

Snapshot: Northern Beaches Waste and Circular Economy Strategy 2040

Rethink. Reduce. Reuse

One of the key sustainability challenges we face as a society is reducing and managing the waste we create. We are serious about transforming our waste and litter services and empowering our community to create a meaningful impact.

About this strategy

This strategy explores our challenges and opportunities and sets a clear path to improving environmental outcomes by working together with our community, local businesses, and other levels of government.

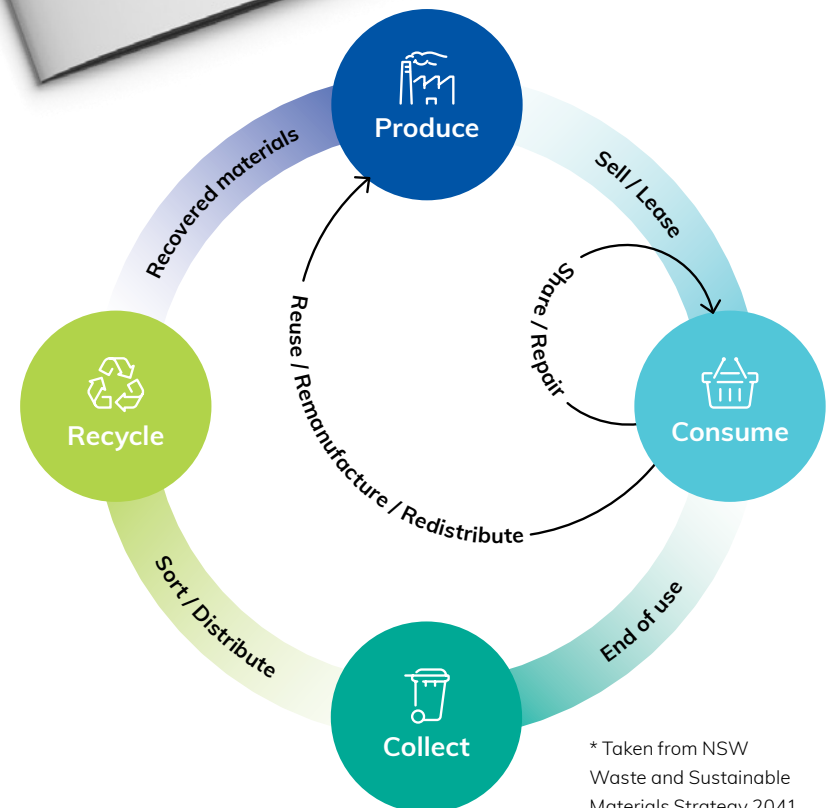
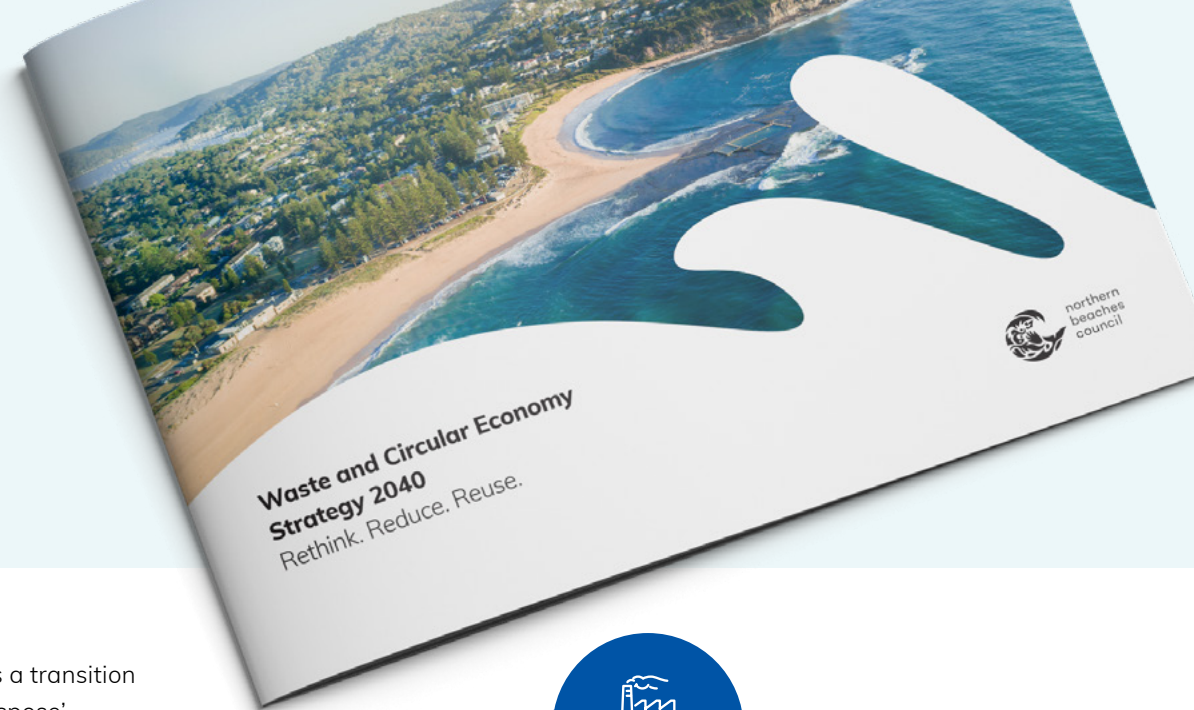
What is a circular economy?

The circular economy involves a transition from the linear 'take-make-dispose' economic system towards circulating materials in the economy for as long as possible at their highest value through **reuse, repair and recycling**.

The 'circular economy' is based on designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use and regenerating natural systems.

Our vision

A sustainable and easy to use waste and litter service that supports a thriving local circular economy and protects our environment.



* Taken from NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 Figure 1, Page 5

Waste and litter: State of play

Northern Beaches Council has one of the largest waste services in Sydney, with over 330,000 bins in service.

Our community creates over **100,000 tonnes** of household waste per year, which all needs to be collected, transported, sorted and processed at waste facilities. This is equivalent to **400kg per person** on average.

We're fortunate to have an engaged community, local waste infrastructure for some waste types, and economy of scale as a larger Council. But given the volume of waste we create, reducing and effectively managing waste presents us with a multitude of challenges.

Our key challenges include:

'Take, make, dispose' culture

Distance to large scale waste infrastructure

Restricted markets for some recyclable materials

Environmental impacts of waste

Impacts of natural disasters and pandemics

Guiding principles

The following principles have been developed from our consultation with the community and help guide the key priorities and actions in this strategy.

Sharing responsibility

Our community, local businesses and Council share responsibility and work collaboratively to minimise the impacts of waste and take advantage of the opportunities presented by the circular economy, where we reuse, repair and recycle more.

Empowering the community

Council provides the community and businesses with tailored education and incentives to help manage their waste and minimise their waste footprint.

Making it easy

Council's household and public waste network is designed to provide accessible, flexible and sustainable options for recycling and reuse, and appropriate disposal of waste at the end of its useful life.

Innovating

Council supports and trials new systems, technologies and approaches that have the potential to significantly improve waste, litter, circular economy outcomes and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Building resilience

Council's services are reliable and adaptable to changes in population, markets, infrastructure and the climate, and have the capacity to endure unforeseen disruptions and shocks such as natural disasters and pandemics.

Influencing

Council leads by example, demonstrating and advocating the benefits of changing to a circular economy, where we reuse, repair and recycle more, with better waste management.



Key directions and actions in our waste and circular economy strategy for the next 5 years include:



Eliminating waste

Key actions	Year Commencing
Pilot local circular economy hub model for household items, including working with charities, community groups and/or other interested groups	23/24
Investigate opportunities for local business and manufacturers to share used materials for reuse or recycling	23/24
Advocate for stronger producer responsibility legislation and incentives to design out waste in products and promote more circular product design	24/25
Explore models for a 'Circular Economy Start Up Fund' for innovative circular business models	24/25
Investigate best practice education and user pays incentive schemes to reduce household waste	25/26



Easy to use waste service

Key actions	Year Commencing
Deliver education resources to improve use of bin system and resident sorting to maximise recycling	23/24
Provide separate collections of targeted recyclable bulky goods to divert more waste from landfill and consider other options to recover more resources from bulky goods where possible	23/24
Consider options for more accessible collections for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> household chemicals, electronic waste and textiles offshore communities in Pittwater more flexible bulky goods service 	24/25
Pilot new technology and systems to improve recycling outcomes and increase efficiency and community understanding of the waste service	24/25



Tackling priority wastes

Key actions	Year Commencing
Advocate for phase out of single use or unrecyclable plastics	23/24
Implement phased approach to food waste collection	24/25
Support initiatives to reduce food waste being generated in the home, donate excess food and manage organic waste in home composting	24/25
Identify opportunities to support local businesses to use alternatives to single use plastics, including reusable containers*	24/25
Trial plastics recycling programs where there are identified markets for the recovered plastics and responsibility across the supply chain	25/26



Green and clean environment

Key actions	Year Commencing
Work with businesses to phase out single use packaging in targeted CBDs and areas near beaches/ waterways*	24/25
Increase engagement with community volunteers in local litter campaigns*	24/25
Improve litterbin network to increase recycling of containers*	25/26
Pilot smart and emerging technologies to help deter litter and illegal dumping activities, and target point source litter (eg sporting fields, fishing areas)*	25/26



Council leading the way

Key actions	Year Commencing
Promote best practice waste management at Council events and facilities	23/24
Council is a leading voice for best practice waste prevention and sustainable recycling	24/25
Improve waste management and circular economy principles, in Council's LEP, relevant DCP's, Waste Management Plan and supporting framework	24/25
Maximise uptake of infrastructure projects using recycled materials	24/25
Establish a panel of suppliers of sustainable products and materials – to reduce and recycle more waste*	24/25

*Subject to available funding - in competitive budget bidding process