

2025-26  
Grant Funding  
Guidelines

# Regional transport subsidies program

Released  
April 2026



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.

## Submission of applications

Applications should be submitted on the application form provided and received by Green Industries SA by **5pm Adelaide time, 30 April 2026**.

Notification regarding funding approval is expected to be provided within four weeks of application closure and is subject to the requirement for additional information (if any).

All application forms must be submitted **electronically**, with supporting information and a signed declaration scanned and sent by email to [Han.Tran@sa.gov.au](mailto:Han.Tran@sa.gov.au) with subject line 'Regional Transport Subsidies Program 2025-26'.

## Further information

To check your eligibility or for further assistance please contact:

Han Tran  
Project Officer Evaluation  
Green Industries SA  
0474 193 376  
[Han.Tran@sa.gov.au](mailto: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.](#)

## South Australia's Waste Strategy

The Regional Transport Subsidies Program supports South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030, *Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy*. The strategy aims to accelerate South Australia's transition to a circular economy by reducing waste, improving resource recovery, and supporting a low-emissions, resource-efficient economy.

The strategy focuses on:

- avoiding waste and keeping products and materials in use for longer
- improving resource recovery and the quality of recovered materials through appropriate circular economy infrastructure and systems
- supporting industry collaboration, innovation and strengthening markets for recovered and recycled materials
- developing circular economy skills and knowledge and enabling behaviour change across government, industry and the community

## Regional Transport Subsidies Program

Transport costs and travel distances present a challenge for recycling in some regional areas. The Regional Transport Subsidies Program provides temporary relief to support South Australian local councils in rural and regional areas to continue their recycling efforts and adapt to the challenging environment since implementation of China's National Sword Policy in 2018.

## Objectives

The objectives of the program are to:

- enable local regional councils to partially offset some of the total costs associated with the provision of kerbside recycling services
- support ongoing, uninterrupted delivery of kerbside recycling services.

## Who can apply?

All South Australian regional councils that provide yellow bin kerbside recycling services to their residents and transport collected material for recycling<sup>1</sup> can apply for this funding.

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<sup>1</sup> Recycling includes “activities through which wastes are collected, sorted, reprocessed (including through composting), and/or converted into raw materials for use in a production system, excluding for energy” as defined under the [National standard for waste and resource recovery data and reporting \(2021\)](#).

## Available funding

The funding available per eligible council is calculated as follows:

**Funding amount = total tonnes x non-metro kilometres travelled<sup>(a)</sup> x subsidy rate<sup>(b)</sup>**

<sup>(a)</sup> For the purpose of the program, **kilometres travelled** is measured one way from the consolidation point to the recycling destination. Where the consolidation point is outside the council boundary, the distance between the council chamber and the consolidation point can be included.

**Non-metro kilometres travelled** is determined by the **kilometres travelled** minus the average distance travelled by metro councils to the recycling destination. Under the 2025-26 program, the average distance travelled by metro councils is calculated at 16.5 kilometres. This is subject to annual review.

<sup>(b)</sup> Subsidy rates are as follows:

Non-metro kilometre travelled	Subsidy rate (\$ per tonne per km)
<150 km	\$0.11
151 – 250 km	\$0.13
251 – 400 km	\$0.15
401 – 600 km	\$0.17
>600 km	\$0.20

Transport costs associated with kerbside recycling after 30 June 2026 will **NOT** be funded. Advice regarding further support beyond 30 June 2026 will be provided at the appropriate time.

Kerbside recycling refers to the total recyclable materials received by eligible local regional councils through the yellow bin kerbside collection service. The material types may include paper, cardboard, glass, metal and plastic.

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

## What will be funded

The fund will only be used for the purpose of supporting the continuation of recycling services in regional areas. Eligible cost items include transport costs associated with a council's provision of kerbside recycling.

The funding request should provide:

- **actual** tonnages of recyclables and transport distances for the period **1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025**
- **forecast** tonnages of recyclables and transport distances for the period **1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026** – noting that the forecast tonnages and transport distance will be reconciled with the actual tonnages and transport distance reported for the final payment
- **insurance policy arrangements**, such as LGA Mutual Liability Scheme and Workers Compensation Scheme.

Successful applicants are required to report on actual tonnages collected and actual transport distance for the funding period with supporting evidence, as well as evidence of recyclables being recycled and/or lawful stockpiling.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, the following criteria must be met:

- Eligible applicants are South Australian local councils that are located outside of metropolitan Adelaide.
- Eligible cost items are transport costs associated with kerbside recycling for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.
- Recyclable materials from kerbside collection must be transported for recycling
- Recyclable materials cannot be unlawfully stockpiled.
- Eligible applicants must provide actual and forecast tonnages of kerbside recyclables collected and transport distance for the funding period with supporting evidence.
- Eligible applicants must agree to provide final reports on actual tonnages of kerbside recyclables collected and actual transport distance for the funding period with supporting evidence as well as evidence of recyclables being recycled and not unlawfully stockpiled.
- Interstate transport will be considered on a case-by-case basis if sufficient justification is provided.

Unsuccessful applicants will be eligible to reapply only once. Green Industries SA will provide assistance and feedback to help applicants lodge eligible applications.

## Payment schedule

Payment will be made in two tranches:

- The first payment will be made based on the actual tonnes collected and transport distance for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.
- The second, and final, payment amount will be made based on the reported actual tonnages collected and transport distance for the funding period 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 upon acceptance of final reports by Green Industries SA.

## Privacy and commercial-in-confidence considerations

All applications will be treated as commercial-in-confidence. Green Industries SA 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 any announcements related to this funding without the written approval in the first instance of Green Industries SA.

## Insurance

For the duration of the funding, the successful applicants must maintain workers compensation insurance, public liability insurance through Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme and Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme or any other insurance policy arrangements.

Successful applicants are encouraged to ensure that their transport company/business or service provider(s) has and maintains workers compensation insurance, public liability insurance for a minimum of \$10 million per claim and personal accident insurance of \$100,000 per participant.

## Assessment process

- All applicants will be notified by the agency to confirm receipt of their applications.
- Applications will be assessed by a panel convened by Green Industries SA. The panel will assess applications based on the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation. The panel may consist of Green Industries SA personnel and/or external specialists. The panel will assess all eligible applications against the eligibility requirements included in this guideline.
- If required, additional written information and data may be requested from the applicant or others to assist with the assessment.

## Funding agreement

The successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Green Industries SA. This agreement will set out the terms of the funding, conditions, payment schedules, timing, reporting requirements and other matters.

Green Industries SA must be acknowledged in all media and promotional activities relating to the program. All publicity must be approved in the first instance by Green Industries SA. 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 funding acceptance.

## Reporting

Green Industries SA requires successful applicants to provide reporting on kerbside recycling progress and outcomes. Requirements of reporting will be specified in funding agreements. The final report must be received no later than 31 August 2026. Supporting evidence should accompany the report on the actual tonnages collected and transport distances as well as evidence of recyclables being recycled and not unlawfully stockpiled.