

2025-26
Grant Funding
Guidelines

Charitable recyclers subsidy program



**Government
of South Australia**
Green Industries SA

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Acknowledgment of Country

GISA 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 application form and claim form available on the Green Industries SA website
- be submitted with a signed declaration
- be submitted with all supporting information (if any) and no more than 10MB
- be submitted electronically (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel or PDF file) to han.tran@sa.gov.au by **5 pm 31 August 2026**, with the subject heading 'Charitable Recyclers Subsidy Program 2025-26 – application'.

Further information

Contact Senior Projects Officer, Han Tran on +61 474 193 376 or at Han.Tran@sa.gov.au.

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](#)

Charitable Recyclers Subsidy Program

The charitable recycling sector represents charity and social enterprise retailers who work on the collection, sale and/or repurposing of donated goods. Through re-use and recycling of donated goods that would otherwise be destined for landfill, charitable recyclers are firmly entrenched in the circular economy.

There are many diverse organisations licensed under the *South Australian Collections for Charitable Purposes Act 1939*, and this program specifically targets charitable recyclers that received donations from the community for the primary purpose of re-using or selling the goods for reuse.

There is, however, a portion of the donated material that is unable to be re-used, repaired, recycled or sold and must be disposed of. Under section 113 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, for waste disposed a levy is collected from 'the holder of a licence to conduct a waste depot' by the Environment Protection Authority on behalf of the state government. The levy is then passed onto charitable recyclers that need to dispose of residual waste via waste collection costs and waste depot gate fee costs.

Objectives

The objective of the subsidy program is to enable eligible charitable recyclers to partially offset some of the waste disposal costs associated with residual waste received by a waste depot for the purpose of disposal while maintaining an incentive to divert material from landfill.

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply for a subsidy, an applicant must be a charitable recycling organisation that received donations from the community for the primary purpose of re-using or selling the goods for reuse. The definition of a charitable recycling organisation for this purpose is an organisation that:

- is not for profit
- is licensed under the South Australian *Collections for Charitable Purposes Act 1939*
- has obtained Deductible Gift Recipient Status from the Australian Tax Office OR a letter of endorsement from a local council confirming that the organisation is charitable and provides a service which benefits the community
- operates public drop-off points in South Australia where the community can donate items, such as charity bins or shops receiving items from the public
- has collection activities that are voluntary or not-for-profit and with no commercial interest, with collection activities undertaken exclusively to support the charitable purpose of the charitable recycler
- has appropriate measures in place to discourage scavenging and dumping of waste
- has paid employees and/or volunteers that are directly involved in the operation of the recycling program(s) including collection, sorting, retailing, exporting of used clothing and associated products, or providing clothing to the public for charitable purposes and that is (or are) exclusively run to support the charitable purpose of the organisation
- does not sell or otherwise allow their brand name to be used by a commercial operator to solicit donated goods

- has been actively involved in the consistent operation of a recycling and reuse program for a minimum of 12 months prior to seeking funds.

How will it work?

Waste depots find it difficult to adequately differentiate charitable recycling waste from other waste streams at the point of disposal. For this reason, the charitable recycling subsidy is calculated based on evidence of waste collected at the point of generation, such as retail outlets, sorting centres, and so on.

Commercial waste collectors that use front lift and rear lift trucks generally charge customers based on bin size and number of bin lifts (volume of waste) rather than per unit of waste collected. The bins collected may not always be full and some of the collected material, although unusable by the charitable recycler, may in fact be diverted to resource recovery or otherwise not destined for disposal to landfill.

For this reason, a formula will be applied to convert the volume of material collected at the charity site to a weight-based metric (tonnes). A conversion factor of 0.125 for volume (m³) to mass (tonnes) will apply, that is:

$$\text{Volume (m}^3\text{)} \times 0.125 = \text{Mass (tonnes)}$$

A tonnage calculator has been developed to assist with the necessary conversions, where applicable. The calculator can be found in the claim form, available on the Green Industries SA website.

The above formula also applies to charitable recyclers that self-haul residual waste to a waste depot for the purpose of disposal and is charged by trailer size instead of actual disposed tonnage (refer to the Tonnage Calculator).

Please note conversion factor will **NOT** apply for charitable recyclers that self-haul waste and can provide verifiable weighbridge documentation.

The total subsidy available per charitable recycler is calculated as 75% of the levy liability per tonne of waste disposed to a waste depot. The following formula will be used to calculate eligible subsidy:

$$75\% \times \text{Levy Rate} \times \text{Disposed Tonnage} = \text{Total Subsidy}$$

Submission of applications

Eligible applicant can choose to submit an application for each claim period or submit one application for the full financial year in the second claim period (January to June).

An application form and a claim form must be completed and submitted electronically and received by Green Industries SA for each claim.

Claim period	Due date
July to December 2025	31 August 2026
January to June 2026	31 August 2026

Please refer to the application form for further details on application submission. All applicants will be notified by the agency to confirm receipt of their applications.

Payment schedule

Applications will be processed within 30 days of receipt, provided all necessary information has been supplied to GISA for assessment. Payment will be made in arrears following the successful application process.

Privacy and commercial-in-confidence considerations

All applications will be treated as commercial-in-confidence. Green Industries SA has the ultimate discretion in relation to publicity for successful applications. Applicants are not permitted to publicise any announcements related to this funding without the written approval in the first instance of Green Industries SA.

GISA will keep commercially sensitive information provided by applicants strictly confidential. Such information will not be publicly disclosed without written consent from the applicants.

Assessment process

All applications will undergo an eligibility check and assessment process. Where applications are found to meet the eligibility criteria, the subsidy claim will be assessed and the value of the calculated levy subsidy validated before being approved for payment. Please note all subsidy decisions are final.

Targeted audits of documentation from selected funding recipients may be undertaken to validate actual tonnages.