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Media Release

Council commits to improved waste management

Mount Barker District Council has replaced their *Kerbside Waste, Recycling & Green Organics Collection Service* policy with a wide-ranging Waste Management policy.

The new policy commits the council to sustainable waste management practices and services across all of its operations including community events and emergencies to ensure waste is managed appropriately.

The council's general manager infrastructure, Phil Burton says the new policy gives direction for the council to commit to landfill diversion by adopting and supporting the waste management hierarchy and circular economy principles.

"The waste management hierarchy is a nationally and internationally accepted guide for prioritising waste management practices with the objective of achieving optimal environmental outcomes, Mr Burton said.

"It sets out the preferred order of waste management with waste avoidance, reduction and reuse practices at the top of the scale, and treatment and disposal being the least preferred practices for waste minimisation.

"Through the new policy we'll be encouraging behaviour change, and supporting the community through education to minimise waste to landfill, increase recycling and resource recovery, and adoption of sustainable waste management practices."

Another key element of the new policy is for the council to increase purchasing and using materials with recycled content.

The council is one of nine councils to sign a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding to prioritise buying products made from recycled materials.

Examples of products made of recycled materials that can be purchased by councils include road and construction materials, street furniture, bollards, office stationery and compost.

"During the last financial year, Council saved 50.9 tonnes of CO₂e through the use of recycled materials in road construction while creating a circular economy for soft plastics, waste printer toner, and end-of-life asphalt, Mr Burton said.

“The Waste Management policy commits Council to continuously improve this practice for substantial environmental benefit.”

The policy also commits the council to providing a cost effective, sustainable and efficient kerbside waste collection services for the community which aligns with the waste management hierarchy.

The council will be going out to tender this year for a new kerbside waste collection contract and will be considering changes to the service as part of that process.

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