

Recycling Right - The Results So Far

Household Participation

Our new household Recycling Service has been running for over six months now, with impressive results! Household participation has increased from 53% (with the old Crate-based system) up to 71% of households now using the new recycling service each week.

Quality of Recyclable Material

An independent audit was recently carried out on the recyclable material collected from the Blue Mountains. Initial results are impressive and show that the majority (approximately 95%) of the material being put in the recycling bins is the correct material.

Volume of Material Collected

The volume of recyclable material being collected and recycled has increased by **over 30%** since the introduction of the new Recycling Service. This increase means that there is less waste going to landfill from household garbage bins.

Greenhouse Savings

Council is expecting a decrease of 2,000 tonnes of household waste material going to landfill in 2009. This equates to 998 tonnes of CO2 in greenhouse benefits, or is the equivalent to 240 cars being permanently taken off the road*.

* Source: Department of Environment and Climate Change



Recyclable Material being unloaded from Collection Vehicle

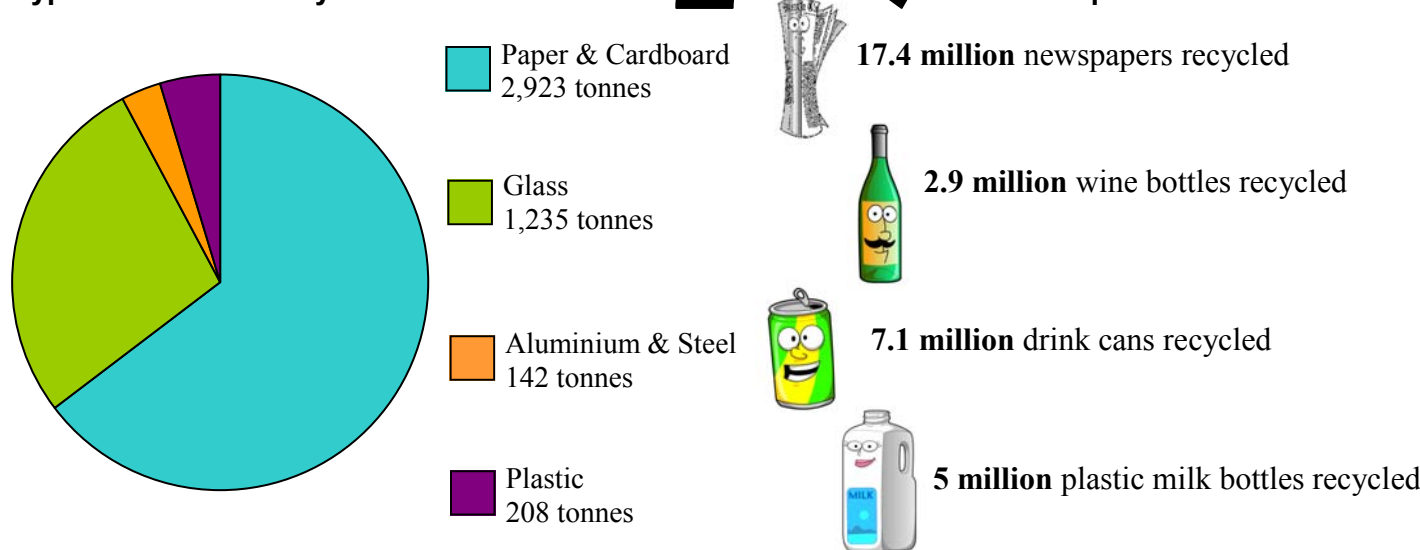
Please Remember

- × NO broken glass;
- × NO garden or food waste;
- × NO plastic plant pots or soft plastics (cling wrap, plastic bags).

Blue Mountains Residents Making a Difference

Since the introduction of the new Kerbside Household Recycling Service in June last year, Blue Mountains residents have continued their great recycling efforts. Over 4500 tonnes of materials have been recycled already in the first six months and successfully diverted from landfill. The information below shows the amount of each material recycled.

Types of Material Recycled in Tonnes



This equates to:



That means we have successfully diverted **570** garbage truck loads of waste from landfill.

Congratulations Blue Mountains Residents!

By recycling products such as paper, cardboard, glass, aluminium, steel and plastic there are substantial benefits to the environment. This not only prevents materials from going to landfill - it also reduces the demand on using raw products to make new paper, cardboard, glass, aluminium, steel and plastic items.

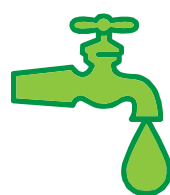
Our results from the first six months of collection mean we have made the following environmental savings.



Greenhouse Benefits equivalent to 694 cars being permanently removed from the road.



Energy Savings equivalent to the annual electricity requirements for 4810 households.



Water Savings equivalent to 45 Olympic sized swimming pools.

Legend:

Cars Permanently Removed from Roads - based on an average mileage of 15,000km per year
 Annual Electricity Requirements for Households - based on an average household electricity consumption of 6,000kWh per year
 Olympic Swimming Pools - based on a volume of 2.5 million litres
 Tonnes (of recyclables) - quantity of recycling material delivered to reprocessing facilities
 Conversion Factor - 1 tonne of water equals 1,000 litres

Recycling Glass

What You Need To Know

Are you aware that there is no need to separate your recycling? It can all be mixed in the bin together, and actually it's better if you do mix it.

- Glass bottles and jars that remain whole are the ideal for recycling (no broken glass). To avoid breaking glass in your recycling bin try to layer the recycling with paper, cardboard and plastic and avoid all of the glass going in together. Glass is then cushioned in the truck by the other paper and plastic items.
- Glass that is broken and smaller than 25mm is classed as contamination. This glass is too small to be sorted and therefore cannot be recycled at the Material Recovery Facility.

Did You Know?

Recycling glass saves 74% of the energy it takes to make glass from raw materials.

No plastic bags please!

Plastic bags, which are made of soft plastic, cannot be recycled.

The best way to put recycling in your recycling bin is to layer it and leave plastic bags **out**.

Recycling packed in a plastic bag cannot be recycled.

