

Kurrajong Recycling



Process

Collect

Market

Support workers

Educate community

Our services range from processing and selling thousands of tonnes of materials and conducting educational tours of our facility, to providing a supported workplace and a recycling facility for our region.

WHAT WE DO

We provide councils, businesses and households with a recycling service; support government recycling programs; prevent valuable materials being lost to landfill; reduce Councils' waste-management costs; and contribute to our local economy. Currently 48 of our 90 staff work with support from our vocational training officer and supervisors.

We receive household recycling from six local council areas – Wagga Wagga, Lockhart, Leeton, Griffith, Narrandera and Murrumbidgee (Coleambally & Darlington Point). We also receive some materials from Hay Council.

In 2021 we received 22 000 t of recyclable materials from councils, businesses and the community. We process seven different materials: glass, paper, cardboard, aluminium, plastic, steel; and e-waste metals, plastics and glass.

We also provide a Document Destruction Service, Mixed-recycling Collection Service, and a Paper and Cardboard Collection Service for Wagga Wagga businesses and businesses within two hours of the facility. In 2022 we became a DrumMUSTER collection site.

We manually and mechanically sort, dismantle, crush, granulate, bale, bag, store, load, weigh and sell materials to be recycled into new products.

We process some materials under two government programs – the National TV and

Computer Recycling Scheme, and the Return and Earn container deposit scheme. A total of 19 Councils send their E-waste to our facility.

Other sources of materials include delivery of bulk loads of commercial cardboard, paper and selected plastics to our facility from businesses e.g. bumper bars or pallet wrap.

We process approximately 150–250 t of product through our materials recovery facility (MRF) each week. Our highest processing periods are Christmas and Easter followed by long weekends.

Approximately 1700 t of product is transported off-site to buyers each month with sales being highly dependent on the quality of our products. In 2021, we shredded 30 000 blue wheelie bins that were then sold to a French manufacturer.

We conduct site tours and workshops to keep in touch with our community, and improve their recycling skills to minimise contamination rates. Our website was launched in 2020.

We sell the processed commodities to Australian and international markets. This generates funds that are reinvested into our organisation and local communities, and keeps valuable materials out of landfill.

WHO WE ARE

Kurrajong Recycling is a social enterprise of Kurrajong – a not-for-profit organisation based in Wagga Wagga. For over 60 years Kurrajong has provided services for people with a disability. It is a highly valued organisation built and run by the community whose vision is 'For people with disability to live a life of their choice'.

Kurrajong's recycling program grew from a one-off paper drive in 1962 to the establishment of our purpose-built Chaston St

recycling facility and being contracted by businesses and six councils to process their recyclable materials.

Our business focus is to provide a supported workplace that processes recyclable materials for sale to materials traders and manufacturers both nationally and internationally.

We operate with the aim of maintaining financial sustainability while providing economic, social and environmental benefits to local communities.

Kurrajong receives financial support from State and Commonwealth government, donations and bequests, community-based funding events, and any surplus from their supported-employment businesses. Operating surpluses enable the funding of capital expenditure, asset maintenance and unexpected business costs.

OUR PEOPLE

We provide a supported workplace for around half of our 90 staff. Our people include a manager, supervisors, drivers, labourers, administration staff, vocational training officers, maintenance staff and an education officer.

We have six work areas: E-waste facility, MRF, Container Deposit Scheme Facility, Glass Plant, and the Document Destruction and Plastic Processing Facility.

OUR RECYCLING FACILITY

Our recycling facility is located on 3.6 ha and close to the centre of Wagga Wagga at 54 Chaston St. The new purpose-built site opened in 2008. In 2011 the E-recycling building opened and the Glass-crushing Plant was built in 2013.

The 2015 MRF upgrade increased its processing capacity to 10 t/hr hour and the CDS Facility became operational in 2018. A 99 kW solar system was installed on the MRF roof in 2019 and approximately 100 vehicles come on site each day.

Through our community-education program we are working to reduce the 10–15% of non-recyclable materials we receive annually.

OUR WORK ROLES

Some staff have said the following about working here: there's so much to learn every day is different and challenging, our great team makes work easy, it's great that we're making a difference to people's lives and the environment, the work is really enjoyable.

We have six processing areas in the facility:

1. E-waste Facility (manual dismantling of computers, TVs and printers),
2. Container Deposit Scheme Facility (mechanical and manual sorting and baling of drink containers),
3. Materials Recovery Facility (mechanical and manual sorting of household and business mixed recycling),
4. Glass Plant (mechanical breaking, sorting and mounding of glass containers),
5. Document Destruction Shed (manual sorting and mechanical shredding and baling of office paper),
6. Plastics Granulating Section (mechanical granulation and bagging of selected plastics).

Other work activities that occur around the processing areas: unloading and loading trucks, materials containment movement and storage (bales, bulk bags, IBCs and bunkers), operating the Business Recycling Services collection truck (mixed recycling), and operating the Business Recycling Services collection truck (Document Destruction).

There are a number of site management and administration roles: business administration, vocational training, community education, site management, facilities supervision and site maintenance - our mechanical wizards!

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

We are certified to legally and safely operate our business. We know that the sustainability of our business and the environment depends on the good management of our facility and people. We undergo regular audits to ensure we maintain these standards.

CERTIFICATION

Certified Environmental Management System ISO 14001:2015 Certificate No. EMS 569444. Certified Quality Management System ISO 9001:2015. Certificate No. FS 674308 Certified E-Waste Scheme AS/NZS 5377:2013 Certificate No. 617084.

