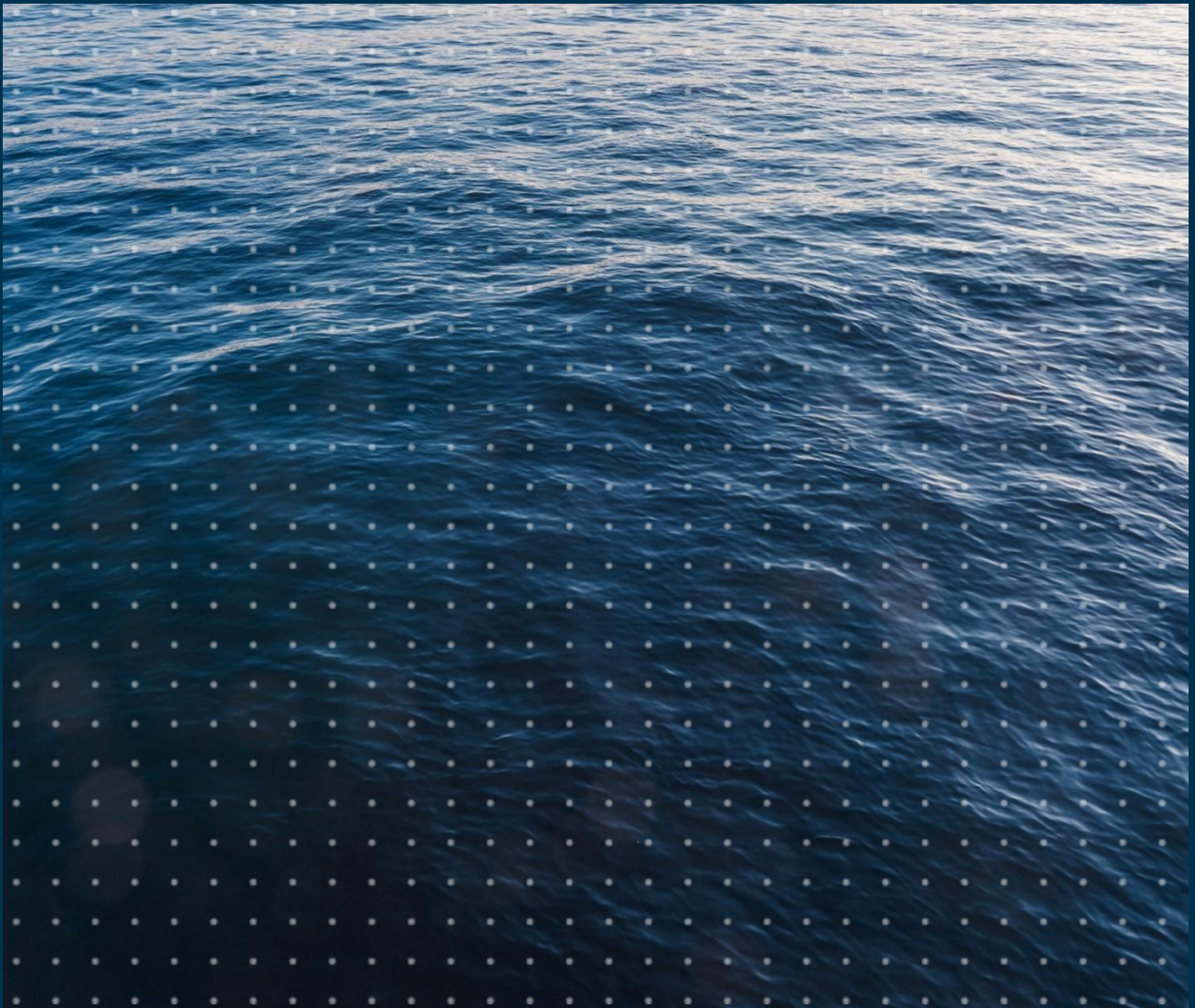




Environment Protection Authority

NSW Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report 2021–22

As reported by councils



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1. Overview

1.1. A snapshot of local and statewide waste management

The NSW Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery (WaRR) Data Report 2021–22 is based on voluntary annual survey responses from 128 NSW local councils.

This report captures data about domestic waste generation and recycling at the municipal level within NSW and complements other data resources to support decision-making around waste and recycling by local councils and industry. It also helps the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) monitor waste and recycling levels across the state.

The EPA has compiled this report in good faith, exercising all due care and attention. No representation is made about the accuracy, completeness, or suitability of the information in this publication for any particular purpose. The EPA shall not be liable for any damage which may occur to any person or organisation taking action or not on the basis of this publication. Readers should seek appropriate advice when applying the information to their specific needs.

It is worth noting that the WaRR dataset is different to the data used in the Waste and Resource Reporting Portal (WARRP) and is not comparable with NSW data captured in the National Waste Reports.

1.2. Part of a larger environmental program

This data builds on the success of *Waste Less, Recycle More Strategy (2014–2021)* and supports the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (WaSM Strategy)* and the *NSW Plastics Action Plan*, which were released in June 2021.

The WaSM Strategy aims to change how the NSW economy produces, consumes, and recycles products and materials, and sets out a vision for transitioning to a circular economy over the next 20 years.

The WaSM Strategy – Stage 1: 2021–2027 includes the following targets and priorities for waste:

- reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030
- have an 80% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030
- halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030
- net zero emissions from organic waste by 2030
- litter reduction target of 60% by 2030
- plastic litter reduction target of 30% by 2025
- triple the plastics recycling rate by 2030
- phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025
- significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry
- reduce illegal dumping.

The WaSM Strategy – Stage 1: 2021–2027 and the NSW Plastics Action Plan are backed by \$356 million in funding over five years to deliver priority programs and policy reforms. The EPA *Waste Delivery Plan* outlines how the EPA will work with our partners to deliver on our strategic waste priorities outlined in the WaSM Strategy.

1.3. Waste generation and diversion from landfill

To meet WaSM Strategy targets, local councils are encouraged to reduce waste generation and increase diversion from landfill. Results for each council are in Tab 3 of the 2021-22 Appendix report.

Waste generated in 2021–22

In 2021–22, NSW households generated 4.09 million tonnes of domestic waste, comprising:

- 2.34 million tonnes of residual waste
- 0.82 million tonnes of recycling (including containers from the container deposit scheme)
- 0.94 million tonnes of organic waste.

Domestic waste generated is material collected through kerbside bins and clean-up and resident drop-off services, and includes material from the NSW container deposit scheme.

Amounts collected from kerbside

NSW councils offer various combinations of waste, recycling, and food organics/garden organics (FOGO) kerbside collection services. Not all council areas offer all collection services. For those areas that have these services, the average household presents the following waste streams for kerbside collection on a weekly basis:

- 3.73 kg of recyclables
- 7.00 kg of garden organics
- 9.08 kg of food and garden organics
- 11.35 kg of residual waste

The above numbers relate to household that have those services. However, not all households receive the same services. As a result, the NSW average generation of domestic waste per household per week is 22.36 kg.

Figure 1 2021–22 weekly collection from domestic services, by levy areas

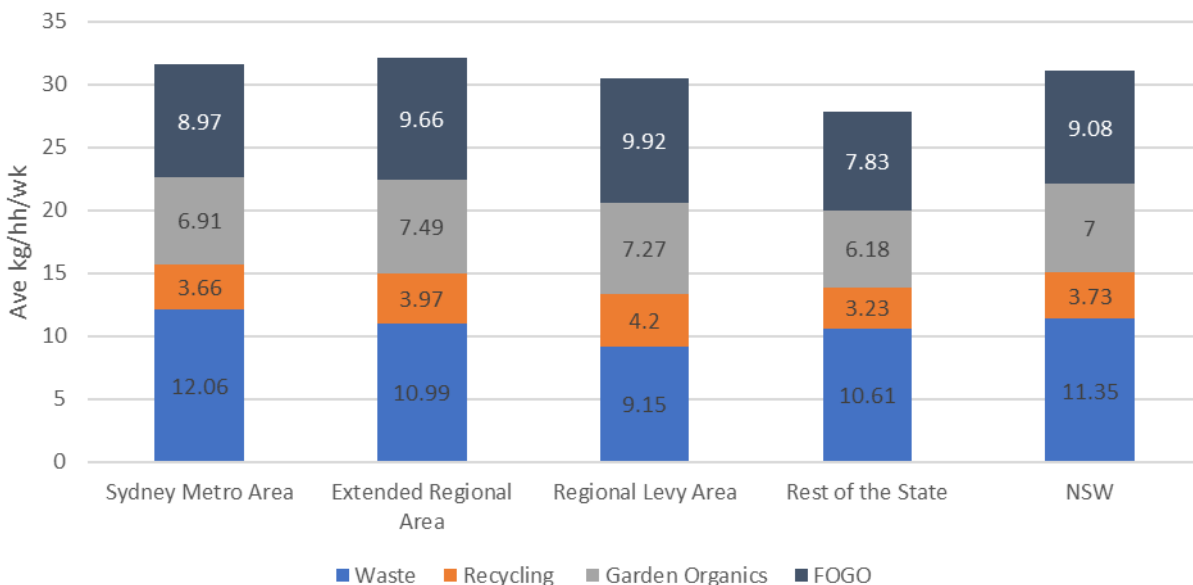


Table 1 NSW average kilogram per household per week collected from households with a kerbside bin service, by year

Year	Residual waste (kg/hh/wk)	Dry recyclables (kg/hh/wk)	Garden organics (kg/hh/wk)	Food and garden organics (kg/hh/wk)	Total domestic waste collected (kg/hh/wk)
2016–17	11.86	4.89	5.70	7.42	29.87
2017–18	11.24	4.68	4.73	7.17	27.82
2018–19	10.88	3.97	5.25	7.46	27.56
2019–20	11.19	3.79	5.15	7.54	27.67
2020–21	11.63	3.82	5.65	7.83	28.93
2021–22	11.35	3.73	7.00	9.08	31.16

Provision of household services

In 2021–22 there were 3,415,992 households in NSW. Of these:

- 3,102,704 – 90.8% – had a council kerbside bin waste service.
- 2,946,302 – 86.3% – had a kerbside bin recycling service.
- 1,304,869 – 38.2% – had a kerbside bin garden organics service.
- 711,681 – 20.8% – had a kerbside bin food and garden organics service.
- 3,044,761 – 89.1% – had access to a council kerbside clean-up service.

Some households, particularly those in multi-unit dwellings, are serviced by private contractors. Councils are unable to provide data on the amount of waste collected for those households. The number of households affected and reported on may vary from year to year.

1.4. Increased recycling

In 2021–22 around 1.9 million tonnes of waste from domestic kerbside, clean-up and drop-off services were recycled. The total comprised:

- 753,000 tonnes of dry recyclables
- 922,000 tonnes of organics
- 219,000 tonnes of residual waste material recovered via alternative waste treatment, drop-off, or clean-up recovery.

Dry recyclables

Data on the kerbside dry recycling material collected changed when the NSW container deposit scheme, *Return and Earn*, started in December 2017. The EPA has calculated that 119,861 tonnes were collected and recycled through the scheme in 2021–22.

The EPA calculates the scheme figures from data provided by the operator and, for each type of material, a conversion factor for the number of containers per tonne. This data collection method differs from that of *Return and Earn* itself, which collects data from extra sources such as scheme operators, material recovery facilities, reverse vending centres and automated depots. As a result, *Return and Earn* reported about 159,500 tonnes in 2021–22.

Note: The methodology used to convert the number of containers redeemed is updated every six months: see <https://www.exchange4change.com.au/who-we-are/publications-and-reports.html>.

The kerbside yellow-lid recycling service collected 570,979 tonnes in 2021–22, slightly more than the 563,595 tonnes of 2020–21. The extra amount collected from the container deposit scheme gave a total of 690,840 tonnes, which was 8,822 tonnes less than the total amount collected in 2020–21.

Organics

Organics collected from the kerbside collection totalled 810,130 tonnes in 2021–22, up from the 719,241 tonnes collected in 2020–21. The total comprised:

- 474,209 tonnes of garden organics
- 335,922 tonnes of food and garden organics.

Councils also collected organics through other means such as drop-off services (106,619 tonnes), clean-up services (19,272 tonnes) and other council services (32,436 tonnes).

In 2021–22, total organics collected – the sum of the categories above – was 938,458 tonnes, up 6% from the 2020–21 total.

Residual waste sent to alternative waste treatment facilities

In 2021–22, 21 councils sent a total of 531,379 tonnes of kerbside residual waste to an alternative waste treatment facility where 162,942 tonnes, or an average of 31%, was recycled.

The amount of waste alternative waste treatment facilities receive and recycle has fallen in recent years. On 26 October 2018 the EPA revoked the general and specific Resource Recovery Orders and Resource Recovery Exemptions for the application of mixed waste organic outputs (MWOO) to land. Since then, alternative waste treatment facilities have been receiving approximately 11% less waste and are recycling 25% less.

Totals waste streams from all services

Table 2 shows the totals for domestic waste, recyclables and organics reported from all council services. The figures for waste generated per household and per capita per week are based on total households and population regardless of service. They are calculated by taking the total waste figures and dividing them by the total population and total number of households.

Table 2 Total domestic waste generated in NSW, 2021–22

Waste composition	Collected (tonnes)	Recovered (tonnes)	Disposed (tonnes)	Recycling rate (% of collected)	Total generated (kg/hh/wk)	Total generated (kg/pp/wk)
Recyclables	815,257	752,968	62,290	92.4%	4.59	1.94
Organics	936,022	922,355	13,667	98.5%	5.27	2.22
Residual waste	2,340,727	219,471	2,121,256	9.4%	13.18	5.56
Total generation	4,092,006	1,894,794	2,197,213	46.3%	23.04	9.72

Figure 2 shows the recycling rate by area over the past eight years. In 2021–22, the recycling rate for domestic waste for Sydney Metro Area (SMA) shows a decline of 0.8%, however Extended Regional Area (ERA), Regional Regulated Area (RRA), and the Rest of the State have increased by 0.1%, 1.6% and 2.3% respectively.

Figure 2 Total domestic recycling rate by area, 2014–22

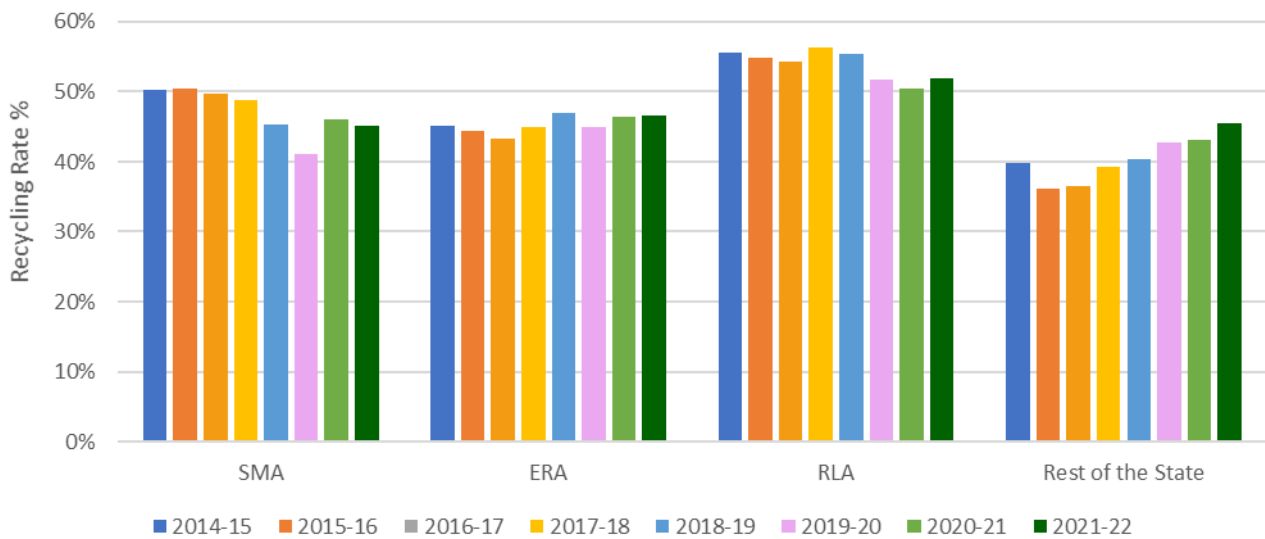


Table 3 Total domestic recycling rate by area, 2014–22 (as shown in Figure 2)

Area	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
SMA	50.2%	50.5%	49.7%	48.8%	45.2%	41.1%	46.0%	45.2%
ERA	45.0%	44.4%	43.3%	45.0%	46.9%	44.9%	46.5%	46.6%
RLA	55.5%	54.8%	54.3%	56.3%	55.4%	51.8%	50.4%	52.0%
Rest of the State	39.9%	36.1%	36.4%	39.3%	40.3%	42.8%	43.1%	45.4%
NSW	48.0%	47.5%	47.3%	47.4%	46.1%	43.6%	46.1%	46.3%

Note: The category RLA (regional levy area) in Table 3 is equivalent to the category RRA (regional regulated area) in Figure 2.

The domestic recycling rate for NSW, shown in Table 3, has slightly increased to 46.3% in 2021–22 from 46.1% in 2020–21.

Since 2005–06, NSW domestic recycling rates have increased by 8.5%, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4 NSW domestic recycling rate, 2005–22 (as shown in Figure 3)

Year	Recycling rate	% Change
2005–06	37.8%	-
2006–07	40.8%	3.0%
2007–08	43.2%	2.4%
2008–09	43.7%	0.5%
2009–10	45.1%	1.4%
2010–11	46.5%	1.4%
2011–12	47.0%	0.5%
2012–13	46.5%	-0.5%
2013–14	46.8%	0.3%
2014–15	48.0%	1.2%
2015–16	47.5%	-0.5%
2016–17	47.3%	-0.2%
2017–18	47.4%	0.1%
2018–19	47.0%	-0.4%
2019–20	43.7%	-3.3%
2020–21	46.1%	2.4%
2021–22	46.3%	0.2%
Change from 2005–06		8.5%

2. Total domestic waste

2.1. Generated and recycled

In 2021–22 NSW generated 4.09 million tonnes of domestic waste. This is an increase of 47,600 tonnes from the previous year; however, over the past five years the waste-generation rate has been relatively static. Total domestic waste includes all recyclables, organics and residual waste from household kerbside services and drop-off facilities.

From the 4.09 million tonnes of domestic waste generated, 2.12 million tonnes of residual waste were disposed of in landfill. This was an increase of about 28,000 tonnes (1.3%) from 2020–21.

A total of 1.9 million tonnes of the domestic waste generated was recycled, an increase of 28,700 tonnes from 2020–21. The total domestic tonnes generated, and recycling figures, includes 119,861 tonnes of containers collected by the container deposit scheme.

In 2021–22 NSW residents recycled 46.3% of domestic waste – 1.9 million of 4.09 million tonnes. This figure includes:

- kerbside recycling (515,000 tonnes)
- container deposit scheme recycling (120,000 tonnes)
- kerbside organics (471,000 tonnes)

- kerbside FOGO (332,000 tonnes)
- alternative waste treatment (163,000 tonnes)
- clean-up services (72,000 tonnes)
- drop-off facilities (221,000 tonnes).

The decline two years ago is largely due to the result of the EPA revoking the general and specific Resource Recovery Orders and Resource Recovery Exemptions for the application of MWOO to land. Alternative waste treatment facilities have been recycling 25% less material which has led the overall recycling rate to drop. However, 2020–21 and 2021–22 have seen those losses negated and the recovery rate return to previous year's levels despite the revocation. This can be explained by increases in organics recycled and, to a lesser extent, an increase in the container deposit scheme and drop-off recycling.

Table 5 shows the tonnage of material collected by waste composition, the amount recycled, and the amount of remaining waste disposed of in landfill after processing.

For recyclables and organics, the material disposed of after processing are called 'contaminants' or 'rejects'. For kerbside dry recyclables, the proportion of rejects was 7.6%. For kerbside organics this was 1.5%. For residual waste, 9.4% was recycled and the rest was disposed of in landfill.

Table 5 Total domestic generation and rate by waste composition, 2021–22

Waste composition	Collected (tonnes)	Recovered (tonnes)	Disposed of (tonnes)	Recycling rate (% of collected)	Total generated kg/hh/wk	Total generated kg/pp/wk
Dry recyclables	815,257	752,968	62,290	92.4%	4.59	1.94
Organics	936,022	922,355	13,667	98.5%	5.27	2.22
Residual waste	2,340,727	219,471	2,121,256	9.4%	13.18	5.56
Total generation	4,092,006	1,894,794	2,197,213	46.3%	23.04	9.72

Note: Due to rounding, the total is not the same as the sum of the component figures. Kg/hh/wk (kilograms per household per week) and kg/pp/wk (kilograms per person per week) are based on total households and total population, regardless of which services are available to them.

Figure 3 shows the tonnage of material collected by waste composition, kerbside, drop-off, clean-up, and containers from the container deposit scheme. Total amounts equal 4,092,006 tonnes.

Figure 3 Waste collection through all domestic services (kerbside bins, drop-off, container deposit scheme, and clean-up) in 2021–22

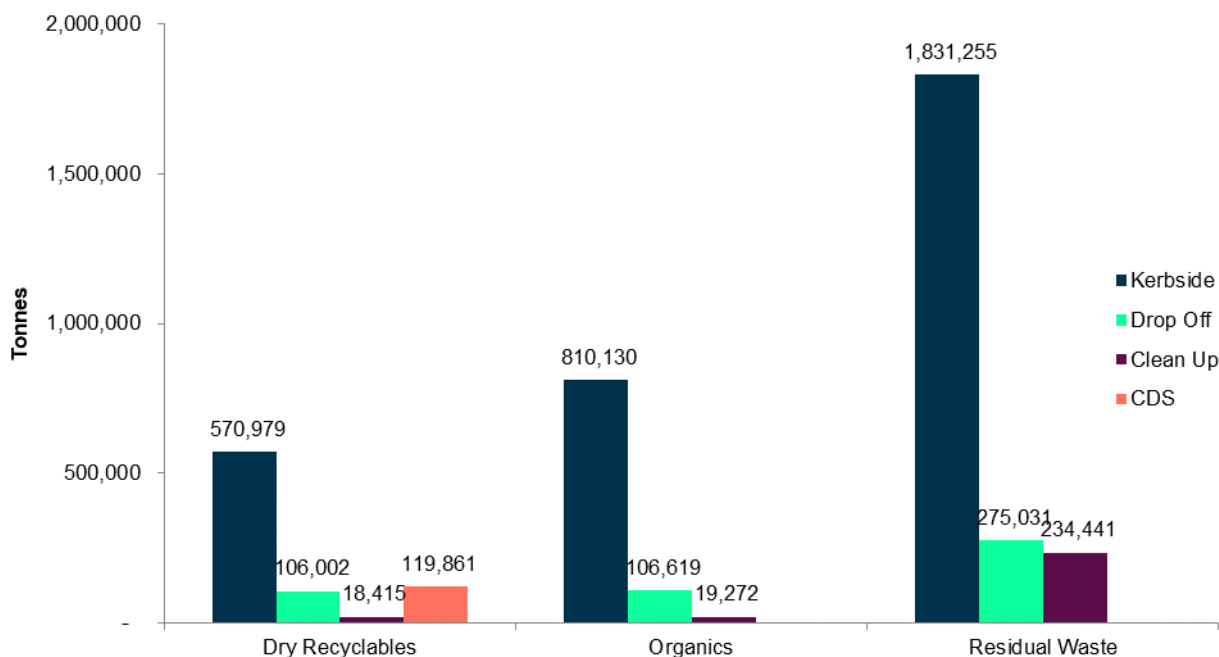


Table 6 Waste collection through all domestic services (kerbside pickup, drop-off, container deposit scheme and clean-up) in 2021–22

Waste composition	Kerbside collection (tonnes)	Drop-off (tonnes)	Container deposit scheme containers (tonnes)	Clean-up (tonnes)
Dry recyclables	570,979	106,002	119,861	18,415
Organics	810,130	106,619		19,272
Residual waste	1,831,255	275,031		234,441
Totals	3,212,364	487,652	119,861	272,128

Note: Organics refers to garden organics on its own, and food and garden organics

Figure 4 shows the average amount of domestic waste collected by household at the kerbside between 2009 and 2022, by different kerbside collection services. It is important to note that because households do not access all of these collection services, the total weekly amount collected at kerbside for each household will be less than the sum of the average waste collection for each individual service.

The amount of domestic waste collected at the kerbside for each waste composition has remained relatively constant over the past nine years. Less waste is going to landfill, as the average per week per household has reduced meeting the strategy target from 2013–14. As more food and garden organics (FOGO) services are diverting food into recycling, this reduces waste to landfill and increases recycling amounts.

Figure 4 Average weekly kerbside waste collection for households with a council service, by different kerbside collection services, 2011–22

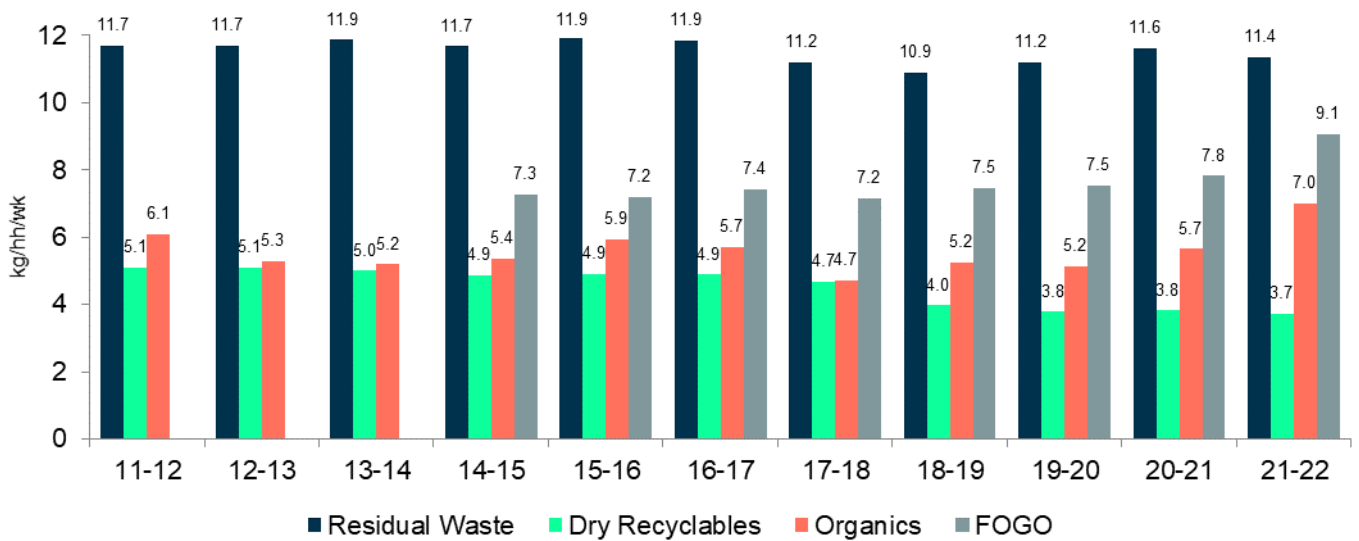


Table 7 Average weekly kerbside waste collection for households with a council service for different kerbside collection services, 2011–22

Year	Dry recyclables (kg)	Organics (kg)	FOGO (kg)	Residual waste (kg)
2011–12	5.1	6.1		11.7
2012–13	5.1	5.3		11.7
2013–14	5.0	5.2		11.9
2014–15	4.9	5.4	7.3	11.7
2015–16	4.9	5.9	7.2	11.9
2016–17	4.9	5.7	7.4	11.9
2017–18	4.7	4.7	7.2	11.2
2018–19	4.0	5.2	7.5	10.9
2019–20	3.8	5.2	7.5	11.2
2020–21	3.8	5.7	7.8	11.6
2021–22	3.7	7.0	9.1	11.4

Note: Because households do not access all of these collection services, the total weekly amount collected at kerbside for each household will be less than the sum of the average waste collection for each individual service

Figure 5 Total waste collected at the kerbside, 2010–22

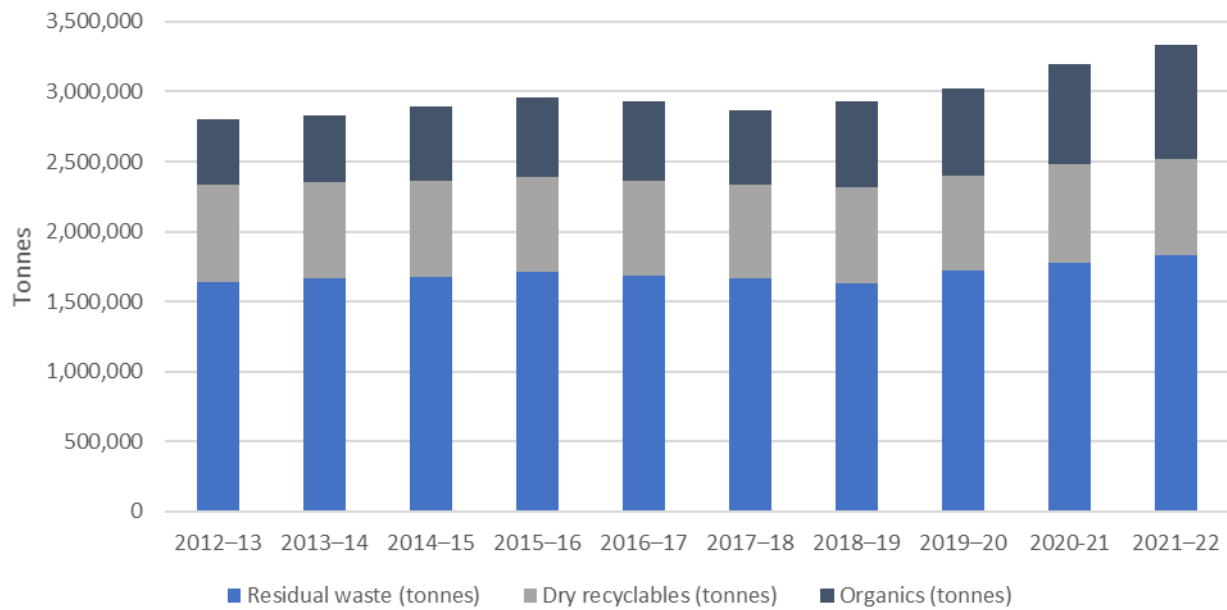


Table 8 Total waste collected at the kerbside, 2010–22

Year	Residual waste (tonnes)	Dry recyclables (tonnes)	Organics (tonnes)
2012–13	1,634,173	698,742	466,984
2013–14	1,663,175	686,939	476,440
2014–15	1,672,940	687,514	535,022
2015–16	1,707,115	685,540	565,635
2016–17	1,687,162	679,059	564,627
2017–18	1,667,471	671,712	527,287
2018–19	1,632,503	686,842	609,662
2019–20	1,718,474	683,602	621,616
2020–21	1,779,223	699,662	719,241
2021–22	1,831,255	690,840	810,130

3. Recycling

3.1. Dry recyclables collected and recycled

Dry recyclables formed 19.9% of total domestic waste in 2021–22. A total of 815,257 tonnes was collected, comprising 570,979 tonnes of kerbside waste, 18,415 tonnes from clean-ups, 106,002 tonnes from drop-offs and 119,861 tonnes of containers under the container deposit scheme.

Dry recyclables are collected from four sources:

- Kerbside collections accept mixed household recyclables including paper, newspaper, magazines, cardboard, plastic film and bottles, steel and aluminium cans, and glass bottles.
- Eligible containers are collected separately by the container deposit scheme.
- Drop-off facilities allow residents to bring in recyclables including paper, glass, plastic, mattresses, metals, electronic waste (e-waste), batteries, globes, cartridges, and some hazardous materials.
- Clean-up services collect large metals, recyclables, organics, and bulky goods.

Table 9 shows the regional area and collection method for dry recyclables. In 2021–22, 815,257 tonnes of dry recyclables were collected in NSW. Of these:

- 70% or 570,979 tonnes were collected from the kerbside recycling bins
- the container scheme collected 14.7%
- residents took 106,002 tonnes (13.0%) to drop-off points
- clean-up services collected the remaining 18,415 tonnes (2.3%).

Around 78% of drop-off material was collected from the regional area and other non-metro areas in the rest of the state. The metro levy area collected 86% of dry recyclables through kerbside clean-up services. This reflects the different services provided in different areas.

Table 9 Amount of dry recyclables collected across regional areas, 2021–22

Amount	Sydney Metro Area	Extended Regional Area	Regional Regulated Area	Rest of the State	NSW
No. of councils	30	12	19	51	112
Kerbside (tonnes)	316,825	121,173	70,208	62,773	570,979
Drop-off (tonnes)	2,982	20,251	18,785	63,983	106,002
Clean-up (tonnes)	11,266	4,578	1,390	1,180	18,415
CDS (tonnes)	48,080	28,145	18,188	25,448	119,861
Other council recycling (tonnes)	122	4	3,485	294	3,906
Total domestic* (tonnes)	379,275	174,151	112,057	153,679	819,163

Note: In this table, **total domestic** includes **other council recycling**, which is why the numbers are slightly greater than those in Table 5.

Of 128 NSW councils, 112 reported a recycling collection service: between them they covered 86.3% of all households. The SMA collected 55.5 % of the total kerbside recyclables, from 1.66 million households with a service. The ERA, RRA and Rest of the State areas increased their tonnage by utilising the container deposit scheme.

Table 10 shows the average weight of dry recyclables collected from 2,946,302 households, per household and per person for each region. In 2021–22, an average of 193.8 kg of kerbside dry recyclables was collected from households with a recycling service. This is a weekly average of 3.73 kg per household or 1.56 kg per person.

Table 10 Kerbside dry recyclables collected per household and per person by region, 2021–22

Region	Number of households with service	Annual average per household (kg)	Weekly average per household (kg)	Annual average per person (kg)	Weekly average per person (kg)
Sydney Metro Area	1,663,906	190	3.66	75	1.44
Extended Regional Area	586,625	207	3.97	87	1.67
Regional Regulated Area	321,559	218	4.20	102	1.97
Rest of state	374,212	168	3.23	83	1.60
NSW	2,946,302	194	3.73	81	1.56

Notes

Because data is rounded and presented to one decimal place, weekly averages multiplied by 52 may not match the annual figures.

The household average is based on the number of serviced households. The per-person average is based on the total population in council areas with kerbside recycling.

Figure 6 Kerbside dry recyclables collected, by area, 2012–22

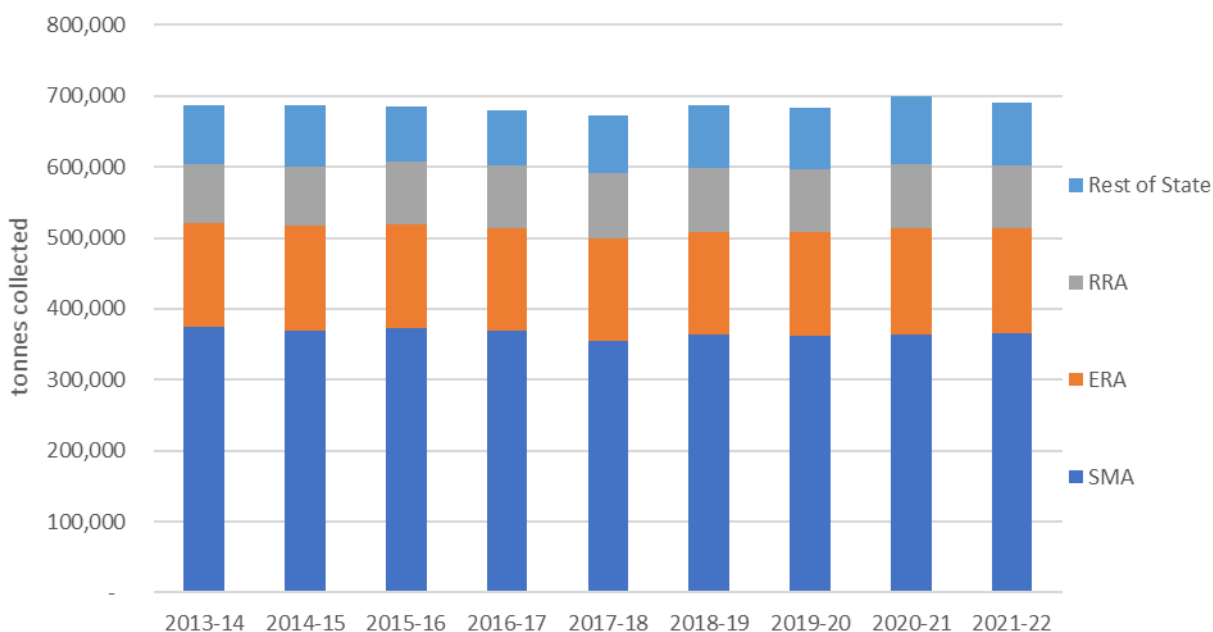
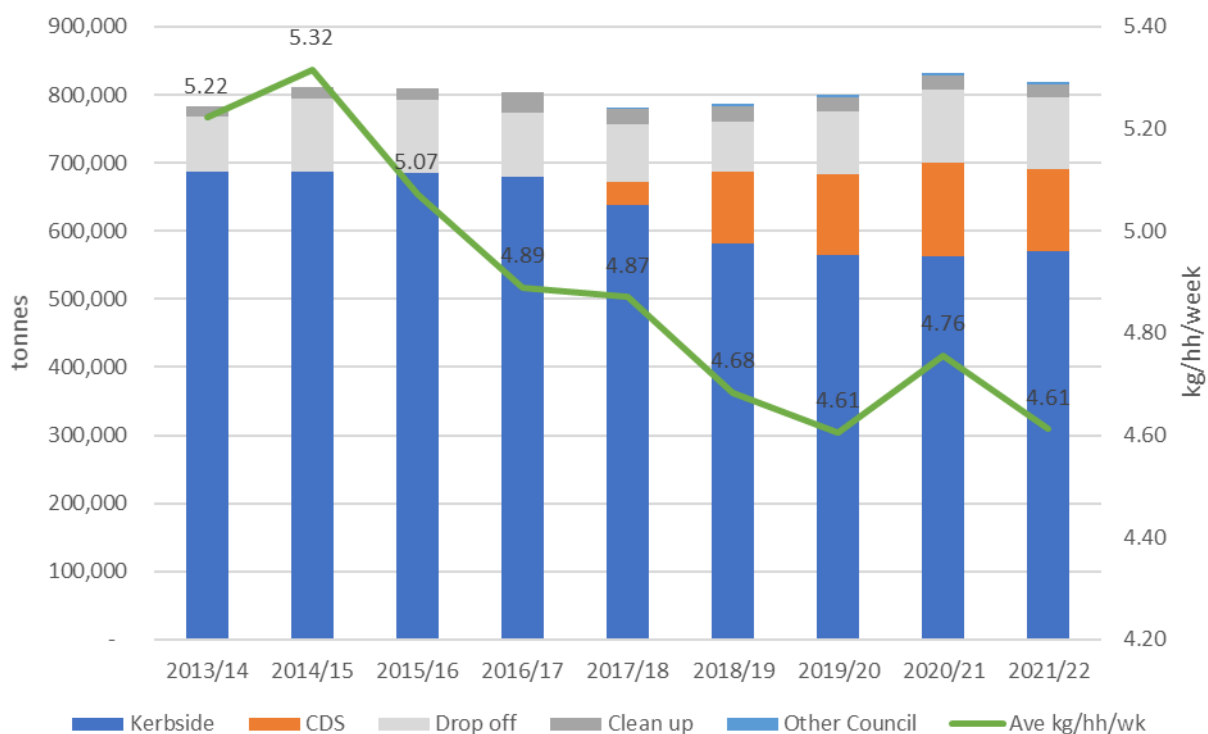


Table 11 Kerbside dry recyclables collected, by area, 2012–22

Year	Sydney metro area (tonnes)	Extended regional area (tonnes)	Regional regulated area (tonnes)	Rest of State (tonnes)
2013–14	374,876	145,432	84,300	82,330
2014–15	369,704	147,521	83,224	87,066
2015–16	372,300	146,660	88,764	77,815
2016–17	368,294	144,971	89,214	76,581
2017–18	354,832	144,019	92,270	80,591
2018–19	363,478	145,425	89,964	87,976
2019–20	361,444	146,697	89,331	86,130
2020–21	364,096	149,632	90,457	95,477
2021–22	364,905	149,318	88,397	88,221

The amount of dry recyclables collected at the kerbside has declined slightly over the last five years. Drop-off materials have also experienced a minor decrease during this time. However, Figure 7 shows that the container deposit scheme has kept the overall collection rate relatively stable, with a slight increase in recent years. The household average (the blue line) is based on total collection (kerbside, container deposit scheme, drop-off, clean-up, other council) and total NSW households regardless of service.

Figure 7 Dry recyclables and other council waste, total and average household yield per week, 2013–22



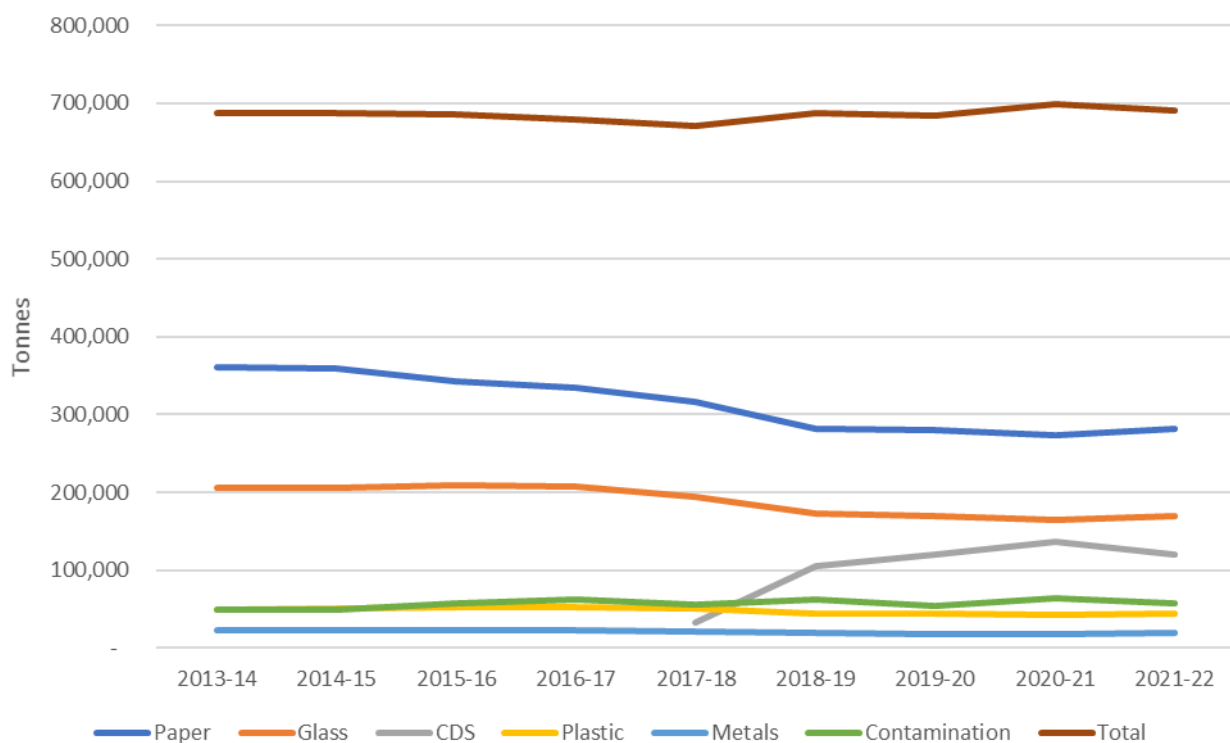
Note: ‘Other council’ waste includes materials such as hazardous materials.

Table 12 Dry recyclables and other council waste, kilograms per household per week, 2013–22

Year	Average household yield (kg/hh/week)
2013–14	5.22
2014–15	5.32
2015–16	5.07
2016–17	4.89
2017–18	4.87
2018–19	4.68
2019–20	4.61
2020–21	4.76
2021–22	4.61

Figure 8 shows the total tonnage collected over the past seven years for several materials. The last three years include materials collected through the container deposit scheme. This explains the increase in glass and plastics and, to a lesser degree, the increase in metals.

Figure 8 Recycling collected kerbside and through the container deposit scheme, by material, 2013–22



3.2. Organics collected and recycled

Like dry recyclables, organics are collected through kerbside, drop-off, and clean-up services. In 2021–22:

- 46 councils collected garden organics only
- 43 councils collected food and garden organics (FOGO)
- 2 councils used both systems
- 41 councils did not collect organics.

Household garden organics are mainly bark, leaves, twigs, and lawn clippings, while the FOGO co-collection service also includes household food scraps.

Table 15 shows that 810,130 tonnes of organics were collected at the kerbside in 2021–22. This is an increase of 12.6% from 2020–21. Of the kerbside total, 474,209 tonnes were from garden organics, and 335,922 tonnes from the 43 councils with FOGO collection systems in 2021–22. The non-metro levy areas accounted for 50.6% of this.

Tables 14 and 15 show the collected garden organics compared to the food and garden organics per household and per person, per week. The Sydney metro area collected 5.40 kg of organics per household weekly, and 6.12 kg of FOGO. The regional regulated area collected 6.59 kg of organics and 8.73 kg of FOGO.

In the past few years more councils have started using FOGO systems. FOGO gives a greater yield than regular garden organics, both taking food out of the waste bin (and so reducing landfill) and increasing recycling rates.

Table 13 Organics collected at the kerbside, by region: garden organics, 2021–22

	Sydney Metro Area	Extended Regional Area	Regional Regulated Area	Rest of the State	NSW
Councils with service	25	6	5	10	46
Tonnes collected	316,996	95,694	37,071	24,468	474,209
Average kg/hh/wk	6.91	7.49	7.27	6.18	7.00
Average kg/pp/wk	2.69	3.05	3.64	2.99	2.83

Table 14 Organics collected at the kerbside, by region: food and garden organics (FOGO), 2021–22

	Sydney Metro Area	Extended Regional Area	Regional Regulated Area	Rest of the State	NSW
Councils with service	3	4	11	25	43
Tonnes collected	61,903	104,091	87,964	81,963	335,922
Average kg/hh/wk	8.97	9.66	9.92	7.83	9.08
Average kg/pp/wk	3.69	3.97	4.49	3.85	4.00

Table 15 Organics collected at the kerbside, by region: total garden organics and FOGO, 2021–22

	Sydney Metro Area	Extended Regional Area	Regional Regulated Area	Rest of the State	NSW
Councils with service	28	10	16	35	89
Tonnes collected	378,899	199,765	125,035	106,432	810,130
Average kg/hh/wk	7.18	8.48	8.95	7.37	7.74
Average kg/pp/wk	2.82	3.47	4.20	3.61	3.22

Across all areas, FOGO produced greater yield than garden organics only.
Taking food out of the waste bin reduces landfill and increases recycling rates.

Figure 9 shows the steady increase in total organics collected over the past five years. Kerbside collected garden organics increased by 7.5% (around 33,000 tonnes) from 2020–21 to 2021–22. FOGO collections increased by 57,685 tonnes in this period, with two more councils offering the service, and some trial councils converting to complete FOGO.

Figure 9 Total organics collected at the kerbside, by region, 2010–22

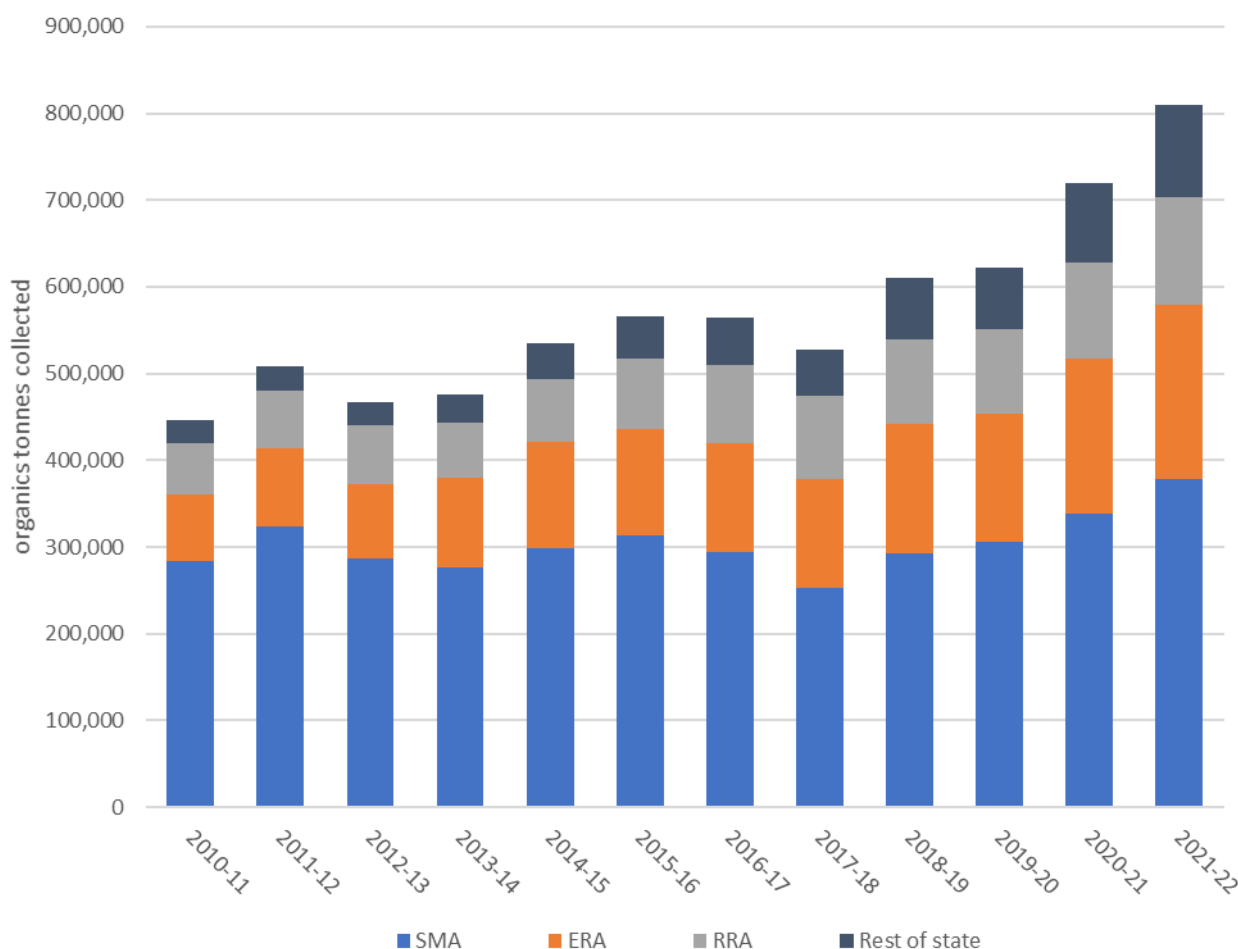


Table 16 Organics collected at the kerbside, by region, 2010–22

Year	Sydney Metro Area (tonnes)	Extended Regional Area (tonnes)	Regional Regulated Area (tonnes)	Rest of State (tonnes)
2010–11	283,466	76,578	59,989	26,089
2011–12	323,775	90,236	65,844	28,170
2012–13	286,035	86,059	67,556	27,334
2013–14	276,210	104,010	63,538	32,682
2014–15	298,638	122,551	72,195	41,638
2015–16	312,669	123,041	81,889	48,037
2016–17	293,924	125,463	90,360	54,880
2017–18	253,313	124,282	96,844	52,848
2018–19	293,119	149,018	97,394	70,131
2019–20	306,080	147,293	98,171	70,071
2020–21	337,772	178,788	111,431	91,249
2021–22	378,899	199,765	125,035	106,432

Note: Due to rounding, the total is not the same as the sum of the component figures.

Table 16 shows that in 2021–22, a total of 810,130 tonnes of kerbside organics were collected. The SMA and ERA contributed 71.4% of the total organic tonnes collected from kerbsides. The amount of collected organics that was disposed of to landfill was 7,439 tonnes which was 0.92%. The cause of organics disposed is likely due to the material being rejected or contaminated and unfit for further processing.

3.3. Organics collection systems

Total organics collection increased by 90,890 tonnes or 12.6% from 2020–21 to 2021–22. This was mainly due to increases in kerbside bin collections especially FOGO, as clean-up and drop-off sources remained the same. Across NSW, 59% of households had a kerbside collection service for organics and/or FOGO.

Table 17 shows how organics were collected across NSW. Most were picked up at the kerbside. In the Rest of the State area the greatest tonnage was collected via drop-off, because there are fewer kerbside collections in this area. The total collected (including 'other council' organics) was 887,144 tonnes.

Table 17 Total organics collected in NSW, by method and region, 2021–22

Collection method	Sydney Metro Area (tonnes)	Extended Regional Area (tonnes)	Regional Regulated Area (tonnes)	Rest of the State (tonnes)	NSW (tonnes)
Kerbside	378,899	199,765	125,035	106,432	810,130
Drop-off	208	23,069	16,449	66,893	106,619
Clean-up	5,412	13,500	224	136	19,272
Other council	13,750	2,547	6,301	9,838	32,436
Total	384,519	236,334	141,708	173,461	936,022

Figure 10 shows the change in total organics collected over the past nine years. Since 2020–21 there has been significant increase in FOGO collection.

Figure 10 Total organics collected, by method, 2013–22

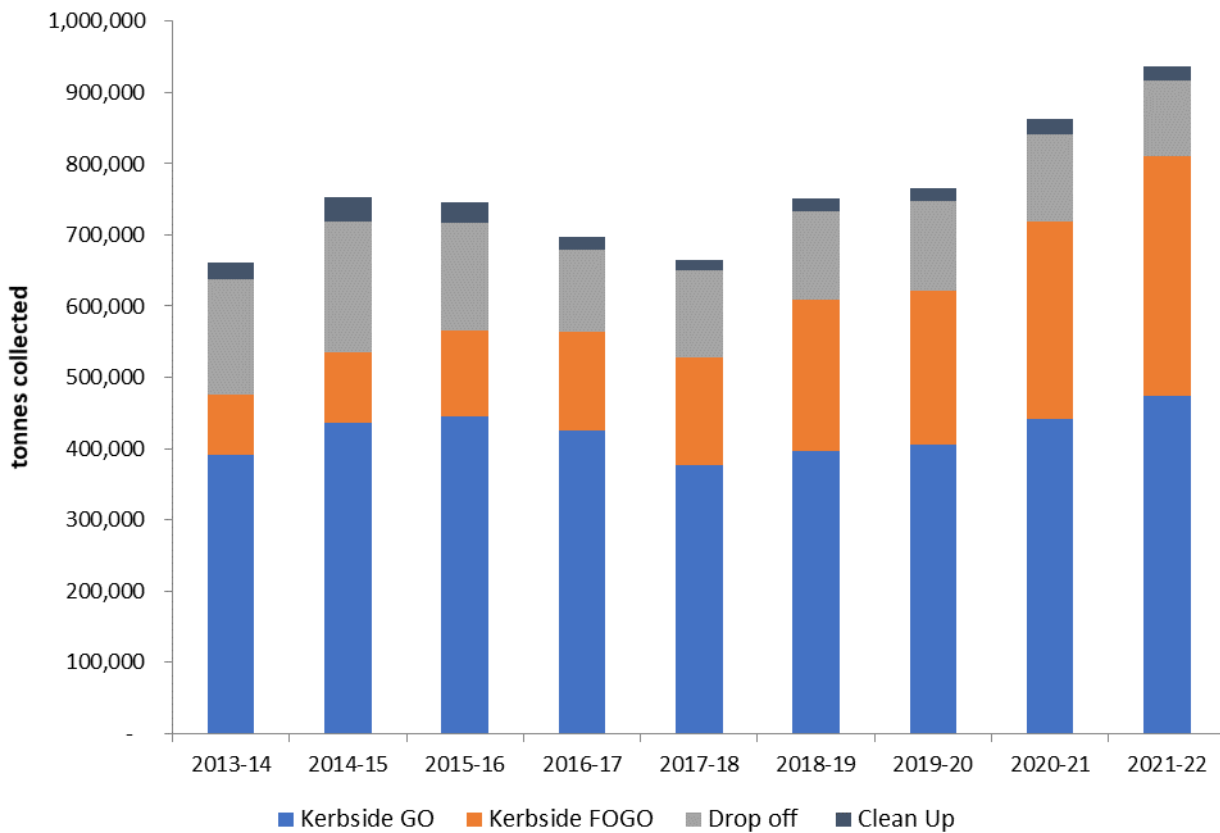


Table 18 Total organics collected, by method, 2013–22

Year	Kerbside GO (tonnes)	Kerbside FOGO (tonnes)	Drop-off (tonnes)	Clean-up (tonnes)	Totals (tonnes)
2013–14	390,294	86,146	161,047	23,744	661,231
2014–15	436,844	98,178	183,191	35,198	753,411
2015–16	445,633	120,002	151,646	28,361	745,642
2016–17	425,121	139,329	114,610	18,465	697,525
2017–18	375,774	151,513	123,572	14,228	665,087
2018–19	396,536	213,126	123,789	16,996	750,448
2019–20	405,717	215,899	125,873	17,695	765,184
2020–21	441,004	278,237	121,934	22,047	863,222
2021–22	474,209	335,922	106,619	19,272	936,022

Figure 11 shows how the collection of dry recyclables has compared with the collection of organics over the nine-year period.

Figure 11 Dry recyclables and organics collected, 2013–22

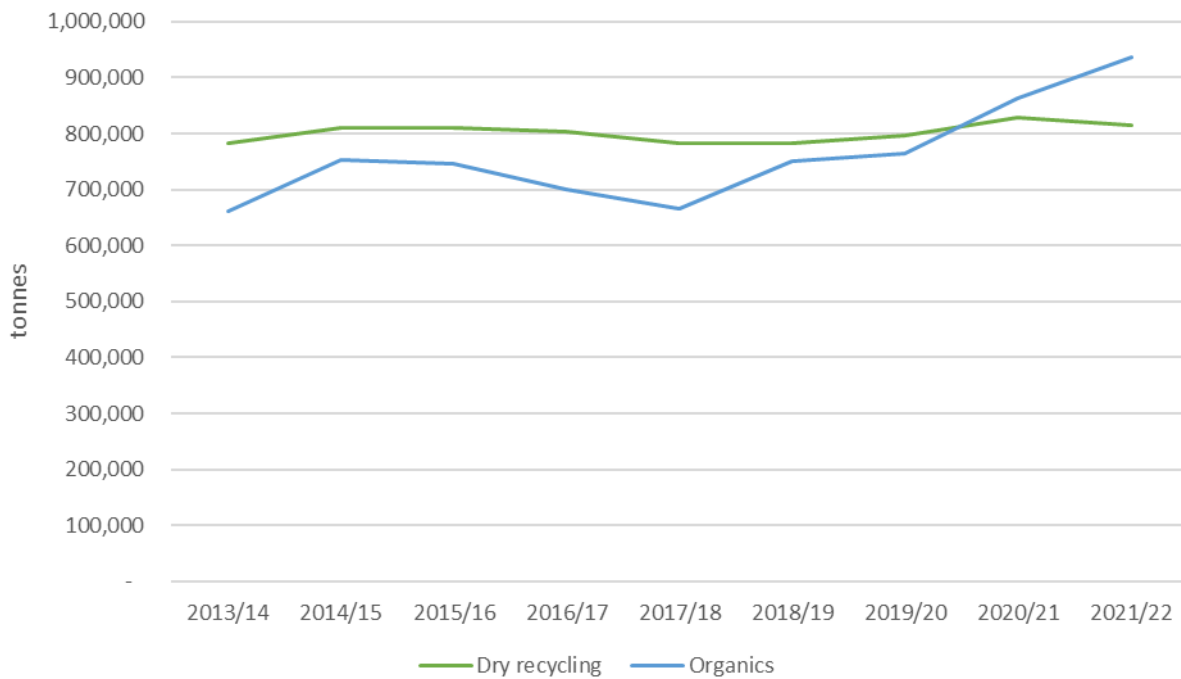


Table 19 Recyclables and organics collected, 2013–22

Year	Recyclables (tonnes)	Organics (tonnes)
2013–14	783,766	661,230
2014–15	810,826	753,411
2015–16	810,399	745,642
2016–17	804,189	700,455
2017–18	782,032	665,087
2018–19	783,593	750,448
2019–20	796,461	765,184
2020–21	827,960	863,222
2021–22	815,257	936,022

4. Residual waste

Residual waste is what is left over after households have separated out the dry recyclables and organics. It is collected at the kerbside, at drop-off facilities and through clean-up services, and either treated in an alternative waste treatment facility before disposal or directly disposed of at landfills.

4.1. Kerbside residual waste collected and recycled

In 2021–22 the total amount of residual waste collected from the red-lid bin kerbside was 1,831,255 tonnes. This was an increase of 2.9% from the previous year, and the increase was seen across all regions. The values in Figure 12 are only for waste collected by council-contracted services and day labour: they do not include waste collected from some residential properties by private contractors. However, the average per-person collection reported by councils has remained similar since 2013.

Figure 12 Kerbside residual waste collected, by region, 2013–22

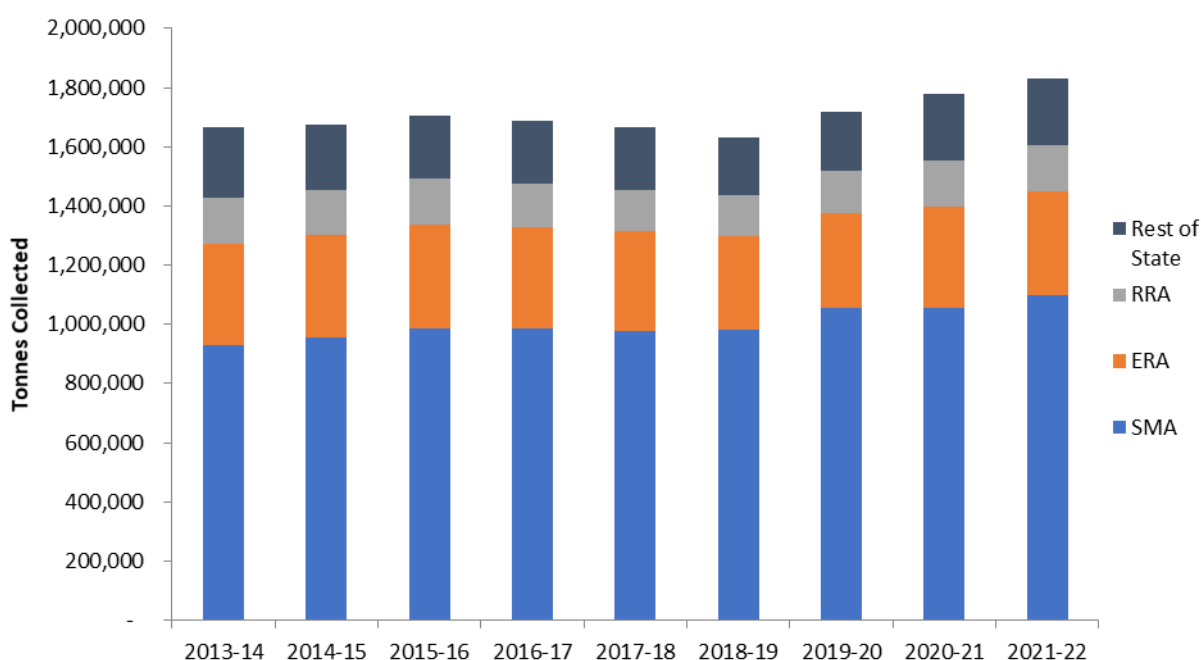


Table 20 Kerbside residual waste collected, by region, 2013–22

Year	Sydney Metro Area (tonnes)	Extended Regional Area (tonnes)	Regulated Regional Area (tonnes)	Rest of State (tonnes)
2013–14	931,416	338,443	156,710	237,606
2014–15	954,985	345,397	152,742	219,816
2015–16	984,680	353,071	153,121	216,242
2016–17	985,829	344,173	145,847	211,313
2017–18	975,764	339,703	139,349	212,655

Year	Sydney Metro Area (tonnes)	Extended Regional Area (tonnes)	Regulated Regional Area (tonnes)	Rest of State (tonnes)
2018–19	983,634	314,948	136,625	197,296
2019–20	1,055,090	319,979	144,351	199,054
2020–21	1,057,327	341,848	156,098	223,951
2021–22	1,098,743	348,807	156,471	227,234

Figure 13 Average household weekly residual waste (kg), by region, 2013–22

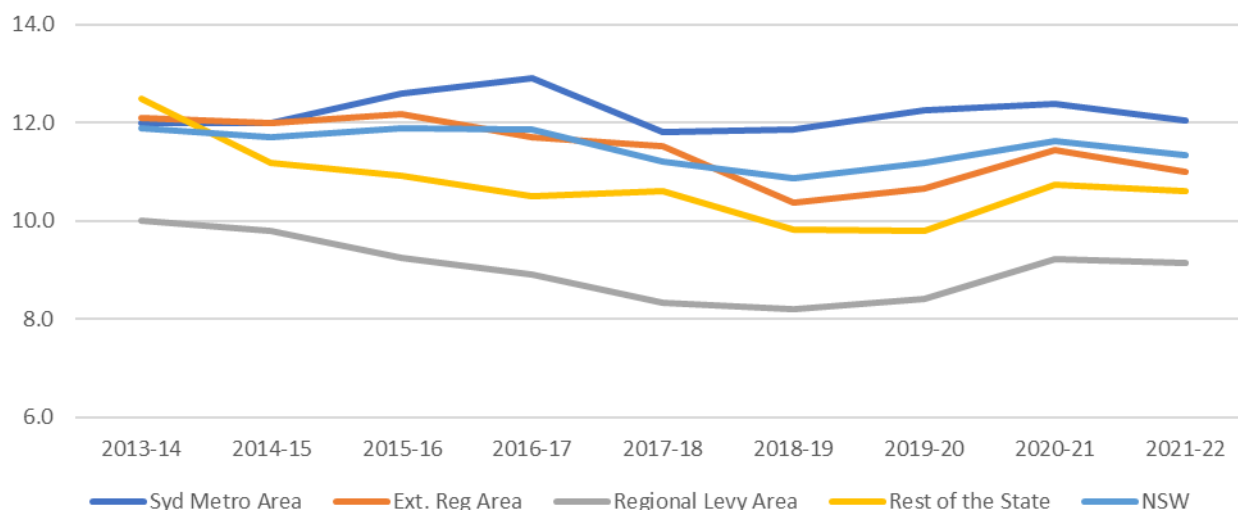
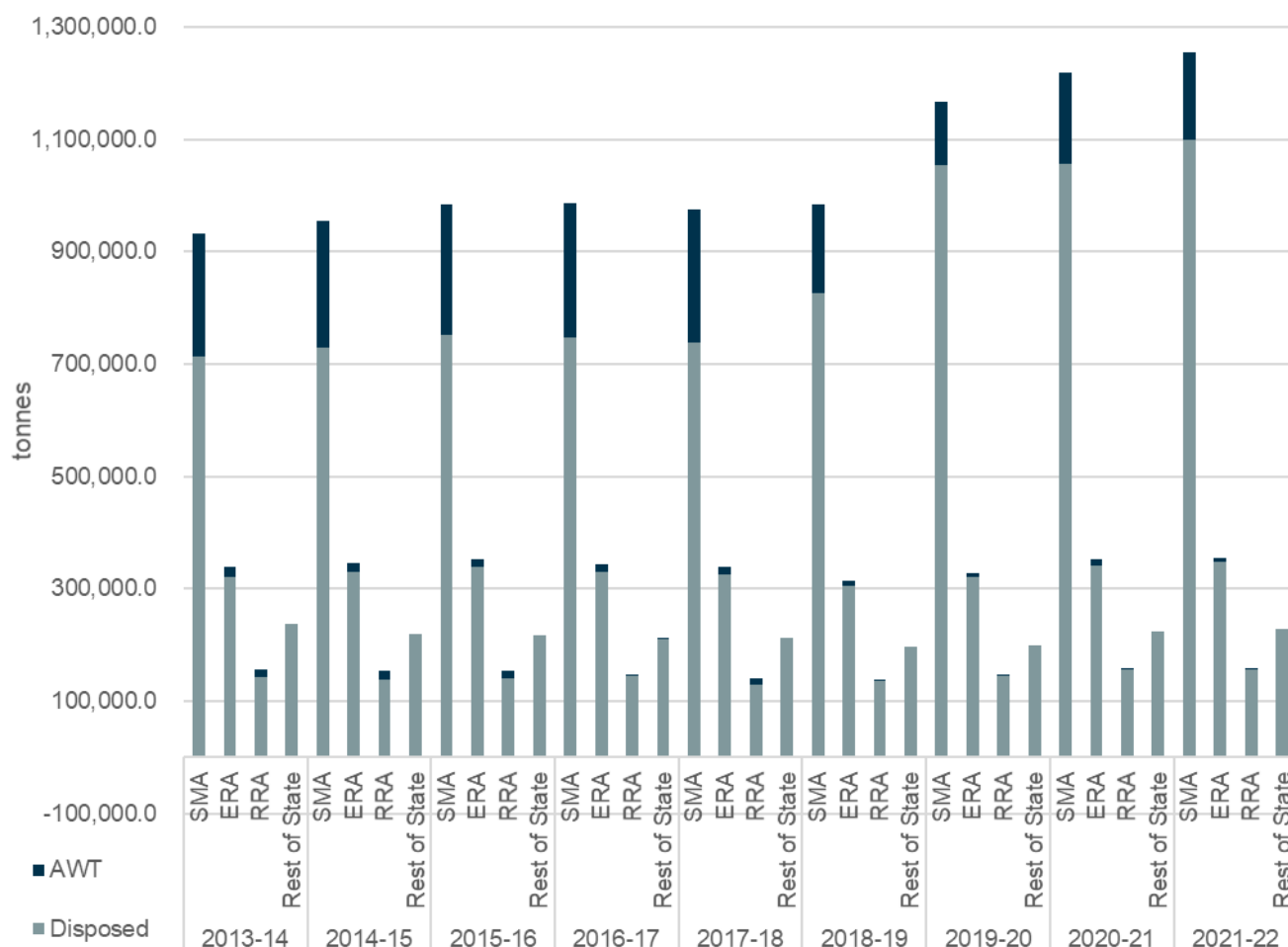


Table 21 Average household weekly residual waste, by region, 2013–22

Year	Sydney Metro Area (tonnes)	Extended Regional Area (tonnes)	Regional Regulated Area (tonnes)	Rest of the State (tonnes)	NSW (tonnes)
2013–14	12.0	12.1	10.0	12.5	11.9
2014–15	12.0	12.0	9.8	11.2	11.7
2015–16	12.6	12.2	9.2	10.9	11.9
2016–17	12.9	11.7	8.9	10.5	11.9
2017–18	11.8	11.5	8.3	10.6	11.2
2018–19	11.9	10.4	8.2	9.8	10.9
2019–20	12.3	10.7	8.4	9.8	11.2
2020–21	12.4	11.4	9.2	10.7	11.6
2021–22	12.1	11.0	9.1	10.6	11.4

Figure 14 shows the residual waste collected by region and the amount sent to an alternative waste treatment facility. The SMA accounted for 60% of the total disposal.

Figure 14 Kerbside residual waste by end destination and region, 2013–22



In 2021–22, an average NSW household generated 11.35 kg of residual waste per week. Of the 128 councils with residual-waste collection services, 21 sent some or all their kerbside residual waste to an alternative waste treatment facility. From this collected waste, alternative waste treatment facilities recovered 162,942 tonnes of material.

In October 2018, the EPA revoked the general and specific Resource Recovery Orders and Resource Recovery Exemptions for the application of MWOO (mixed waste organic outputs) to land, due to risks associated with chemical and physical contaminants.¹ It also introduced phase one of a transition package for the alternative waste treatment industry to ensure kerbside collection services were not disrupted and that any extra transport and landfill costs were not passed on to councils or ratepayers.

Alternative waste treatment facilities produce MWOO by separating organic waste from other materials in the household waste found in red-lid bins. This diverts material from landfill. Prior to October 2018, MWOO could be applied to land – under strict controls – as a soil amendment.

¹ <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/recycling/18p1230-mixed-waste-organic-material-regulatory-change-factsheet.pdf?la=en&hash=39D8D6E773E4E42F2D6C2250020D82C6304C9575>

Figure 15 shows the amount of material sent to alternative waste treatment facilities, the amount recovered and disposed of, and changes in the recovered rate over the past 10 years.

Figure 15 Alternative waste treatment tonnes collected and recovery rate, 2012–22

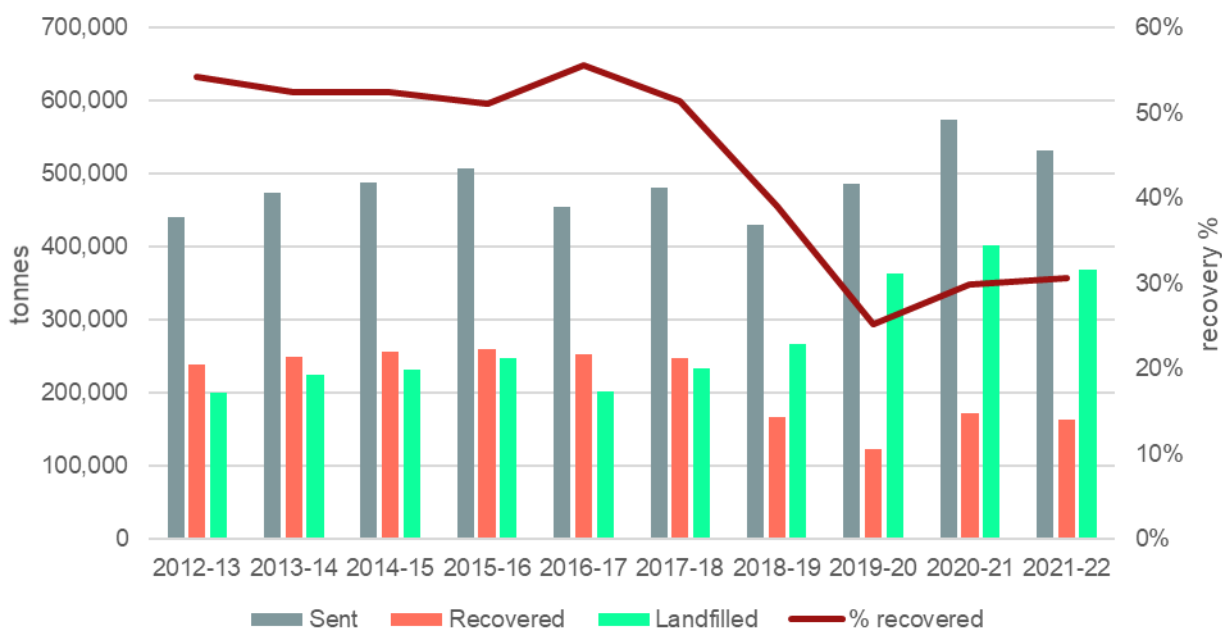


Table 22 Alternative waste treatment recovery rate, 2012–22

Year	Recovery rate
2012–13	54%
2013–14	52%
2014–15	52%
2015–16	51%
2016–17	56%
2017–18	51%
2018–19	39%
2019–20	25%
2020–21	30%
2021–22	31%

4.2. Total disposal of residual waste from all sources

In 2021–22 NSW residents disposed of 2,197,213 tonnes of residual waste to landfill, comprising:

- residual waste disposed of from kerbside collection (1,299,876 tonnes)
- residual waste from drop-off centres (255,628 tonnes)
- residual waste from clean-up collections (197,315 tonnes)
- rejects from alternative waste treatment facilities sent to landfill (368,437 tonnes)

- rejects from dry recyclables sent to landfill from kerbside, clean-up, and drop-off methods (62,290 tonnes)
- rejects from organics sent to landfill from kerbside, clean-up, and drop-off methods (13,667 tonnes).

4.3. Collection systems

NSW councils offer various combinations of waste, recycling, garden organics and FOGO kerbside collection services. They can be categorised into five types, as in Table 23. This table shows the average amount of waste collected kerbside each week for households with a service. The averages in Table 23 are based on the sum of all the collection services a council offers. Note that some councils have varied offerings within a service type (e.g. for a red-lid bin service they may have different bin sizes or service frequency). The combinations in Table 23 show the average yield for the council's service offering.

Table 23 Kerbside collection system and average yield, 2021–22

Number of LGAs	Average amount collected (kg/wk)	Bin services offered	Average recycle rate
15	19.78	Red	18%
26	16.78	Red/yellow	29%
44	22.48	Red/yellow/green	46%
41	20.24	Red/yellow/FOGO	51%
2	30.12	Red/yellow/green/FOGO	57%

All 128 NSW councils had a residual waste collection service. Council kerbside waste services covered 90.8% of households: 94% in the SMA, 96% in the ERA, 83% in the RRA and 78% in the Rest of the State area.

Of the 128 councils, 111 provided a weekly residual waste collection service, collecting 12.84 kg per household per week on average. The remaining 17 councils collected fortnightly, yielding 7.76 kg per household per week.

Figure 16 shows the average collection per week by bin system. Bigger bins and more frequent (weekly) services gave the greatest yield. A 140-litre fortnightly service gave the lowest yield. Six councils offered this as their main service.

Figure 16 Kerbside residual waste, average kg per household per week, by bin system, 2021–22

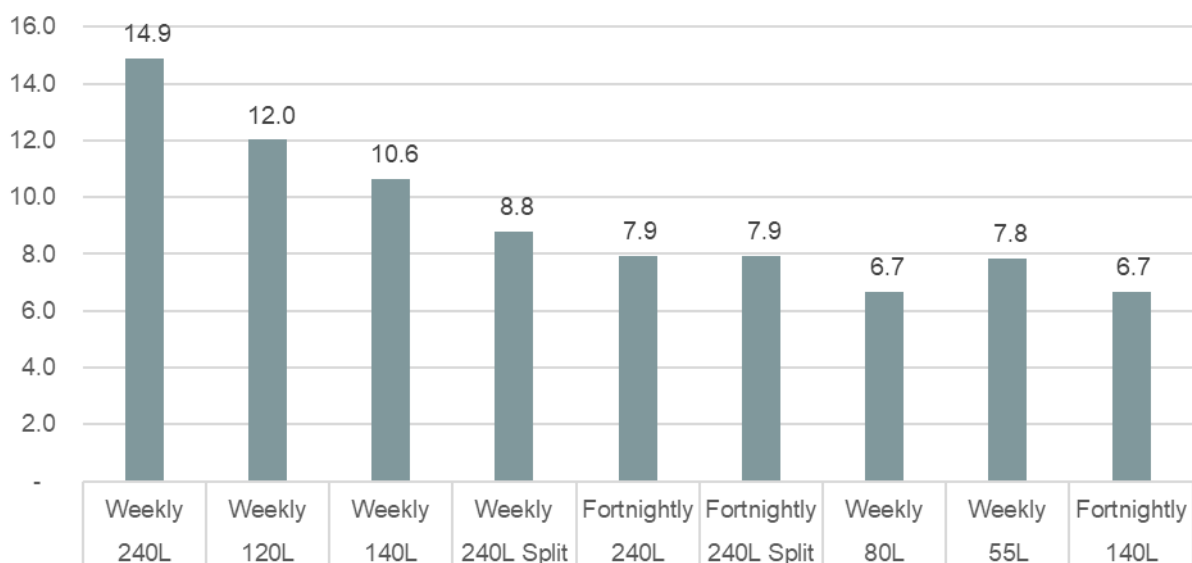


Table 24 Kerbside residual waste, bin average by system

Bin system size	Frequency	Residual waste (kg/hh/week)	No. councils with service
240L	Weekly	14.9	56
120L	Weekly	12.0	19
140L	Weekly	10.6	29
240L split	Weekly	8.8	1
240L	Fortnightly	7.9	1
240L split	Fortnightly	7.9	1
80L	Weekly	6.7	6
55L	Weekly	7.8	5
140L	Fortnightly	6.7	5

One hundred and twelve (112) councils provided a service for dry recyclables, while 13 had weekly services, yielding 4.28 kg per household per collection. Most of the remaining 99 services were fortnightly, yielding on average 3.49 kg per household per week.

Figure 17 shows the 240-litre fortnightly service collecting on average 3.49 kg per household per week. Most NSW councils (93) had this service.

Figure 17 Kerbside dry recyclables, average by bin system 2021–22

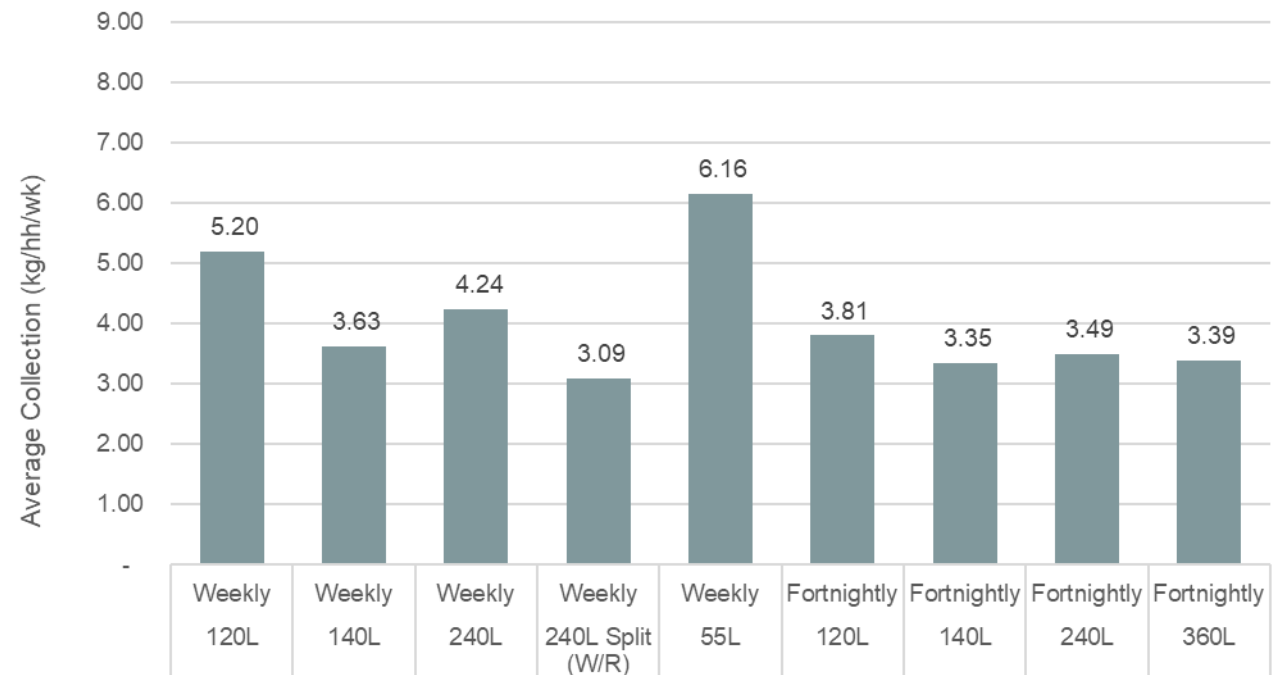


Table 25 Kerbside dry recyclables, bin average by system

Bin system size	Frequency	Recycling (kg/hh/week)	No. councils with service
120L	Weekly	5.20	1
140L	Weekly	3.63	2
240L	Weekly	4.24	8
240L split (W/R)	Weekly	3.09	1
55L	Weekly	6.16	1
120L	Fortnightly	3.81	2
140L	Fortnightly	3.35	1
240L	Fortnightly	3.49	93

Figure 18 shows that 46 councils offered a garden organics service. Forty-one (41) ran it fortnightly, yielding 6.73 kg per household per week.

Forty-three (43) councils collected FOGO. Thirty-one (31) provided this service weekly, collecting 8.88 kg per household per week, and 12 provided it fortnightly, collecting on average 5.35 kg per household per week. Two councils converted from garden organics to FOGO in 2021–22. The yield for FOGO increased by 20.7% from 2020–21 and has increased 141% since 2016–17.

Figure 18 Kerbside organics, average collection by bin system 2021–22

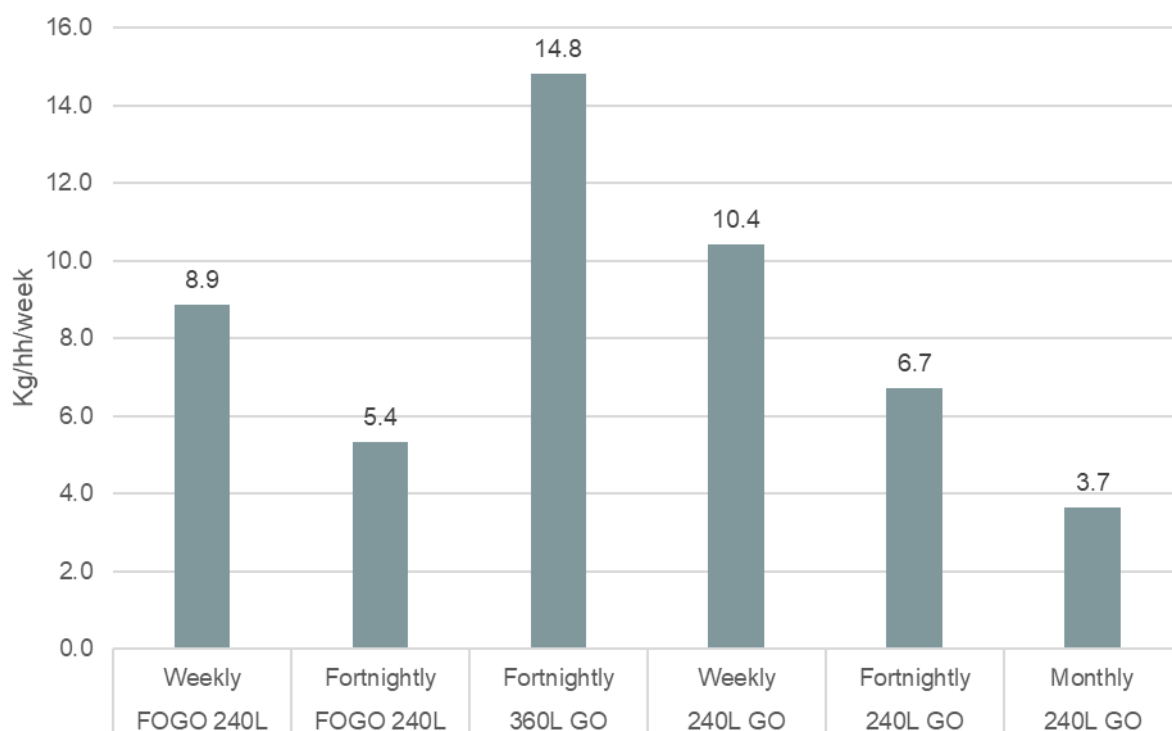


Table 26 Kerbside organics, average collection by bin system

Bin system size	Frequency	Kerbside organics (kg/hh/collection)	No. councils with service
FOGO 240L	Weekly	8.88	31
FOGO 240L	Fortnightly	5.35	12
360L GO	Fortnightly	14.81	1
240L GO	Weekly	10.41	3
240L GO	Fortnightly	6.74	38
240L GO	Monthly	3.66	2
120L GO	Fortnightly	0.81	1
140L GO	Fortnightly	4.37	1

5. Clean-up services

5.1. Waste collected by council clean-up services

In 2021–22, kerbside clean-up services by NSW councils collected 272,128 tonnes of waste. This comprised:

- bulky goods and other waste not listed below – 77.9% (212,099 tonnes)
- garden organics – 7.1% (19,272 tonnes)
- metals – 3.9% (10,510).
- mattresses – 2.8% (7,699 tonnes)
- e-waste – 0.1% (206 tonnes).

Figure 19 Kerbside clean-up waste (tonnes), by material type

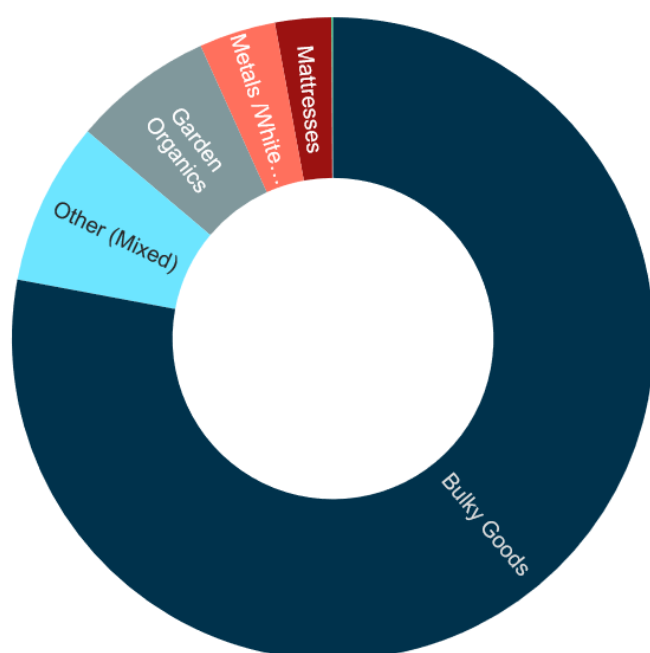


Table 27 Tonnes of source-separated clean-up materials by type, 2021–22

Material type	Collected (tonnes)	Recycled (tonnes)	Disposed of (tonnes)	Recycled rate
Garden organics	19,272	17,867	1,405	93%
E-waste	206	203	3	99%
Metals/whitegoods	10,510	10,438	72	99%
Mattresses	7,699	6,280	1,419	82%
Bulky goods	212,099	25,775	186,325	12%
Other (mixed)	22,342	11,352	10,990	51%
Total	272,128	71,915	200,214	26%

Notes

Bulky goods disposed of may include recyclable material, such as garden organics and mattresses, that were collected as bulky goods. Due to rounding, the figures for the totals may differ from the sums of the component numbers.

Most of the bulky goods and other mixed materials were sent to landfill.

Table 28 shows that regions vary greatly in how much material was collected by clean-ups and how much of that was recycled. The greatest amount of material was collected from the SMA but only 25.8% of it was recycled.

Table 28 Tonnes of bulk waste clean-up materials by area, 2021–22

Region	No. of Councils	Collected (tonnes)	Recycled (tonnes)	Landfilled (tonnes)	Recycled rate
Sydney Metro Area	30	181,335	46,820	134,516	25.8%
Extended Regulated Area	11	72,188	20,829	51,359	28.9%
Regional Regulated Area	14	12,949	2,794	10,154	21.6%
Rest of the State	26	5,656	1,472	4,184	26.0%
NSW	81	272,128	71,915	200,214	26.4%

Note: Total figures do not represent the sum of the component numbers due to rounding.

Figure 20 shows kerbside clean-up waste collected over time. Bulky waste makes up 77.9% while recyclables and organics account for 6.8% and 7.1% respectively.

Figure 20 Kerbside clean-up by waste composition, 2012–22

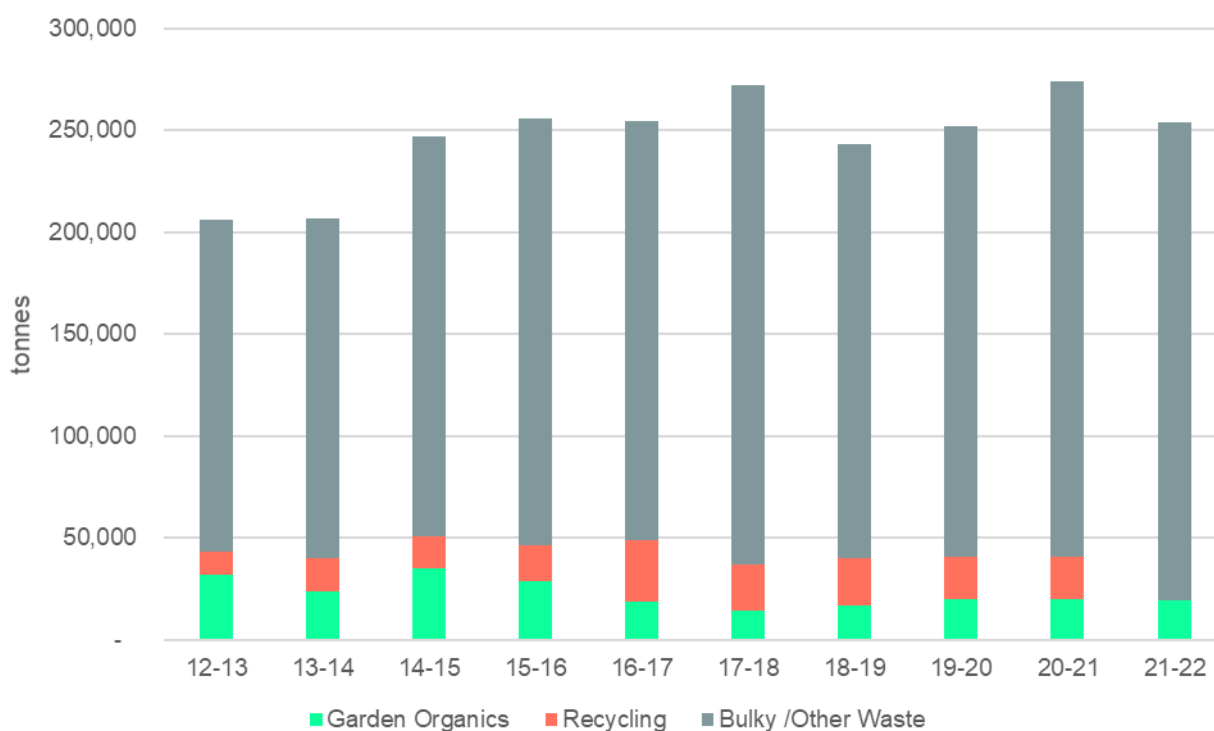


Table 29 Kerbside clean-up by waste composition, 2012–22 (as shown in Figure 20)

Year	Garden organics (tonnes)	Recycling (tonnes)	Bulky/other waste (tonnes)
2012–13	31,557	11,708	163,095
2013–14	23,744	16,390	166,360
2014–15	35,198	15,517	196,426
2015–16	28,361	17,771	209,718
2016–17	18,465	30,054	206,251
2017–18	14,228	22,391	235,710
2018–19	16,996	22,808	203,321
2019–20	19,646	20,983	189,738
2020–21	20,129	20,524	233,542
2021–22	19,272	18,415	234,441

Figure 21 Kerbside clean-up waste (tonnes), by material type, 2012–22

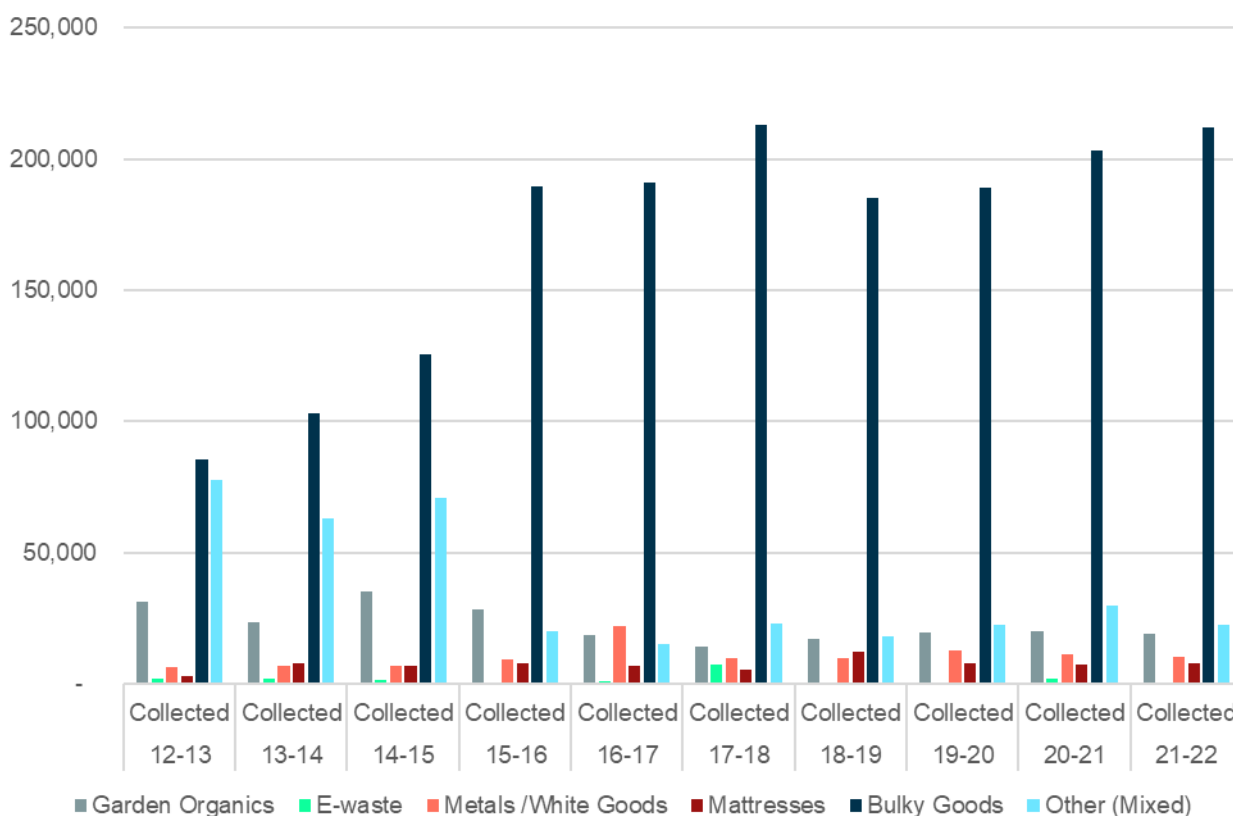


Table 30 Kerbside clean-up waste by material type, 2012–22 (as shown in Figure 21)

Year	Garden organics (tonnes)	E-waste (tonnes)	Metals/white goods (tonnes)	Mattresses (tonnes)	Bulky goods (tonnes)	Other (mixed) (tonnes)
2012–13	31,557	2,034	6,618	3,057	85,576	77,519
2013–14	23,744	1,841	6,863	7,686	103,059	63,301
2014–15	35,198	1,442	7,126	6,949	125,434	70,993
2015–16	28,361	544	9,575	7,652	189,396	20,322
2016–17	18,465	1,154	22,049	6,851	191,117	15,133
2017–18	14,228	7,438	9,733	5,219	212,817	22,892
2018–19	16,996	462	9,838	12,508	185,204	18,167
2019–20	19,646	581	12,638	7,764	189,017	22,541
2020–21	20,129	1,842	11,414	7,268	203,452	30,090
2021–22	19,272	206	10,510	7,699	212,099	22,342

6. Drop-off facilities

6.1. Waste dropped off at a facility by residents

Across NSW, 115 of the total 128 council areas offered some sort of drop-off facility for residents. Figure 22 shows that in 2021–22 these facilities received 484,163 tonnes of material, comprising:

- 275,031 tonnes of residual waste
- 106,619 tonnes of organics
- 106,002 tonnes of dry recyclables.

Figure 22 Drop-off material received, by waste composition, 2013–22

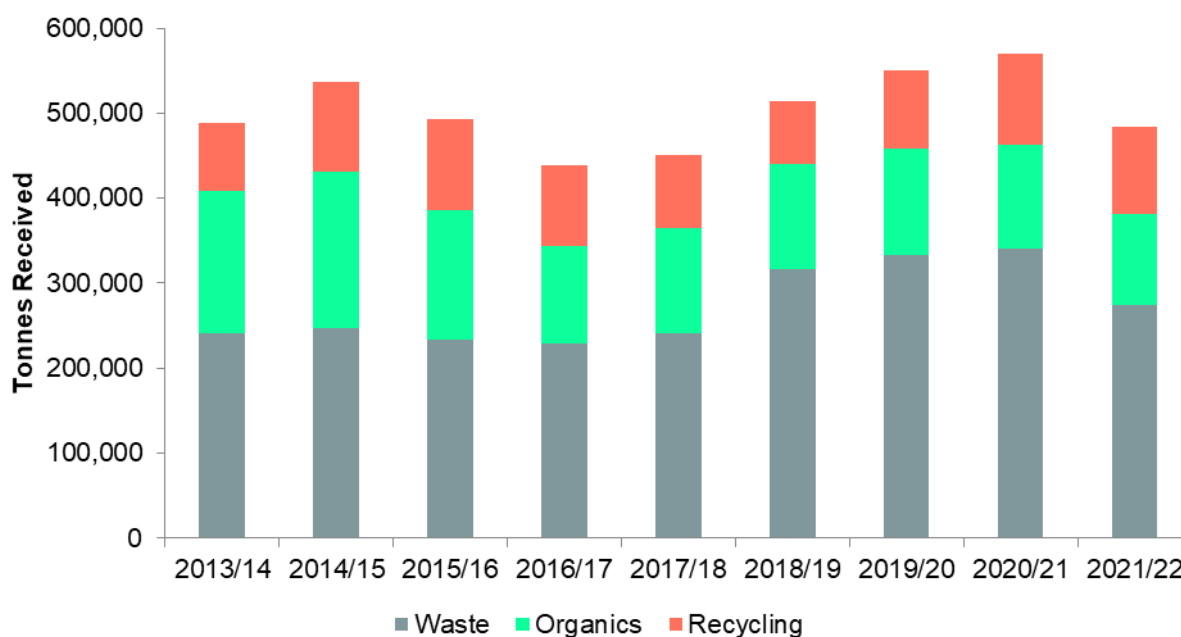


Table 31 Drop-off material received, by waste composition, 2013–22 (as shown in Figure 22)

Year	Residual waste (tonnes)	Organics (tonnes)	Recycling (tonnes)
2013–14	240,778	167,074	80,437
2014–15	247,499	183,191	106,331
2015–16	234,246	151,646	107,087
2016–17	228,899	114,610	95,076
2017–18	241,751	123,572	84,709
2018–19	316,404	123,789	73,943
2019–20	332,618	125,873	91,876
2020–21	340,420	121,934	107,774
2021–22	275,031	106,619	106,002

NSW drop-off facilities received 15% less material in 2021–22 than in 2020–21. The split between residual waste, recycling and organics has remained consistent over the past four years.

In 2021–22 a total of 43% of material from drop-off facilities was recycled.

Table 32 Drop-off service provisions by region, 2021–22

Region	Councils (number)	Collected (tonnes)	Recycled (tonnes)	Landfilled (tonnes)	Recycled rate
Sydney Metro Area	26	4,163	4,145	19	99.6%
Extended Regulated Area	11	109,176	45,043	64,133	41.3%
Regional Regulated Area	16	89,019	38,855	50,164	43.6%
Rest of the state	55	285,294	135,214	150,081	47.4%
NSW	108	487,653	223,257	264,396	45.8%

Figure 23 shows the material by waste composition over time. This is the total tonnes accepted at a facility from residents.

Figure 23 Drop-off waste received by waste composition, 2007–22

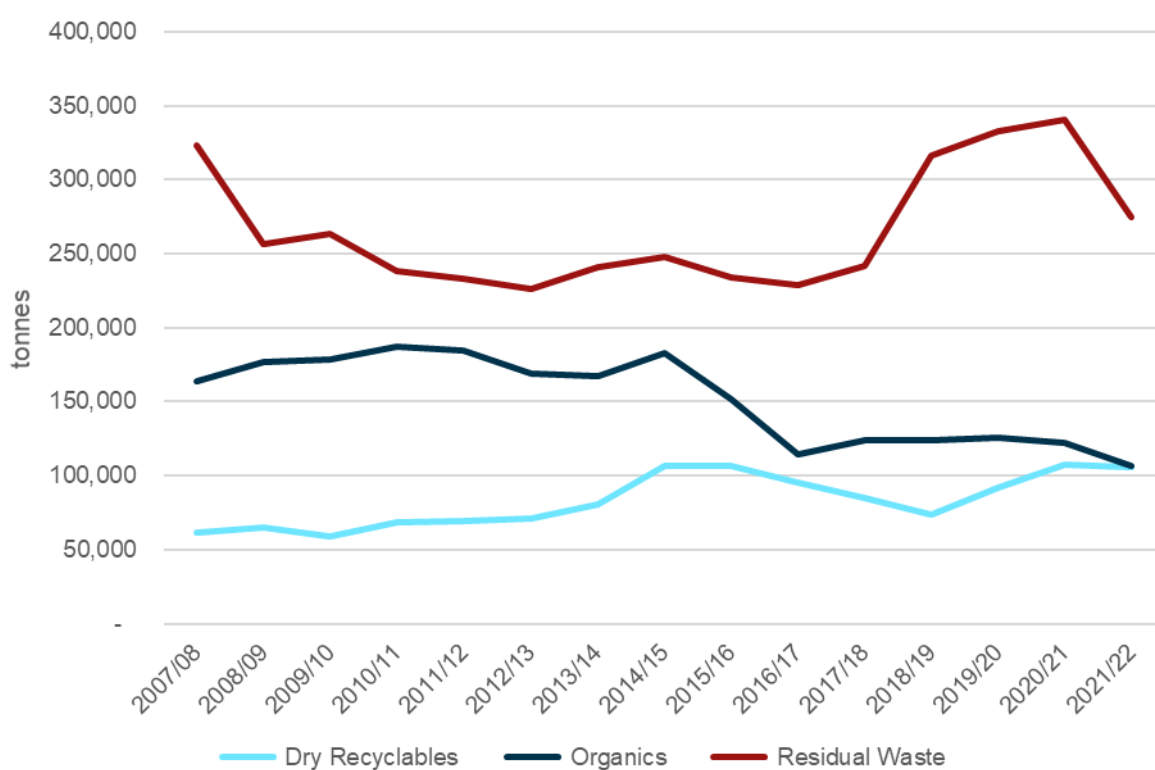


Figure 24 shows the destination of all three waste composition amounts collected, recycled and disposed of. The trendline shows the percentage recycled.

Figure 24 Drop-off amounts, and percentage recovered, 2007–22



Table 33 Drop-off waste, percentage recovered, 2007–22 (as shown in Figure 24)

Year	Recovered
2007–08	41%
2008–09	46%
2009–10	46%
2010–11	49%
2011–12	50%
2012–13	50%
2013–14	52%
2014–15	54%
2015–16	51%
2016–17	52%
2017–18	50%
2018–19	44%
2019–20	45%
2020–21	46%
2021–22	46%

Glossary

Clean-up

A council service to collect material from the kerbside rather than from a bin. Collects mainly bulky waste items, large organics, and hard waste. The service can be on-call or performed on a regular basis (e.g. yearly or six-monthly).

Contaminants

Material rejected by recycling operators that is disposed of in landfill. Organics that are not processed are sent to landfill.

Drop-off

A council facility where residents can drop off material for recycling or disposal.

Dry recyclables

Materials of the kind collected in the yellow-lid recycling bin. Councils vary in what they will accept. Household recyclables are collected through:

- kerbside collection, which picks up
 - mixed paper
 - newspaper, magazines, cardboard
 - plastic films and bottles
 - steel and aluminium cans
 - glass bottles
- drop-off facilities, which accept the materials above plus others (e.g., batteries and gas bottles)
- clean-up services, which collect large metals and bulky goods.

Organics

Mainly bark, leaves, twigs, and lawn clippings. Food and garden organics (FOGO) also include food scraps. Organics are collected from the kerbside and through clean-up and drop-off facilities.

Recyclables

Dry recyclable and organic waste material that is not residual waste.

Recycling rates

The percentage of all domestic waste that is recycled, calculated as $(\text{total recycled} \div \text{total collected}) \times 100$.

Residual waste

Household waste, less recyclables and organics.

Total domestic waste

All waste created by households: the residual waste, recyclables and organics that councils collect from households from the kerbside and through clean-ups and drop-off facilities.

Waste composition

The category of the collected waste. The waste compositions are:

- residual waste – predominantly red-lid bin material, intended for disposal
- dry recyclables – collected in the yellow-lid bin, intended for recycling
- organics – intended for recycling.