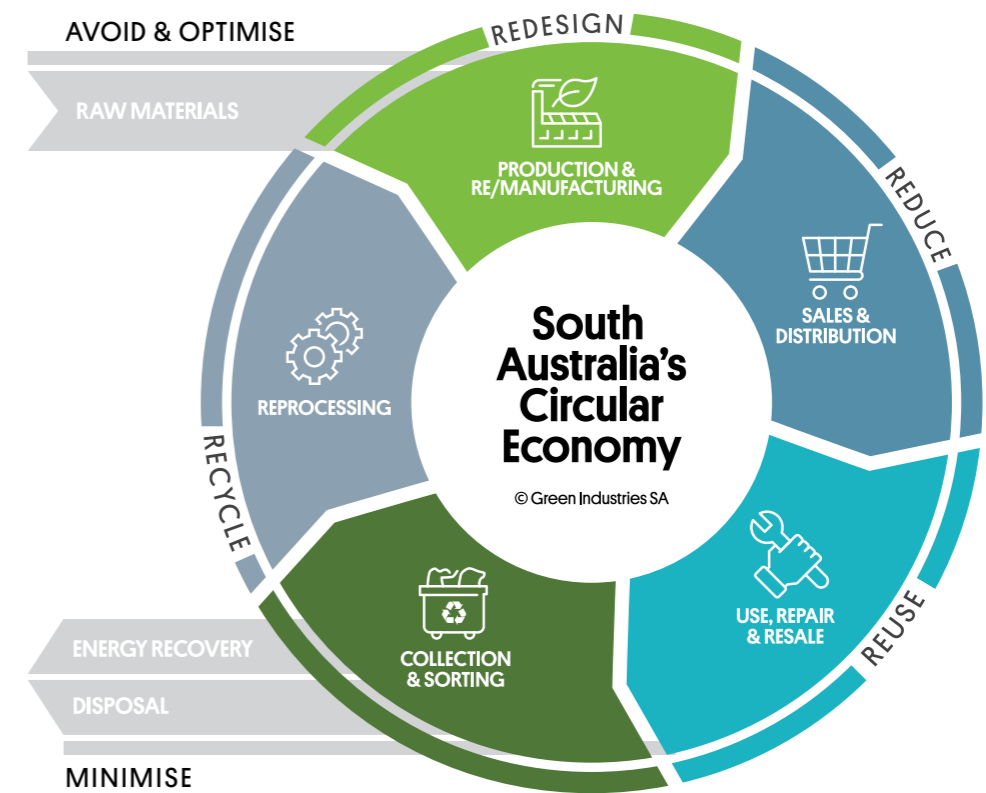
Circular economy

According to Green Industries SA, “the circular economy is a ‘must-have’, as the current ‘take-make-dispose economy’ is unsustainable, anyway you look at it. A circular economy is a world where we use less natural and raw materials, keep products in use longer and design out waste and pollution¹¹”.

“A circular economy is restorative by design, keeping products, components and materials at their highest utility and value for the optimal duration...it builds upon the ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ waste hierarchy...and promotes the notion of waste as a resource¹²”

By avoiding and reducing waste, reusing and recycling more, and purchasing recycled-content products, supermarkets can contribute to a more circular economy for South Australia.

Figure 2: Circular Economy in SA¹³



¹¹ <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/driving-the-circular-economy>
¹² *Creating Value; The potential benefits of a circular economy in South Australia*, Report prepared by Lifecycles, EconSearch, Colby Industries and the University of Queensland, for Green Industries SA, May 2017, page 5, [https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/resources/potential-benefits-of-a-circular-economy-in-south-australia--report-\(2017\)](https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/resources/potential-benefits-of-a-circular-economy-in-south-australia--report-(2017))
¹³ Image credit: Green Industries SA Waste Strategy 2020-2025, page 13, <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/resources/sa-waste-strategy-2020-2025>

Focus areas

We have identified initiatives aimed at improving management of waste and recycling across supermarkets, based on principles from the waste management hierarchy and circular economy.

The waste initiatives fit into five areas:

1. **Food recovery** to keep food at its highest value and reduce food waste to landfill
2. **Packaging** to help supermarkets transition to packaging that is reusable, fully recyclable or compostable
3. **Plastics** to reduce plastic waste and improve recovery of this stream
4. **Education, training and reporting** to help the community and staff reduce waste and recycle better, and report on improvements in landfill diversion and/or organics recovery
5. **Other** areas that cover procurement of waste services, battery recycling and receipt printing.

Many of our supermarkets are already undertaking a range of activities in these and other areas. Over time, we hope to increase the number of supermarkets actively involved in better waste management practices, starting with the focus areas and initiatives identified in this Strategy, and expanding on those wherever possible.

SAIR will continue to encourage Foodland and IGA supermarkets to consider the waste hierarchy and circular economy principles in their own practices, when engaging suppliers, and for the products they sell.

The five areas include a range of initiatives, which are prioritised based on the positive impact the initiative will have on waste/environmental outcomes, feedback from supermarkets on what is important for them and the community, and ease of implementing the initiative.

The initiatives are a ‘first go’ at pulling together something that is meaningful and achievable. SAIR/ Foodland and IGA Head Office will add new waste initiatives to this list if/as they arise and are appropriate to include.

Priority waste initiatives

Below is a list of waste initiatives that Foodland and IGA supermarkets may choose to implement as they work towards achieving the food waste and recycling targets in the next section. Further detail on the initiatives is provided in Appendix 1 and in the supporting Implementation Plan.

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other initiatives that are added or implemented by supermarkets over the term of the Strategy, if appropriate.

Focus area	Initiative ¹⁴	Priority
1 Food recovery	1.1 Food donations to charities that support people experiencing food insecurity (keeping food at its highest utility value)	High
	1.2 Meat off-cuts from deli to meat rendering	High
	1.3 Commercial organics recycling service for food waste that cannot be sold or donated	High
	1.4 Reduced price food boxes – offering the community quality food at reduced cost to avoid wastage	Medium
2 Packaging	2.1 Australian certified compostable or paper fruit/veg/ bakery bag	High
	2.2 Transition to reusable packaging for incoming product deliveries	High
	2.3 Where reusable is not possible, transition to recyclable or certified compostable packaging, phasing out problematic and unnecessary single use packaging	High
	2.4 Support market for recycled materials by purchasing items with recycled content	High
	2.5 Cardboard recycling (baled)	High
	2.6 Offer or accept reusable/ returnable containers for customers	Medium
3 Plastics	3.1 Soft plastics recycling for customers	High
	3.2 Provide non-plastic check out bag alternatives and encourage BYO bags	High
	3.3 Soft plastics recycling for store pallet wrap	High
	3.4 Plastic/ Packaging free aisle (or section) in store	Low
4 Education, training and reporting	4.1 Staff training on waste separation (including staff inductions and ongoing monitoring and support)	High
	4.2 Education campaign for shoppers to improve their recycling habits at home, and encouraging them to BYO bags (and other containers, if accepted by store)	Medium
	4.3 Track and report on waste performance at the store	Medium
5 Other	5.1 Opt-in to joint procurement of waste services if/when offered by head office (to minimise waste service costs and help align services (cardboard, organics, soft plastics and general waste as standard across metro stores))	High
	5.2 Reduce printing of receipts (switch off automatic printing)	Medium
	5.3 Battery recycling drop off point in store for the community to bring household batteries.	Medium

¹⁴ Note: access to each service may not be available to all supermarkets. Additional initiatives may be added as other opportunities arise and if appropriate to include in the list.

Food waste and recycling targets

Outlined below are Foodland and IGA food waste and recycling targets. Commitment to these will reduce waste to landfill, increase food rescued or recycled from stores, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help the transition to a more circular economy, improving the management of resources.

Foodland



Foodland has committed to the Seven Sustainability Pillars [see Appendix 3].

In addition, Foodland has set the below waste and recycling target:

Implement at least 10 waste initiatives in our Foodland metro supermarkets and seven waste initiatives in Foodland regional supermarkets by 2025.

The interim target is all Foodland stores have implemented at least five waste initiatives by 2023.

IGA



IGA's Sustainability Policy [see Appendix 4] includes the commitment to implementing initiatives that will reduce costs, carbon emissions, waste, water use, and deliver other business benefits such as positive listing on shareholder indexes and a reduction in risk¹⁵.

IGA stores may choose to implement waste initiatives listed in this Strategy as part of their commitment to reducing costs, carbon emissions and waste. It might also provide other benefits such as attracting eco-conscious consumers and staff.

¹⁵ <https://www.iga.com.au/sustainability/sustainability-policy/>

Commitments from SAIR and Foodland/IGA Head Office

In addition to helping increase the number of stores that have rolled out waste initiatives, we will continue to **advocate for legislation to include bans on single-use plastic fruit and veg barrier bags.**

We will also push for **clarification on best before and use by dates.** This includes working with government bodies and suppliers on improved labelling for 'best before' and 'use by' to ensure consistency and help increase product longevity.

Supermarkets may track waste diverted from landfill and organics recovered at a store level, and we will look to consolidate this information to **clarify how much waste Foodland stores are sending to landfill across the state,** and put in **targets** for reducing this waste to landfill.

Training will also be important. The new waste initiatives will require staff training, systems updates and new signage to make sure the new processes are followed correctly. We will provide support to our stores in regards to training content and guidance.

Labelling on packaging is important too. We will work with suppliers to incorporate labelling into packaging [e.g. the Australasian Recycling label¹⁶] and consider use of laser marking to replace stickers on our fresh produce.

We will help stores implement the waste initiatives by providing **guidelines and implementation steps** where necessary and beneficial.

Finally, we will work on **promoting the good work we are doing to the community, the supply chain, and surrounding shops to encourage others to follow suit.**

¹⁶ See <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/consumers/australasian-recycling-label>

Appendix 1: Further detail on each initiative

Further detail on each of our waste initiatives is provided below. More detail, including rough timing to roll out, is in the supporting Implementation Plan.

Focus area	Initiative	Description	Store costs/benefits
1 Food recovery	1.1 Food donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate food a day before its 'use by' or the day of its 'best by' date (if this is the preferred timing of the food rescue charity). This is then donated to a food rescue charity that then supplies the food to people experience food insecurity Options for donation vary, but may be direct pick up by food charities, or delivery to a central location where food charities then collect the donated items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large environmental benefit – keeping food at its highest value and avoiding sending waste to landfill where it decomposes and emits methane. Financial benefits - store may be able to receive tax deduction for the market value of food being donated (TBC) and there are additional savings from reduced waste collections costs. Social benefit – helping those experiencing food insecurity, stores would be able to quantify meals donated to support the local community. Would require space and organisation to coordinate in store.
	1.2 Meat off-cuts from deli to meat rendering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When preparing meats in deli section, place the meat offcuts (including bones) into bins/boxes. These are then picked up and taken to a meat rendering facility. This meat rendering facility processes the meats into products such as blood meal and tallow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off cuts used to make valuable products (rather than going to landfill). Without this option, off cuts could be downgraded to compost, or landfilled (if composting was not an option).
	1.3 Organics recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add an organics recycling bin[s] at back of house for food waste (fruit and veg, old bread, meat and dairy – all decanted from non-compostable packaging), and where practical, within the stores for staff use behind the counter/ in storerooms (and possibly for public use in fruit and vegetable sales areas). Separate meat collections (for meat offcuts at delis) should continue on top of this. There may be other recovery options for food waste, such as donations to animal feed. These need to be compliant with EPA requirements and minimise biosecurity risk¹⁷. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organics taken to a commercial composting facility where it is made into compost and soil products, which is sold to farmers to put carbon back in the soil and grow fruit and vegetables that are purchased by stores. This circular model generates local jobs and can be communicated with the community. Potential savings as commercial organics recycling costs less than landfill (not paying for landfill levy). Reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Requires staff time and training to ensure items are correctly separated and placed into organics bin (required separate fruit and vegetable waste from packaging).

¹⁷ For example, foods that contain meat or meat products or have had contact with meat or meat products cannot be provided to pig farmers. This product may contain viruses that can cause severe disease in pigs, and provide an entry point to infect other livestock.



Focus area	Initiative	Description	Store costs/benefits
2 Packaging	1.4 Reduced price food boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pack food a day or two before its 'use by' or the day of its 'best before' date, in cartons / boxes. Sell box at reduced price (quick sale). Customers purchase/order the box through an app or similar, (the Y Waste app is an option) present receipt/pay in store (if required) and an employee hands over the food box. The food box doesn't have to be the same every time and could generally be priced between \$5 and \$20. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental benefit - as above Financial benefit – boxes sold is an additional source of income from material that would otherwise be discarded, avoided waste disposal costs Potential to attract new markets to the store Improved aesthetics in store – no need for the reduced price trolley Would require space and organisation to coordinate in store.
	2.1 Compostable Fruit/ Veg/ Bakery Bag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switch plastic barrier bags in the fruit & veg and potentially bakery section with compostable ones (paper bags or compostable bags certified to the Australian standard AS4736 or AS5810¹⁸). Customers use the bags in store and then again at home to put their food scraps in, which can then be placed in their kerbside organics (green) bin. Consider selling kitchen caddies made from recycled plastic content (to compliment use of certified compostable bags for fruit & veg). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaces single use plastic with compostable alternative that can be used to recycle food waste at home. Supports circular economy by assisting food waste recycling. Potential new source of revenue from kitchen caddies. Increased foot traffic in Foodland stores from people coming to support stores that are making more effort to be sustainable. Increased costs as compostable bags are currently more expensive than plastic barrier bags.
	2.2 Transition to reusable packaging for incoming product deliveries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with suppliers to reduce the amount of packaging entering the store, and transition to reusable wherever possible (where the supplier uses the product repeatedly). For example, moving to reusable collapsible crates for fruit deliveries that can be used to display fruit and then taken back to the supplier to be used again. If supplier cannot take back packaging, give packaging to customers for use at home (e.g. place boxes at the front of store). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaces single-use items with reusable packaging, reducing recovery/disposal costs and manufacturing costs. Removing packaging reduces production of new materials, lowering emissions, diverting material from landfill.

¹⁸ See <https://biobagworld.com.au/product-information/bulk-retail/> for an example of a local manufacturer's product.

Focus area	Initiative	Description	Store costs/benefits
	2.3 Where reusable is not possible, transition to recyclable or certified compostable packaging, and phase out problematic and unnecessary single use packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wherever possible, move to reusable ahead of single-use. If single-use packaging is required (i.e. item cannot be reused), prioritise cardboard or certified compostable packaging over plastic or blended cardboard/plastic packaging. This includes what stores use, but also what supermarkets sell to customers. This may be particularly useful for packaged food. For example, offer customers the option to wrap perishable items in compostable wrap at point of sale for cheese and deli meats, and explore bread wrapped in compostable packaging with cardboard ties. Stores can use the problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging items in APCO's <i>Action Plan for Problematic and Unnecessary Single-Use Plastic Packaging</i>¹⁹ as a guide for what materials to phase out. These include expanded polystyrene (EPS) for food and beverages, EPS loose fill packaging, PVC packaging, rigid polystyrene packaging, rigid plastic packaging with carbon black. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaces single-use plastic with alternative that is easier to recycle. Wrapping food in compostable packaging removes need to de-package and source-separate food waste to remove contaminants (e.g. plastic) before placing in organics bin. Reverse logistics may be possible to minimise cost of taking boxes and other items back to the suppliers. Minimising waste to landfill by moving to reusable and transitioning away from materials that are more difficult to recycle will likely reduce waste disposal costs.
	2.4 Support market for recycled materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with suppliers to include recycled materials into products' packaging. Purchase goods made from recycled content (e.g. shopping trolleys). If possible, soft plastics recycling at front of store could be made into a product(s) purchased by Foodland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drive up demand for recycled materials to strengthen recycling industry. Potential to increase local manufacture of goods with recycled-content. Reduce reliance on virgin materials to make new products.
	2.5 Cardboard recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cardboard packaging for product deliveries is baled and collected for recycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost to recover cardboard is substantially lower than to send to landfill, and can be a rebate if the price for the commodity is strong. This recycled product (recovered fibre) is currently in demand.
	2.6 Reusable/returnable containers for customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the option for customers to bring containers for items such as deli meats (e.g. Pack & Go scheme at Frewville and Pasadena Foodland), soaps, and other consumables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase cost of reusable containers sold in store offset by customer purchasing and reduced cost of purchasing packaging that would otherwise be used to wrap product.

¹⁹ <https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/Action%20Plan%20for%20Problematic%20and%20Unnecessary%20Single-Use%20Plastic%20Packaging>

Focus area	Initiative	Description	Store costs/benefits
3 Plastics	3.1 Soft plastics recycling for customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bale frame with plastic bag is placed in front of the store for customers to bring their soft plastics (e.g. bread bags, chip packets). This is then sent to a recycler or alternative fuels (energy from waste) facility. Certified compostable bags should not be placed in soft plastics collections (they are not recycled the same way). Signage and customer education needed to help ensure items are correctly disposed. This may be easier to roll out to metro stores first. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment with services offered at other supermarkets, leading to increased food traffic in stores. No soft plastics recycling service offered at home kerbside bins, so it allows an avenue to recycle this material (in addition to what is offered at competitor stores). Will likely be a cost for stores to implement (cost associated with collection and recycling).
	3.2 Provide non-plastic check out bag alternatives, and encourage BYO bags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide paper bag or box option that can be recycled via yellow bin or reused at home by customers. Continue to provide reusable bags options. Consider purchase and provision of certified compostable shopping bags at the checkout. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper bags can be made from recycled content, and manufactured locally (in future). Paper bags easy to recycle at home in comingled recycling bins, or if soiled with food products, in green (organics) bins. Certified compostable checkout bags can be disposed in green (organics) bins at home, and assist to customers divert food waste from landfill.
	3.3 Soft plastics recycling for pallet wrap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pallet wrap is baled and picked up to be recycled. Explore buying back products made from this material (e.g. pallets). This may be easier to roll out to metro stores first. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This product is a clean homogenous stream and therefore is easier to recycle.
	3.4 Plastic/Packaging free aisle (or section) in store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicate a whole aisle (or zone) in the store to 'zero waste' products or products that contain no plastic packaging. Consider using compostable/paper bags in this section and/or allowing customers to bring their own containers (with ability to tare scales so weight of containers is not counted in price). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to promote this initiative to the community as a way to reduce waste generation. Increased foot traffic due to new initiative being attractive to eco-conscious consumers.



Focus area	Initiative	Description	Store costs/benefits
4 Education, training and reporting	4.1 Staff training on waste separation (including staff inductions and ongoing monitoring and support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will need to be appropriately trained on the new initiative(s) and system to ensure its success. This will depend on what initiatives are implemented at stores, but may include proper decanting of materials for the organics recycling bin, and how to identify, package up and donate food. SAIR/ Foodland and IGA Head Office can provide support for this initiative (e.g. induction and information packs, list of instructions etc). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper training may lower costs in the long run as staff will be clear on what to prioritise and how to do it. For example, identifying food that can be donated instead of discarding to landfill will lead to savings for the store. Over time, as more staff are trained, appropriate waste management practices will become part of daily routines, requiring reduced effort for training and monitoring.
	4.2 Education campaign for shoppers to improve their recycling habits at home, and encouraging them to BYO bags (and other containers, if accepted by your store)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a campaign in stores promoting better recycling and resource management. For example, explaining ways shoppers could save money by reducing food waste at home, and recycle food better. This could coincide with the release of compostable bags in the fruit and vegetable section and food donations, for example. Continue to encourage shoppers to bring their own bags and containers (if these are accepted in stores). Use information available to support the campaign, for example the Which Bin website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved waste management by the community. Store is taking the lead in helping the community to improve their practices. Can coincide with a new initiative to promote the good work the store is doing.
	4.3 Track and report on waste performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are many ways to track waste performance at a supermarket For example, waste sent to landfill per year (in tonnes), waste recovered to organics recycling or food donations per year (by weight), or waste diverted from landfill. Information can be collect via waste invoices for a period of time. Invoices can be used to estimate: tonnes of waste disposed, tonnes of recyclables (cardboard, food, soft plastics etc). For diversion, calculate the proportion of waste diverted from landfill by the store, and set a target to improve this. Head Office can provide guidance on measuring waste performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding what the store is discarding shows what the opportunities for improvement are. Cost to recycle is lower than cost to dispose to landfill. Cost to landfill continues to increase as the levy increases. Environmental benefits from recycling.

Focus area	Initiative	Description	Store costs/benefits
5 Other	5.1 Store opt-in to joint procurement of waste services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This initiative involves collaboration across stores and/or with Head Office. It would work most effectively if coordinated by Head Office. Stores can choose to opt in to this procurement process. A chosen group of supermarkets put their waste services out to tender at the same time to minimise costs and maximise recycling options provided to stores (suggest cardboard, clean soft plastic (LDPE), organics and general waste), This also helps maintain consistent and easy to interpret waste reporting (to be included in tender specifications). Stores may be clustered into metro north, south, east and west, and regional areas. Other services may include comingled recycling, container deposit (10 cent) items, mixed soft plastic (from customer drop offs). Documents would be written to allow some flexibility in which services are adopted based on store location and needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive better value for money/cheaper services (generally costs reductions are around 5-10%, based on examples in the education sector and council contracts. Improve waste management practices by increasing recycling, reducing waste to landfill. Better reporting from service providers. Price increases can be monitored and if contracts are done right, would be more transparent for stores.
	5.2 Reduce printing of receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Configure point of sales systems to only print receipts on demand (rather than to print automatically) Check requirements for returning products/warranties prior to rolling out this option, noting that some stores and competitors have already implemented this initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce receipt waste. Saves on printing costs (ink, paper and other maintenance) and purchase of receipt rolls. Ability to promote this initiative to the community as a way to reduce waste generation (most receipts are a landfill item due to the thermal printing method that embeds a chemical in the paper making it unsuitable for recycling or composting).
	5.3 Battery recycling drop off point in stores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery recycling stations are set up at the front of the store for customers to bring in their household batteries, These batteries are sent to a battery recycling facility to be recycled into new products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Batteries should not be placed in household bins. This offers a recycling option for residents (in addition to what's offered at Aldi stores and elsewhere). This provides another reason for residents to come into the store.



Appendix 2: Example of how success is measured and displayed

Focus area	Initiative and requirement that store to have adopted it	Store 1	Store 2	Store 3	Etc	Total stores that have adopted the initiative
1 Food recovery	1.1 Food donations to charities – supermarket regularly donates food to charity [at least monthly]		✓			15
	1.2 Meat off-cuts from deli to meat rendering facility – supermarket sends all meat off-cuts to rendering facility	✓	✓	✓		90
	1.3 Organics recycling – supermarket has an organics recycling option	✓	✓			55
	1.4 Reduced price food boxes – supermarket offers food boxes to customers			✓		10
2 Packaging	2.1 Certified compostable or paper fruit/veg/ bakery bag – supermarket offers compostable bags for fruit and vegetables		✓			Etc
	2.2 Transition to reusable packaging – supermarket has changed at least one significant item/product/packaging material that it regularly receives from single use to reusable		✓			Etc
	2.3 Reusable/ returnable containers – supermarket offers customers a program for reusing containers to buy produce/ products	✓	✓			
	2.4 Where reusable is not possible, transition to recyclable or compostable and phase out problematic single use packaging items – supermarket has changed at least one significant item from a problematic plastic to cardboard or certified compostable item	✓	✓			
	2.5 Supermarket recycles cardboard	✓	✓	✓		
	2.6 Support market for recycled materials – supermarket has purchased at least one significant item that contains recycled content		✓			
3 Plastics	3.1 Supermarket offers soft plastics recycling for customers	✓	✓	✓		
	3.2 Supermarket provides non-plastic check out bag alternatives		✓			
	3.3 Supermarket recycles their soft plastic pallet wrap	✓	✓			
	3.4 Supermarket has a plastic/ packaging free aisle (or section)					

Focus area	Initiative and requirement that store to have adopted it	Store 1	Store 2	Store 3	Etc	Total stores that have adopted the initiative
4 Education, training and reporting	4.1 Staff training on waste separation – supermarket has waste training included in inductions					
	4.2 Education campaign for shoppers to improve their recycling habits at home – supermarket has trialled an education campaign for shoppers		✓			
	4.3 Supermarket tracks and reports on waste performance		✓			
5 Other	5.1 Supermarket has collaborated with other stores and gone to the market via a joint procurement process			✓		
	5.2 Reduce printing of receipts – supermarket does not automatically print receipts		✓			
	5.3 Supermarket offers a battery recycling drop off point in store		✓			

This data summary can be used to calculate the following:

X% of our metro stores and Y% of our regional supermarkets have implemented at least five initiatives. This is in line with our 2023 interim target.



Appendix 3: Foodland's commitment to sustainability

Foodland has committed to Seven Sustainability Pillars²⁰:



Within Foodland's Seven Sustainability Pillars is a commitment to improving waste and resource management:

- Every Foodland store will have a detailed strategy and program to keep food out of landfill and reverse the rate of food waste.
- 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging will be standard in every store by 2025.
- They will also introduce a soft plastic recycling scheme and support product stewardship programs.

IGA will follow Foodland on this journey and has also set out its own sustainability commitment [see overleaf].

²⁰ <https://www.foodlandsa.com.au/sustainability/#:~:text=We%20will%20make%20sure%20our,move%20towards%20being%20RSPCA%2Dapproved.>

Appendix 4: IGA's Sustainability Policy is set out below covering IGA, Foodland and Friendly Grocer stores²¹

We, the 1400 independently owned and operated grocers of Australia, operating under the banners of IGA, Foodland and Friendly Grocer, are committed to being responsible members of the communities in which we live and work. We understand that sustainability means that we seek to improve our economic, social and environmental, performance without harming the ability of future generations to enjoy the same economic, social and environmental conditions that we do today.

We will endeavour to continuously improve our sustainability performance, and conduct our business in a socially responsible manner while reducing the cost of doing business to ensure that we are the strong third force in grocery retailing in Australia. We will do this through embracing opportunities and managing risks, including by participating in the Metcash led Sustainability@Retail and Community Chest programs.

The independent grocers of Australia will:

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and adhere to regulatory standards at local, national and international levels as required;
- Actively prevent pollution
- Ensure we act in a socially responsible manner in regards to the management of our people, our communities and resources;
- Integrate principles of sustainability into decision making;
- Support our suppliers, customers and communities to become more socially responsible and sustainable;
- Communicate our sustainability actions;
- Commit to continuous improvement of sustainability performance.

The independent grocers of Australia will seek to engage the active support of all employees and stakeholders. We expect to implement initiatives that will reduce costs, carbon emissions, waste, water use, and deliver other business benefits such as positive listing on shareholder indexes and a reduction in risk. Accountability and responsibility to act in a socially responsible and sustainable manner is everyone's responsibility at IGA.

Independent grocers of Australia anticipate that through working together, sharing successes, and improving all aspects of the business, that IGA will be sustainable leaders in the retailing of groceries.

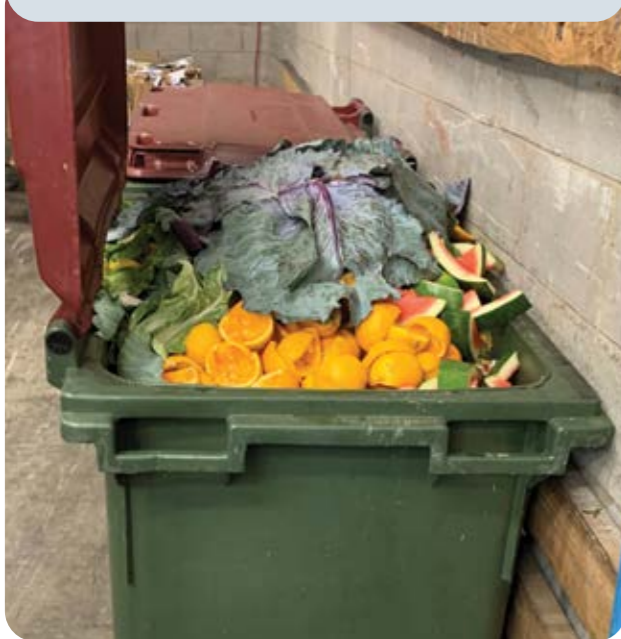
Ben Ryan

**IGA National Council Chairman
February 2014**

²¹ <https://www.iga.com.au/sustainability/sustainability-policy/>

Appendix 5: Waste initiative examples

An organics recycling bin for food waste that cannot be sold or donated at the Foodland Norwood store. This food waste will go to a compost facility and sold as compost / soil product to farms which use this to put nutrients back in the soil, to help grow new produce for our stores.



An example of reusable crates at a Foodland Flagstaff Hill store. We will prioritise reusable over recyclable items as it is higher on the waste hierarchy and aligns with the principles of the circular economy.



Certified compostable fruit and vegetable bags at the Foodland Nairn store. Customers can use these bags to take fruit and vegetables home, and then reuse the bags to discard their food scraps when preparing meals. As the bag is certified to Australian standards [AS4736 and AS5810], the bag and food scraps can be placed in green bins at home which is then sent to a commercial composter; or it can be used in home compost systems.

One of IGA's key waste initiatives is a food rescue program called Food for Change²². Stores log food that they cannot sell on an online platform. Food rescue charities come by the store and collect the excess food which is consumed by those experiencing food insecurity. The online platform can track and report data such as value of food donated to charities and number of meals provided to those in need.



Images taken from <https://youtu.be/filUnWrsfOM>



²² <https://www.iga.com.au/iga-community/food-rescue-program/>

