



The Australian Capital Territory

2005-06 Action Plan

Report for

The National Packaging

Covenant

Australian Capital Territory Government

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2005 - 2010 National Packaging Covenant Action Plan for the ACT Government

Introduction and Executive Summary

The ACT Government, as a signatory to the revised National Packaging Covenant (15 July 2005 to 30 June 2010), is committed to promoting, implementing and adhering to its principles. Accordingly, this report outlines the performance of the ACT Government as both a Territory and Local Government during the 2005-06 financial year.

The ACT continues to lead the nation in its capacity to divert waste from landfill for recycling, reuse and other forms of resource recovery. Significantly, in 2005-06, the ACT achieved a diversion from landfill rate of 75 per cent, and for the first year since the introduction of the No Waste strategy, the total amount of material sent to landfill in the ACT fell below 200 000 tonnes per annum.

The report shows that the ACT's kerbside recycling services continue to be highly efficient and well supported by the residents of the Territory, with further growth in the levels of materials recovered. Contamination rates at our Materials Recovery Facility are maintained at a consistently low level through our work with the contractors and the broader community.

ACT residents make up about 1.7 per cent of the total Australian population. Applying this percentage to the 2003 Covenant-provided baseline data, equates to an average recycling rate for the ACT of approximately 28 050 tonnes of packaging materials in that year. In fact the ACT's 2003 recovery rates were almost double this figure. In addition, based on this data and the Covenant's increased recovery targets for 2010, the ACT's per capita recovery rates already exceed the Covenant's 2010 goal. In 2005-06, the ACT recycled approximately 65 292 tonnes of paper, cardboard and other consumer packaging materials, which, on a per capita basis is about 62 per cent above the 2010 Covenant target.

Further to these figures, the number of schools accredited as achieving 'Waste Wise Schools' status has increased by 200 per cent in the past year with many more schools also working towards accreditation. The gold and silver award winners in the annual No Waste Awards were both local businesses whose actions clearly demonstrated that waste minimisation has environmental, social and financial benefits for those involved.

The following table outlines the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that the ACT is required to address as a signatory, and outlines the actions we continue to undertake in order to meet our obligations. All KPIs will be addressed and reported on annually by staff from the ACT Department of Territorial and Municipal Services (TAMS), who oversee the waste policy and services, environmental regulation and litter issues. In some instances, certain KPIs may not be addressed in this annual report; however an indication is provided of when these issues will be addressed in the ACT. Unless otherwise stated, KPI targets aim to improve on those in the previous year's annual report and as such, timelines are continuous in accordance with the stated objectives of KPI 29.

KPI	ACTION	REPORTING																	
<p>7. Total weight of consumer packaging disposed to landfill.</p> <p><u>7A</u> To be calculated by subtracting aggregated tonnage data relating to total packaging recycled in Australia from total tonnes of packaging consumed in Australia.</p>	<p>The ACT Government is committed to assist the NPCC in its reporting role by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing assistance to the Covenant Council in obtaining ACT data for this KPI via the NEPM. 	<p>The following data outlines tonnages recovered at the Materials Recovery Facility as well as through other commercial businesses operating in the ACT.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>MATERIAL TYPE</th> <th>TONNAGE RECOVERED</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Glass</td> <td>10 981.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Paper</td> <td>43 379.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cardboard</td> <td>8 715.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rigid Plastics</td> <td>1296.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Al. packaging</td> <td>117.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steel cans</td> <td>770.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">TOTAL</td> <td>65 259.6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	MATERIAL TYPE	TONNAGE RECOVERED	Glass	10 981.4	Mixed Paper	43 379.0	Cardboard	8 715.0	Rigid Plastics	1296.0	Al. packaging	117.7	Steel cans	770.5	TOTAL	65 259.6
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<p>8. Consumer packaging as a % by weight of total waste and relative to other waste stream components.</p> <p><u>8A</u> Report consumer packaging by weight as a % of total household waste and also relative to other household waste stream components.</p> <p><u>8B</u> Report consumer packaging by weight as a % of commercial and industrial waste and relative to other C & I waste stream components.</p>	<p>The ACT Government will provide initial baseline estimates based on its audit data and will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate with other jurisdictions to develop an agreed national methodology for reporting against this KPI. • Report results for the ACT in alignment with any agreed national methodology. 	<p>The ACT has completed regular household waste audits in recent years and is planning another audit in 2007. These will be used to report more accurately against this KPI once a methodology has been agreed to nationally.</p> <p>An audit in April 2004 of over 360 Canberra residences (including single dwellings and multi-unit developments) indicated that approximately 25.2% of the waste (garbage only) stream was recyclable materials (11.7% cardboard and paper and 13.5% recyclable containers).</p> <p>In Multi-Unit Development households, the average weekly waste weighed 5kg, of which, 1.1kg was recyclable: 700g was paper and cardboard and 400g was recyclable containers. In single dwelling households, the average weekly waste weighed 9.7kg, of which 1.9 kg was recyclable: 1kg was paper and cardboard and 900g were recyclable containers. The consolidated composition of the other segments of the garbage stream was as follows: food and compostables 41.7%, green waste 6.2% and other material 26.9%.</p> <p>In 2005-06, 54 612 tonnes of household waste were collected and sent to landfill from the ACT. Assuming that 25% of this was recyclable, this would account for approximately 13,650 tonnes of packaging materials. However we estimate that less than half of this could be recovered through improved recycling practices.</p> <p>At this point we do not have current data on our waste to landfill composition to accurately estimate packaging materials as a percentage of commercial and industrial waste.</p>																	

<p>9. Total weight of consumer packaging recycled, through:(a) Domestic and (b) Away from Home recovery systems.</p> <p>9A Report total tonnes recycled per annum, by material type for a) domestic and b) Away from Home recovery systems.</p>	<p>The ACT Government will provide the NPCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from the domestic recycling services through existing NEPM reporting (the ACT Government is the sole domestic service provider) and annual data of non-domestic consumer packaging recovered. <p>A breakdown of these recovered materials by type.</p>	<p>The following table separates the sources of recovered materials as required.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>MATERIAL</th> <th>Domestic</th> <th>Away from home</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Glass</td> <td>8402.0</td> <td>2 579.4</td> <td>10 981.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Paper</td> <td>14364.0</td> <td>29015.0</td> <td>52 094.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cardboard</td> <td>6711.0</td> <td>2004.0</td> <td>8715</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rigid Plastics</td> <td>998.0</td> <td>298.0</td> <td>1 296.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Al. packaging</td> <td>78.3</td> <td>39.4</td> <td>117.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steel cans</td> <td>581.0</td> <td>189.5</td> <td>770.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>31 134.3</td> <td>34 125.3</td> <td>65 259.6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	MATERIAL	Domestic	Away from home	TOTAL	Glass	8402.0	2 579.4	10 981.4	Mixed Paper	14364.0	29015.0	52 094.0	Cardboard	6711.0	2004.0	8715	Rigid Plastics	998.0	298.0	1 296.0	Al. packaging	78.3	39.4	117.7	Steel cans	581.0	189.5	770.5	TOTAL	31 134.3	34 125.3	65 259.6
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<p>11. Number of Councils operating according to good practice collection principles and state-based benchmarks.</p>	<p>As the sole service provider of kerbside collections in the territory, the ACT Government will report on its collection systems.</p>	<p>Domestic collection services in the ACT operate at a uniformly high level. As there is only one service provider (the ACT Government), there has been no need to establish a territory-wide benchmark.</p>
<p>13. Percentage of households with access to other domestic collection systems.</p> <p>13A Report on the number of households, as a percentage of total households within their municipality, that have access to a domestic collection system – other than those systems reported in KPI 12.</p>	<p>The ACT Government will report this data through its NEPM and its annual report.</p>	<p>Over 99% of ACT households are serviced by our kerbside collection system and the small number of rural properties which are too remote to be serviced by collections have access to free drop off centres for their recyclables.</p>
<p>15. Percentage of Councils and government agencies providing public place recycling infrastructure.</p> <p>15A Report number of government agencies providing public recycling facilities as a percentage of government agencies with public place responsibilities.</p>	<p>The ACT Government will report on public place and public event recycling infrastructure in the Territory.</p>	<p>The ACT does not as yet have extensive territory wide public place recycling systems. However, we will be running trials in 2007 with the aim to then implement systems more broadly.</p>

<p>15B Report number of councils providing public place recycling facilities as a percentage of local councils.</p> <p>15C Report total number of recycling bins provided by agencies.</p> <p>15D Report total number of recycling bins provided by councils.</p>		
<p>16. Percentage of signatories providing recycling collection facilities for post-consumer packaging generated on-site. <i>[Signatories should report whether or not they provide on-site recycling facilities for the collection of post-consumer packaging generated through normal day-to-day operations, e.g. offices, canteen, retail outlets etc.]</i></p> <p>16A Report whether on-site recycling facilities are provided or not.</p> <p>16B If yes, provide details</p>	<p>The ACT Government is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining data relating to the number of ACT Government Departments providing on-site collection facilities for post consumer packaging • Working to increase the number of recycling collection facilities provided by ACT Government Departments • Reporting on the above. 	<p>All eight government agencies were contacted and had paper recycling in their main offices. At this point we are unable to verify whether this also applies to smaller branch offices, shopfronts, depots, libraries, stations, clinics, schools and the like.</p> <p>Four major sites provided paper, organics and mixed recyclables collections for their staff, and two other agencies are in the process of reviewing their current practises with a view to expand recycling services. Consolidation of accommodation in 2007 should assist in the collection of more accurate data.</p>
<p>17. Amount and type of consumer packaging in the litter stream.</p> <p><u>17A</u> Report amount and type of consumer packaging in the litter stream</p>	<p>The ACT is not a participant in the KAB (05-06) National Litter Index and will rely on aggregated national data as to the type of consumer packaging in the litter stream.</p>	<p>The ACT is not a participant in the KAB (05-06) National Litter Index and will rely on aggregated national data as to the type of consumer packaging in the litter stream.</p>
<p>18. Contamination rates in consumer packaging recovery systems (e.g. kerbside, events, venues, public places, workplaces).</p>	<p>The ACT will assist with the NPCC's reporting of aggregated data through provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on contamination rates through 	<p>Aggregated data from the MRF (which accepts and sorts material from the ACT domestic collection, commercial operators, events and some local councils from the surrounding NSW region)</p>

<p><u>18A</u> Report % contamination from domestic systems.</p> <p><u>18B</u> Report % contamination from Away from Home systems.</p> <p><u>18C</u> Report specific examples of % contamination by system or location if available.</p>	<p>the NEPM reporting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data regarding contamination levels from specific events (where available). 	<p>shows that contamination levels ran at approximately 10.2% in the 2005-06 year. It is expected that these levels will drop significantly with the introduction of more advanced sorting technology.</p> <p>Kerbside audits were last completed in April 2004 and they indicated a contamination rate of 13.2% in the recycling bins. As this was immediately following significant changes to the collection system, and the results were higher than previous audits, it is anticipated that audits in 2007 will help identify whether this is a long-term trend or an anomaly.</p> <p>In 2006-07, it is more likely that we will have contamination data from events and public place recycling systems as a result of planned policy and program activities.</p>
<p>20. Improvements in littering behaviour.</p> <p><u>20A</u> Report details of specific aspects of littering behaviour and trends in behaviour over time</p>	<p>The ACT will assist with the NPCIA's reporting of aggregated data through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting what data is available for the ACT. 	<p>The ACT has no current data to contribute to this KPI.</p>
<p>21. Estimated tonnage of consumer packaging sent (a) for recycling and (b) to landfill from on-site collection facilities.</p> <p><i>[Relates to the facilities in KPI # 16.]</i></p> <p><u>21A</u> Report on amounts of consumer packaging from on-site collection which is</p>	<p>The ACT Government will report on the amounts of onsite consumer packaging recycled and sent to landfill. This will initially focus on sites that have accurate data and will be expanded out as ACT government departments develop agreed reporting procedures.</p>	<p>At this stage there is no accurate data on which to base estimates of recycling materials sent to landfill or to be recycled from the various government agencies. Consideration will be given to possible changes to contracts and policies in order to more readily obtain such data.</p>

<p>(i) Sent for recycling (tonnes and % of total waste); and (ii) Sent to landfill (tonnes and % of total waste)</p>		
<p>24. Implementation of NEPM procedures by jurisdictions.</p> <p><u>24A</u> Report number of companies contacted in relation to NPC and NEPM</p>	<p>The ACT will implement its NEPM and report as required.</p>	<p>In 2005-06, no companies were contacted in relation to the NEPM and NPC in the ACT as the updated NEPM had not been implemented. The ACT NEPM was notified on 30th November 2006 and came into effect on the 1st December 2006. This KPI will therefore be reported against in 2007.</p>
<p>25. Enforcement of the NEPM to “free-riders” and non-compliant Covenant signatories.</p> <p><u>25A</u> Report number of formal enforcement actions taken.</p>	<p>The ACT will enforce the NEPM and report on actions as required.</p>	<p>With the updated NEPM in place, the ACT will act to enforce the NEPM and contact free riders and non-compliant signatories in our jurisdiction in 2006-07.</p>
<p>26. Implementation of Buy Recycled purchasing policy or practices. <i>[This KPI refers to any recycled content products and NOT just recycled content packaging materials. The purpose of this KPI is to promote the use of recycled content products in Australia].</i></p> <p><u>26A</u> Report whether the signatory has implemented a Buy Recycled purchasing policy or practices. <u>26B</u> If yes, provide details and quantitative data where available.</p>	<p>The ACT will report on their progress in developing purchasing policies that align with the Covenant and where possible will provide details as to the use of recycled content products by the ACT Government.</p>	<p>The ACT Government currently has a ‘buy recycled’ policy, which states that where price and quality are equivalent, recycled products should be given consideration. We recognise that this policy could be further strengthened to emphasise the benefits of recycled products and to prioritise their purchase and plan to undertake a review of these policies.</p>
<p>27. Establishment of baseline performance data.</p>	<p>Baseline data will be provided.</p>	<p>Baseline data was provided with our Action Plan as per KPI 27.</p>

<p>28. Annual Reporting against Action Plan. <i>[Relates to Goals 4 and 5 of the Covenant as well as contributing to target reporting.]</i></p> <p><u>28A</u> Report to be lodged by 31 October each year commencing 2006 and outlining progress against baseline data, individual Action Plan commitments, targets and timelines.</p>	<p>The ACT will report annually against the Action Plan.</p>	<p>This document fulfils the ACT Government's reporting requirements for 2006.</p>
<p>29. Demonstrated improvement and achievements against individual targets and milestones. <i>[Relates to Goal 5 of the Covenant All signatories to report against this KPI.]</i></p> <p><u>29A</u> Annual report to clearly demonstrate continuous improvement and performance against individual targets and timelines in Action Plan.</p>	<p>As stated at the head of this table, KPI targets (unless otherwise stated) aim to improve on results achieved in the previous year's annual report. As such, timelines are continuous.</p>	<p>The ACT Government continues to perform strongly in meeting its obligations as a signatory to the National Packaging Covenant. Examples of these achievements are included in the executive summary at the beginning of this document.</p>