



## Waste

Policy Category: A. Environment

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### Principles

*The Australian Greens believe that:*

1. the goal of zero waste is desirable, achievable and will assist in achieving deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions cost effectively.
2. reducing, reusing and recycling are integral to achieving zero waste.
3. it is essential to eliminate rather than manage waste.
4. full social, environmental and economic costs must be taken into account in decisions about creating, managing and disposing of waste.
5. the transportation of hazardous waste must be minimised, and the Australian community must be fully informed about its location, disposal and transportation.

### Goals

*The Australian Greens want:*

6. a comprehensive national waste strategy, addressing each stage of the production and consumption cycle, with mandatory targets aimed at achieving the eventual elimination of all waste.
7. a system of Extended Producer Responsibility that obliges manufacturers, distributors and importers to take responsibility for the life cycle of the products and packaging they create.
8. an end to the use of landfills for unsorted waste disposal.
9. methane capture at all major land fills taking putrescible waste.
10. the strict enforcement of bans on illegal dumping and incineration.

### Measures

*The Australian Greens will:*

11. in cooperation with the states and territories, regulate and fund hazardous materials collection and treatment facilities, with the aim of keeping all stockpiles and newly generated hazardous waste to a minimum.
12. strengthen the National Pollution Inventory to ensure it comprehensively documents all point source substances released to the environment.
13. implement reporting systems to document the true volumes, generators and types of waste.
14. through the Council of Australian Governments, implement a national phase-out of the use of landfills for the disposal of unsorted waste.
15. work with states and territories to structure strong and consistent levy systems which act as disincentives for unsorted waste, with the monies raised directed to the provision of sustainable waste reuse and recycling facilities.
16. regulate to phase out non-recyclable plastics.

17. eliminate packaging waste by:
  - strengthening the National Packaging Covenant and making compliance mandatory;
  - imposing a levy or ban on disposable plastic bags; and
  - introducing national container deposit legislation.
18. restore the recycled paper bounty.
19. restrict the distribution of junk mail.
20. work with states and territories to implement an national E-waste collection and processing strategy to remove electronic equipment from the general waste stream and eliminate existing stockpiles.
21. end the dumping of reusable building wastes in landfill.
22. establish tyre recycling facilities.
23. introduce a green labelling scheme for products that are biodegradable, reusable or recyclable, and for products which are primarily made from recycled materials.
24. ratify Decision III/1 of the Basel Convention to stop Australia's practice of dumping hazardous waste on the developing world.