Local Government Program

2026-27
Grant Funding Guidelines

Sustainable kerbside services grants

Released
October 2026

Government of South Australia
Green Industries SA

Contents

About Green Industries SA 1

South Australia's waste strategy 1

About the Sustainable Kerbside Services grant program 1

Grant funding overview 3

Conditions of funding 4

Submitting your application 7

Assessment process 8

Grant agreement 10

Unsuccessful applications 11

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 Sustainable Kerbside Services grant program supports implementation of *Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030* (the Strategy). The Strategy aims to accelerate South Australia's transition to a circular economy by reducing waste, improving resource recovery, reducing contamination of recovered resources, and supporting a low-emissions, resource-efficient economy.

The Sustainable Kerbside Services grant program assists the delivery of actions in the Strategy by supporting:

- rollout of area-wide, high-performing food waste collection systems, including within suitable multi-unit and higher density residential developments
- implementation of *SA Better Practice Guide: Sustainable Kerbside Services* in metro and regional areas
- delivery of information to council-serviced premises on the correct use of kerbside recycling and organics bins, and where applicable, other collection systems and ways to reduce waste.

About the Sustainable Kerbside Services grant program

Program overview

GISA has provided funding to metropolitan and regional councils over many years to support the implementation of improved waste and recycling collection systems for residents with an emphasis on diversion from landfill.

These programs have been successful in promoting safe, high-performance recycling systems to South Australian councils. Education programs and other initiatives (including council rollouts of sustainable kerbside service models) have led to some improvement in material

recovery over recent years, particularly for food waste, however data[1] shows that the overall average 3-bin recovery rate is below the metropolitan kerbside bins diversion target of 70% by 2030 as set out in the Strategy.

Despite access to Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) services across metro Adelaide and some regional areas, most food wastes are still being disposed in general waste bins destined for landfill. This represents a loss of valuable resources that could otherwise be turned into compost and used to improve soil health. Implementing a sustainable kerbside service model, as set out in the *SA Better Practice Guide: Sustainable Kerbside Services*, can help councils improve resource recovery outcomes and supports circularity of organic materials back into productive use.

The Sustainable Kerbside Services model changes the default bin collection frequencies, collecting FOGO bins on a weekly basis in metropolitan Adelaide and major regional centres. This provides an incentive for householders to recycle their food waste, making it more convenient and reducing barriers such as concerns over potential bin odour.

A metropolitan Adelaide council's pilot and subsequent full rollout of the model in 2022 demonstrated a diversion rate of nearly 70% driven by increased food waste diversion. Similar results in other metropolitan Adelaide councils have been achieved by implementing this service model.

The transition to the Sustainable Kerbside Services will be a significant step forwards achieving state and local government recycling targets.

The introduction of new systems must also support high value circularity objectives in the Strategy and kerbside contamination targets. Education measures, additional resourcing for community engagement and buy-back of output materials to support these outcomes will need to be incorporated into implementation planning.

It is recognised that the Sustainable Kerbside Services model may not suit all regional councils, where there is lower population density. Alternative service models that increase the quantity of FOGO and recyclables collected may be considered under the grant program. An example of this is the successful service model implemented by Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority where the three bins are collected on a fortnightly basis.

Further guidance on the implementation of Sustainable Kerbside Services, including considerations such as compliance with the requirements of the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010*, are available at *SA Better Practice Guide: Sustainable Kerbside Services*.

[1] Green Industries SA, South Australia's Kerbside Waste Performance (2023-24 Metro Summary and 2022-23 State Report), 2025

Aim

The Sustainable Kerbside Services grant program supports South Australian councils to improve waste management services and increase landfill diversion by transitioning to, or introducing, kerbside collection services that align with *SA Better Practice Guide: Sustainable Kerbside Services*, providing fortnightly general waste collection services as a default option. Processing of the collected material into high-value soil improvement products is a core objective of this program and implementation of services must also support achievement of kerbside contamination targets outlined in the Strategy.

Objective

By adopting a proven collection model to drive positive changes in household disposal behaviour, councils can increase the diversion of household materials from landfill and reduce bin contamination, contributing to achievement of the kerbside diversion target set out in the Strategy.

Outcomes

The support provided through this grant program, coupled with the provision of high-performing in-home food waste collection infrastructure and education materials and engagement activities will support improved disposal behaviours, reduced contamination and increased diversion of resources away from landfill for processing into products with higher-end beneficial use. The program prioritises high-value end uses for collected organics with recognised end markets.

Refer to GISA's *In-home Food Waste System Grants* for financial support for the rollout of universal, area-wide 'high-performing food waste collection systems' incorporating a kitchen container/caddy, initial provision of compostable bags for diversion and education materials.

Grant funding overview

Funding is open for all South Australian councils and subsidiaries under the *Local Government Act 1999* that provide kerbside waste and recycling services (including organics) for residential and small business ratepayers.

The program supports projects which improve source separation and kerbside performance particularly regarding the quality and diversion of kerbside organics and comingled recyclable materials. **Supports are available in two areas**:

- Staged, area-wide implementation of Sustainable Kerbside Service for council areas with three-bin systems. The service includes weekly FOGO collection alongside fortnightly comingled recycling and general waste collections, designed to increase food waste recycling and reduce landfill. **(Priority)**
- Pilots across a limited geographic area to trial:
    - sustainable kerbside service; and/or
    - regional councils only: evaluate alternative bin and collection system models that encourage optimum uptake. This may include alternate bin collection

frequencies where residents can select the frequency of their organics collection service/suite of services[2].

Note that trials should be for a minimum 12-month consecutive period with a view to continuing a service.

Applicants are encouraged to refer to the *SA Better Practice Guide – Sustainable Kerbside Services* for guidance on implementing best practice Sustainable Kerbside Service or alternative collection models.

Where required, funding for additional kerbside organics bins in regional areas may also be sought through this program and will need to be discussed with the Program Manager in the first instance.

Conditions of funding

Eligibility criteria

This grant program is available to any council or local government subsidiary established under the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* delivering a project within South Australia in accordance with these guidelines. GISA has the discretion to not consider incomplete applications.

Applicants must:

- be a council or local government subsidiary established under the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*
- be solvent and able to enter into a legally binding funding agreement with Green Industries SA
- comply with all relevant federal and state laws, regulations and any applicable EPA requirements.

Projects must:

- align with supports areas listed above
- contribute to delivery of the program aim, objective and outcomes
- contribute to the implementation of South Australia's waste strategy 2025-30
- be new – not already commenced.

What will not be funded

Grant funding will **not** be available for projects that:

- are not supported by a source-segregated kerbside organics collection system taken to a licenced facility for processing into soil improvement products for recognised

[2] Section 10(2) of the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010* requires metropolitan councils to provide a weekly general kerbside waste collection service (other than for recyclable waste or vegetative matter) in respect of residential premises within its area.

high-value end markets

- do not clearly demonstrate how contamination will be measured and managed following the system introduction to ensure that kerbside contamination targets are met
- do not demonstrate strong potential for an increase in diversion of food waste or recyclable materials from landfill
- retrospective projects (to be eligible, projects must start after the execution of grant agreement).

Funding availability

Area-wide implementation of Sustainable Kerbside Services

Grants of up to **$300,000** (excluding GST) are available for the area-wide implementation of Sustainable Kerbside Services, which may be staged. Grant funds are available as a co-contribution towards project costs including funds towards:

- communication / education resources to residents as part of the project to promote the new services, consistent with statewide branding from GISA
- staffing costs for up to 12 months that are directly related to the area-wide implementation.

Pilot of Sustainable Kerbside Services or alternative collection models

Grants of up to **$100,000** (excluding GST) are available for piloting Sustainable Kerbside Services and/or different collection model and frequency (for regional councils only) in a specific area within applicant boundaries. Grant funds are available as a co-contribution towards pilot project costs, including funds toward communication resources to residents as part of the project to promote the new services, consistent with statewide branding from GISA.

Priority will be given to:

- area-wide implementation of Sustainable Kerbside Services with high-performing in-home food waste system (ventilated containers and compostable liners)
- applications which have a budget already allocated.

All applicants must:

- contribute at least 50% of total project costs from sources other than the South Australian and Australian governments, and not including ‘in-kind’ (non-financial) payments, unless eligible for a reduced co-contribution (see below)
- have projects completed within 2 years of the grant being offered in the case of pilots, and within 3 years for area-wide implementation of Sustainable Kerbside Services.

Reduced co-contribution:

- Regional councils located outside the Greater Adelaide Region may apply for funding of more than 50% if they can demonstrate limited ability to meet the 50% co-

contribution requirement. Applicants applying for a reduced co-contribution must contribute at least 25% of total project costs from sources other than the South Australian and Australian government, excluding 'in-kind' contribution.
- Requests for funding of more than 50% of the total project costs will be assessed and considered at GISA's discretion.

Funding Requirements

- Councils must enter into a signed grant agreement with GISA in which the council commits to pilot or introduce an area-wide implementation of Sustainable Kerbside Services; or an alternative service models as approved by GISA.
- Segregated organic material collected must be processed via a commercial composting operation and used to create soil improvement products with recognised high-value end markets. Processing must occur at an appropriately licensed EPA composting facility, managed according to EPA and other planning requirements.
- Segregated organics material must be processed into soil improvement products that meet Australian Standard 4454-2012 (where applicable) and supplied to third party in recognised higher-use end markets in agricultural, viticultural, horticultural and urban amenity settings, to achieve the highest circular economy outcomes for the duration of the grant agreement.
- The applicant must demonstrate a commitment to purchasing composts or other soil improvement products from the processor to support circularity outcomes and return of nutrients back into the local government area where they were generated.
- The applicant must support and maintain an approved service with regular, ongoing education and communications using GISA-approved statewide branding (e.g. *Which Bin*) for a minimum period of 3 years from the date the system is rolled out to provide advice on how to use the system, what not to place in the organics bin and accessing Australian Standard certified compostable liners.
- All communication and educational materials, such as information brochures, must recognise the state government and use GISA-approved branding (e.g. *Which Bin*) and be reviewed by GISA before publication. GISA will assist councils to develop communication materials.
- The applicant must have documented processes in place for management of households presenting bins with high contamination levels and for addressing contamination concerns when raised by collection providers, processing facilities, auditors or council staff.
- Applicants must submit a satisfactory report in accordance with grant agreement terms and conditions, including a final performance report 12 months after the system has been rolled out or when all grant funding has been provided. The report requires information on material processing site and end markets. Failure to provide the performance report may deem grantees ineligible for further GISA grants.

Performance-based reporting, audits and financial support

Where an applicant is provided a total grant amount over $200,000 (excluding GST), a kerbside audit must be undertaken within 12 months of the service being introduced, with audit costs met by council.

Audits are to be undertaken in alignment with the new South Australia's kerbside waste audit guidelines, which are currently in development and anticipated to be available in early 2027. Applicants are to consult with GISA should the proposed methodology for conducting kerbside waste and recycling audits differ from the new guidelines.

Applicants receiving less than $200,000 (excluding GST) in grant funding are encouraged though not required to carry out audits but are required to submit simplified reports based on monthly load weight data for waste collected in kerbside bins to GISA and report on contamination levels. Data on contamination may be obtained through audits and/or reporting provided by the processing facility receiving the collected material.

Submitting your application

All applications must:

- use the relevant application form, available on the GISA website
- 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 no more than 20 pages in length, and no more than 10 MB in size (including attachments)
- be submitted electronically (MS Word or Adobe .pdf file) to han.tran@sa.gov.au by **5 pm ACDT, 4 December 2026** with the subject line 'Sustainable Kerbside Services grant 2026-27 – application – [applicant name].'

All applications will be acknowledged as 'received' via return email within 2 business days of the submission date. If an application is sent via email and not acknowledged within that timeframe, please contact Han Tran on 0474 193 376.

Late applications will not be assessed.

Further information

For further information, or to discuss your application and eligibility, contact Justin Lang at justin.lang@sa.gov.au or on 0419 948 931.

Assessment process

- Applications will be reviewed by GISA staff to confirm eligibility against the eligibility criteria outlined in these guidelines. GISA has ultimate discretion in eligibility assessment.
- All eligible applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel convened by GISA against the assessment criteria included in these guidelines (see below). 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 declare any conflict of interest which will be managed by GISA's evaluation Chairperson.
- 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.
- GISA may conduct due diligence checks on project partners named in the application, and 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 funding 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 its funding decision, and applicants should note that irrespective of eligibility and merit, there is no guarantee that an offer of funding will be made.
- The evaluation panel will recommend projects to be funded and funding amounts to the appropriate GISA delegate for decision, which considers the evaluation outcomes and GISA's budget availability.
- The duration of the assessment process may vary depending on the nature of applications and GISA staff availability. As a guide, the duration between the submission of the application and any additional supporting information requested by GISA (if applicable) and the decision regarding funding approval should take no longer than 6 weeks.
- Initial notification of the success of the application will be provided by email once the assessment process is complete. Funding agreements containing terms, conditions and payment milestones swill be prepared and provided following the initial notification.

Assessment criteria

Applications must meet all *eligibility criteria* (see previous section) before an assessment will be made. Applications that do not meet all eligibility criteria will not progress to assessment.

Applications that meet all eligibility criteria will be assessed against the criteria below, based on the satisfaction of GISA and the evaluation panel:

- applicant financial contribution is at least 50% of the value of the project costs (in-kind contributions do not contribute to applicant financial contribution), unless eligible for reduced co-contribution
- applicant has committed to full implementation, introduction or expansion of

sustainable kerbside service, or alternative collection models that increase resource recovery and reduce residual yields

- applicant has a documented process for management of households presenting bins with high contamination levels and for addressing contamination concerns when raised by collection providers, processing facilities, auditors or council staff to support the achievement of the 2% kerbside FOGO contamination target.
- project has a clear timetable for rollout or pilot, and an experienced project manager is assigned to manage project delivery
- where funding is sought for a dedicated position to support the area-wide roll-out, relevant experience and a clear scope of work or work plan for the area-wide implementation (could be staged) is demonstrated
- application includes information on the types of communication material that will be provided, including use of GISA-approved branding (e.g. *Which Bin*); and includes information on how communication will be regular and ongoing, with sufficient funds being allocated in the budget proposal for this activity
- quotes have been provided as part of the application for materials purchased
- application includes the expected diversion potential of the proposed system
- segregated organic material collected must be processed at an appropriately licensed EPA composting facility, composted into soil improvement products that meet Australian Standard 4454-2012 and supplied to recognised higher beneficial use end markets
- applicant has committed to purchasing composts or other soil improvement products from the processing facility to support local recirculation of nutrients and organic materials.
- adequate risk identification and risk management for the project.

Risk management

Applicants are required to undertake and include a risk assessment of the key risks associated with the proposed project and are responsible for project risk management. Guidance is provided in Appendix 1 on the program webpage.

Access and rights to intellectual property

Applicants and their project partners (if applicable) must be able to demonstrate they have access to any intellectual property necessary to carry out the project.

Funding recipients are required to provide GISA with access to all project intellectual property, reports, findings and outcomes, which may be shared to support the broader sector development.

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.

Insurance

The applicant must hold and maintain Public Liability insurance and Professional Indemnity insurance (or equivalent) to the value of at least $1 million per claim for the duration of the proposed project.

Councils covered under the Mutual Liability Scheme are encouraged to ensure all sub-contractor(s) or service provider(s) engaged for project delivery hold and maintain both Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance valued at a minimum of $1 million per claim for the duration of the proposed project.

Approvals required

All required approvals, such as a council resolution, are to be provided within 3 months of receiving the initial notification or within 3 months of signing of the grant agreement, as determined in writing between successful applicants and GISA.

Grant agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with GISA. This agreement will set out the terms of the grant, conditions, payment schedules, project timing, key performance indicators, reporting requirements and other matters.

A copy of the standard grant agreement can be provided on request.

Reporting

GISA requires successful applicants to provide regular reporting on the project's progress and outcomes. The reporting will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Reporting requirements and payment milestones will be included in grant offers and agreements.

Publicity, promotion and case studies

Successful applicants are not permitted to publicise projects without gaining prior written approval from GISA

GISA has ultimate discretion about publicity of projects and the state government (GISA) must be acknowledged in all media and promotional activities relating to successful projects. Terms and conditions regarding publicity will be included in grant agreements.

All successful applicants must be willing to cooperate and participate in the development of case study and/or other public-facing materials based on funded projects if requested by GISA. Case study and other materials will use information of a non-sensitive nature and will be

available to successful applicants for their own promotional and/or educational purposes following initial publication by GISA.

All successful applicants must, if requested, supply a high-resolution logo, and authorise its use on the GISA website, and agree to be listed as a program participant on GISA's 'projects funded' webpage.

The value of grants will also be listed against the successful applicant's name on the GISA website, with a short description of the funded project.

Unsuccessful applications

Applicants that have been unsuccessful for receiving grant funding will be notified in writing, including a summary of the reasons why the application was not successful and guidance on how any queries may be raised.

Please contact the Program Manager for further information.