

Hi Christine,

Your question is complex and one that is not easily answered.

So, let us take a journey together into the world of recycling.

Your question asks what are my strategies for recycling in public places, in the first year of my role.

A simple answer would be to install multiple bins in public areas for Glass, Plastic, Bio-products and Metal products.

A simple solution one might think, however now that we have separated the recyclable materials what do we do with them?

- 1/. We may just collect those bins and send them to landfill. Probably not a good outcome.
- 2/. We may send it to a collection area where it may be processed and on sold. Maybe a better outcome.
- 3/. Or we may take a more holistic approach and collectively work with the other surrounding Councils (Victor Harbor, Yankalilla, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide Hills, Mt Barker) to provide another outcome. This will not happen within the first year of the Council period; it is a long term project that needs several Councils and State Government on board. Your view for this to happen within the first year is unrealistic.

If I look at what is going on in Europe, we can see that there are opportunities to reduce landfill. One method that is currently being used in Europe is high temperature incineration. The benefits of this are twofold. Firstly, there is immediate reduction in landfill and secondly the heat produced by incineration produces steam and therefore electricity. The ash produced by that process can then be used in building products and in road bases.

- 4/. You will see from the above statement that this is a complex issue and as such needs to involve several Councils, Government and environmental agencies. As I see it, this is not a problem that can be solved in the first year of any Council.

I hope this has answered your question and given you some cause for reflection, as it is not an easy question to answer. Simply providing bins in a public area to sort recyclable material is only part of the answer. The real question is what do we do with the product after we have collected it.

Regards,

Cr Mike Farrier
Angas-Bremer