

2025-26
Program
Guidelines

Recycling modernisation fund grant program

Released
June 2025



Australian Government



**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 or PDF file) to justin.lang@sa.gov.au by **5pm ACST, Friday 25 July 2025** with the subject heading '*Recycling modernisation fund – 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.

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.

About the Recycling Modernisation Fund

The Australian, state and territory governments recognise that they have a mutual interest in improving outcomes in Australia's waste and recycling sector and need to work together to achieve those outcomes.

The Government of South Australia has entered into a National Partnership Agreement (NPA) with the Australian Government for the purpose of improving recycling outcomes and addressing critical gaps in Australia's recycling infrastructure needed to support successful implementation of the COAG decision to phase out the exports of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres (COAG waste export bans).

The COAG waste export bans were phased in and **ban start dates** were:

1 January 2021: Unprocessed glass in a whole or broken state (both formed packaging and flat sheet glass).

1 July 2021: Mixed plastics that are not of a single resin/polymer type and/or further sorting, cleaning and processing is required before use in remanufacturing.

1 December 2021: Whole used tyres including baled tyres, but not including bus, truck and aviation tyres exported for re-treading to a verified facility.

1 July 2022: Single resin/polymer plastics that have not been re-processed (e.g. cleaned and baled PET bottles).

1 July 2024: Mixed and unsorted paper and cardboard.

To support the COAG waste export bans, the Australian Government announced a \$190 million Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) that will generate \$600 million of recycling investment and drive a billion-dollar transformation of Australia's waste and recycling capacity.

The RMF supports innovative investment in new infrastructure to sort, process and remanufacture materials such as mixed plastic, paper, tyres and glass, with Australian Government funding contingent on co-funding from industry, states and territories.

The Government of South Australia has agreed to facilitate achievement of the outcomes of the NPA by a competitive grants funding program administered by GISA.

Aim of the Recycling Modernisation Fund

The Recycling Modernisation Fund Grants Program (the program) assists private sector, non-government organisations and local government organisations to install infrastructure and provide innovative approaches to increase the supply of quality recycled materials available for use, and increase the capacity for domestic sorting, processing and manufacturing of materials affected by the COAG waste export bans. The program encourages applications for infrastructure projects that will contribute to achieving these outcomes and include economic, environmental and social benefits.

The program focuses on investments that position Australia to meet its future waste challenges and aims to deliver on key priorities at a national level.

Grants are intended to:

- support the development of new or upgrading of existing infrastructure and/or equipment to enable remanufacturing/value adding of eligible material streams for local use (preferred)
- allow for improved sorting and/or processing to enhance recoverable material quality through reduced contamination levels for local use or entry into local and export

markets, noting the requirement to meet export ban specifications and/or criteria arising from the COAG bans.

Available funding and applicant co-contribution

Recycling Modernisation Fund Grants offered through this program represent a combined contribution from both the South Australian and Australian governments. Applications for Recycling Modernisation Fund Grants from \$200,000 to a maximum of \$2,000,000 will be available, for large scale projects involving significant capital expenditure and of state significance.

Applicants are required to provide a minimum cash contribution of **50% of the requested grant amount**. For example:

Big Green Company is seeking a \$2M grant for its project. They will need to contribute at least \$1M from other sources to the total project cost (1:1:1).

Applicants that include a **cash co-contribution of greater than 50% of the requested grant amount will be viewed favourably**, as this will maximise the state and Australian government's return on investment.

Eligibility

To be eligible the project must meet the following criteria.

Projects must be carried out in South Australia and support an increase in processing capacity and/or use of one or more of the following materials subject to the COAG waste export bans:

- Mixed plastics that are not of a single resin/polymer type and/or further sorting, cleaning and processing is required before use in re-manufacturing.
- Single resin/polymer plastics that have not been re-processed (for example, cleaned and baled PET bottles).
- Source separated paper and cardboard to end markets.
- Unprocessed glass, in a whole or broken state (both formed packaging and flat sheet glass source separated from photovoltaic panels).
- Whole used tyres including baled tyres, but not including bus, truck and aviation tyres exported for re-treading to a verified facility.

Projects that focus on new technology and equipment such as mixed plastics reprocessing, increasing soft plastics processing capacity, commercialisation of new plastics separation technology, or increasing glass remanufacturing capacity may be prioritised.

Priority may be given to projects that have development approval and can be implemented and commissioned no later than December 2026.

Priority may be given to applicants that do not have any active grants with Green Industries SA at the commencement of the next project.

Eligible projects could include:

- materials recovery facilities that increase the quality of recovered materials
- new equipment or facilities to increase domestic processing capacity of recyclable materials
- projects including trial projects to increase use of recyclable or recycled materials in manufacturing and/or infrastructure.

All applicants must:

- as far as reasonably practicable, have projects operational by December 2026
- meet the Australian Government building and construction requirements under the *Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Act 2016 (Cth)*, the *Building and Construction WHS Accreditation Scheme* and the *Code for the Tendering and Performance of Building Work 2016*, where applicable.

Projects should, wherever possible, incorporate use of recycled materials.

Projects should maximise public value and private sector co-investment.

Projects are expected to be economically viable over their operational life.

Projects should, wherever possible address, Australia's regional and remote waste challenges.

Applicants unsure about the eligibility of their projects are encouraged to contact Justin Lang on +61 419 948 931 to discuss the matter further.

Ineligible activities

Grant funds will **not** be available for:

- material streams/recyclables that are not the focus of this program
- retrospective projects (infrastructure for which grant funding is provided by government must start after applications close)
- waste to energy proposals
- landfill (compliance, development, extension or closure)
- operational expenses, including fuel, electricity, maintenance, project monitoring, motor vehicles or trucks
- 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.

Assessment criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the funding priorities and the extent to which it meets the criteria below.

Weighted criteria

Projects will be scored out of 100 points for each individual criterion. Projects must score at least 50 points for each criterion.

- **Sorting, processing or remanufacturing capacity increase (50% weighting):** projects must increase the supply of quality recycled materials for use, and increase the capacity for domestic, sorting, processing and manufacturing of eligible materials.
- **Circular economy and local benefits (20% weighting):** the extent to which the project will benefit South Australia's economy and environment, such as carbon reduction, landfill diversion, increased local employment, sourcing local equipment,

fostering stronger local recycling markets and increased use of local recycled materials and/or recycled content products.

- **Value for money (20% weighting):** the extent that grant monies are leveraged with other funding.
- **Process Improvement/Innovation (10% weighting):** overcoming existing barriers, improvements to efficiency and targets new market segments.

Non-weighted criteria

These criteria must be assessed as sufficient for the application to be regarded as eligible for potential grant funding (also dependent upon meeting weighted criteria requirements).

- **A clear and credible description of the proposed project activities:** a succinct and clear description of each major task to be performed. Applications must demonstrate a clear link between project activities and the achievement of project goals/outcomes in alignment with the aims of the grant program.
- **Capacity and capability to manage the project:** demonstrating applicant's capacity and capability to manage and deliver the project successfully with sufficient commitment and experience (financial, organisational and industry support) and an understanding the relevant regulatory requirements.
- **Project risk management, measurement and evaluation:** the main risks that the project may entail and the proposed mitigation measures, project key performance indicators, their measurement, evaluation and data capture (changes in commodity prices should also be considered if relevant to the project).

Incomplete applications may be considered as non-conforming.

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. Green Industries SA reserves the right to include third party evaluations as part of the assessment process. The Government of South Australian and Australian Government have 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 Green Industries SA, who will liaise with the Australian Government accordingly.

Insurance

For the duration of the project, the proponent must maintain 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 within 2 weeks of the submission date to confirm receipt of their proposals.

- Applications will be reviewed by a panel comprising Green Industries SA personnel and external specialists. The panel will assess all eligible applications against the assessment criteria.
- If required, additional information may be requested from the applicant to assist with the assessment.
- The panel will recommend projects to be funded and funding amounts to the Chief Executive of Green Industries SA for decision. Recommended projects with a large total value will also be considered by the Board of Green Industries SA.

Funding agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Government of South Australia (Green Industries SA). This agreement will set out the terms of the grant, conditions, payment schedules, project timing, key performance indicators, reporting requirements and other matters.

To provide the necessary assurances to the Australian Government, the funding agreement may include the following requirements:

- Wherever possible, incorporating use of recycled materials in projects, and track where it has been used for reporting purposes.
- Where applicable, ensuring that only a builder or builders accredited under the Australian Government Building and Construction WHS Accreditation Scheme is contracted.
- Where applicable, ensuring that compliance with the Building Code 2016 is made a condition of tender for all contractors and subcontractors who tender for the work.
- The establishment and implementation of a system for tracing recycled content (Traceability System) that is consistent with the National Framework for Recycled Content Traceability (National Framework) and provides for at least one step forward and one step back in the supply chain.

The Government of South Australia and Australian Government must be acknowledged in all media and promotional activities relating to the project. All publicity must be approved in the first instance by Green Industries SA, who will liaise with the Australian Government accordingly. 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.

Reporting

Following commissioning of equipment Green Industries SA requires successful applicants to provide reports, usually after 6 months, however this will be determined on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with Australian Government requirements. Reports will require information on products received for processing and the material types, processing outputs (tonnes), jobs created both during construction and operation. Reporting and payment milestone timelines will be agreed with the applicant before funding is offered and included in funding agreements.