



The Australian Capital Territory

2006-07

**Action Plan Report for
The National Packaging
Covenant**

October 2007

Australian Capital Territory Government
Department of Territory and Municipal Services
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2006-07 Action Plan Report for The National Packaging Covenant

Introduction and Executive Summary

The ACT Government, as a signatory to the revised National Packaging Covenant, is committed to promoting, implementing and adhering to Covenant principles. The ACT has an endorsed Action Plan for The National Packaging Covenant for the period 2005-2010. The Action Plan outlines actions that the ACT intends to implement during the 5 year period to meet its commitments under the Covenant.

The ACT is continuing to implement actions set out in the 5 year Action Plan and this report outlines the performance of the ACT Government as both a Territory and Local Government during the 2006-07 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. In 2006-07, the ACT achieved a diversion from landfill rate of 74 percent. This was slightly down on the 2005-06 result of 75 percent and is due to strong economic growth, city growth and an significant increase in commercial waste disposal to landfill.

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 work with the contractors and the broader community. Recent investment in improved material sorting technologies has further reduced contamination levels and it is expected that these improvements will continue into the future.

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 2006-07, the ACT recycled approximately 58,003 tonnes packaging materials, which, on a per capita basis is well above the 2010 Covenant target.

As part of its commitment to improve the rate of materials recovered and recycled, the ACT Government uses a number of means to provide information to and engage all sectors of the community. Over the 2006-07 period, the ACT Government ensured easy access to information through the Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) website and a wide range of community engagement activities. A designated enquiry email address and telephone hotline were also maintained and regular educational tours and public open days at the Materials Recovery Facility and Landfill were facilitated. The 'No Waste Awards' continued to prove successful in encouraging innovative approaches to reducing waste from consumer packaging and other sources, with a number of innovative entries representing different sectors of the community received.

The ACT Government has had particular success in engaging schools, through the 'Waste Wise Schools' Program, which has now been integrated into the 'Sustainable Schools' initiative. There are now 78 schools committed to the Sustainable Schools initiative in the ACT, some of which have diverted 80 percent of their waste from landfill to recycling through actions undertaken as part of their commitment to the initiative.

The following table fulfils the ACT Government's reporting requirements as Covenant signatories. Relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been addressed through actions previously described and committed to in the 2005-2010 Action Plan. All KPIs are addressed and reported on annually by staff from 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, as these are being reported at a national level. 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.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	ACTION	REPORTING												
<p>8. Consumer packaging as a % by weight of total waste and relative to other waste stream components.</p> <p>8A Report consumer packaging by weight as a % of total household waste.</p> <p>Report under categories of “packaging” & “other”. Also report the weight of packaging (kg) and number of bins audited.</p> <p>8B Report consumer packaging by weight as a % of commercial and industrial waste (where available).</p> <p>Report under categories of “packaging” & “other”.</p> <p>Also weight of packaging (kg) and scope of audit (i.e. 10 shopping centre bins).</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 style="text-align: center;"><i>Consumer Packaging in Household Waste to Landfill*</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Weight (tonnes)</th> <th>% of Domestic Landfill Waste Stream</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Packaging</td> <td>14417</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>50956</td> <td>78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>65373</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Based on aggregated domestic quantities sent to landfill in 2006-07, with composition percentages determined from the 2004 domestic kerbside audit and the 2006 MRF residual audit.</p> <p>The 2004 domestic kerbside audit covered 360 Canberra residences (including single dwellings and multi-unit developments).</p> <p>Domestic kerbside audits are scheduled for November 2007 and the results will be used on in the 2007-08 report.</p> <p>There is no accurate data on the commercial waste stream upon which to base an estimate. It is intended that this will be addressed for the 2007-08 reporting period.</p>		Weight (tonnes)	% of Domestic Landfill Waste Stream	Packaging	14417	22	Other	50956	78	Total	65373	100
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<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 domestic recovery systems.</p> <p>9B Report total tonnes recycled per annum, by material type for Away from Home recovery systems (where available).</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 for non-domestic consumer packaging recovered. A breakdown of materials recovered by type 	<p><i>Consumer Packaging Recycled in ACT 2006-07 by Weight (Tonnes)*</i></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>Paper</td> <td>16396</td> <td>5223</td> <td>21619</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cardboard</td> <td>8399</td> <td>12254</td> <td>20654</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glass</td> <td>9973</td> <td>3177</td> <td>13150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PET</td> <td>395</td> <td>161</td> <td>555</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HDPE</td> <td>376</td> <td>124</td> <td>499</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aluminium</td> <td>97</td> <td>88</td> <td>185</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steel</td> <td>693</td> <td>241</td> <td>934</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Plastic</td> <td>307</td> <td>98</td> <td>405</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>36637</td> <td>21366</td> <td>58003</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Based on data sourced from the MRF and other commercial processors of consumer packaging in the ACT.</p>	Material	Domestic	Away From Home	Total	Paper	16396	5223	21619	Cardboard	8399	12254	20654	Glass	9973	3177	13150	PET	395	161	555	HDPE	376	124	499	Aluminium	97	88	185	Steel	693	241	934	Mixed Plastic	307	98	405	Total	36637	21366	58003
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<p>11. Number of Councils operating according to good practice kerbside 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>12. Percentage of households with access to kerbside collection systems.</p>	<p>The ACT Government will report this data through its NEPM and its annual report.</p>	<p>Approximately 99.9% of ACT households are serviced by our kerbside collection system.</p>																																								
<p>13. Percentage of households with access to other domestic collection systems.</p>	<p>The ACT Government will report this data through its NEPM and its annual report.</p>	<p>All ACT residents have access to free regional drop-off centres for recyclables. The small number of rural properties which are too remote to be serviced by collections have access to free regional drop off centres.</p>																																								

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<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. (See also 15C which is optional.)</p> <p>15B Report number of councils providing public place recycling facilities as a percentage of local councils. (See also 15D which is optional.)</p> <p>15C Report total number of recycling bins provided by government agencies (based on described methodology).</p> <p>15D Report total number of recycling bins provided by councils.</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.</p> <p>A trial of public place recycling is continuing, with the aim to evaluate system performance and consider implementation of systems more broadly.</p> <p>Major public and sporting events are being encouraged to implement recycling collection systems and most are complying. Events such as the National Folk Festival have been particularly successful and received awards for their efforts.</p>

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<p>16. Percentage of signatories providing recycling collection facilities for post-consumer packaging generated on-site.</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 government agencies have paper recycling in their main offices. Most have collection for recyclable packaging except in smaller branch offices, particularly rented spaces where services are not available under tenant arrangements.</p> <p>The ACT Government is committed to working with facilities managers to encourage the availability of better recycling services.</p> <p>Commonwealth Government agencies are also being encouraged to establish recycling systems, however no data is currently available to report on their performance.</p>

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<p>17. Amount and type of consumer packaging in the litter stream.</p> <p>17A Report amount and type of consumer packaging in the litter stream.</p> <p>17B Report details of specific aspects of littering behaviour and trends in behaviour over time.</p>	<p>The ACT will assist the NPCC by participating in the KAB National Litter Index and including the findings in our annual action plan report.</p> <p>The Australian Government is responsible for providing data for this KPI, specifically the Keep Australia Beautiful Litter Counts</p>	<p>The ACT participated in the KAB (06-07) National Litter Index and the following table provides a summary of relevant findings.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Litter per 1000m2: Object sub-categories ACT</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Material Type</th> <th>No of Items</th> <th>Volume (litres)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Paper/Paperboard – other</td> <td>8</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plastic – Other</td> <td>6</td> <td>1.73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plastic – Food container or utensil</td> <td>5</td> <td>0.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Metal – Non-alcoholic beverage container</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper/Paperboard – Food container or utensil</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plastic – Non-alcoholic beverage container</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper/Paperboard – Cigarette packets</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper/Paperboard – Publication</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Metal – Alcoholic beverage container</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>25</td> <td>5.09</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Material Type	No of Items	Volume (litres)	Paper/Paperboard – other	8		Plastic – Other	6	1.73	Plastic – Food container or utensil	5	0.58	Metal – Non-alcoholic beverage container	1	0.43	Paper/Paperboard – Food container or utensil	1	0.58	Plastic – Non-alcoholic beverage container	1	0.79	Paper/Paperboard – Cigarette packets	1	0.17	Paper/Paperboard – Publication	1	0.49	Metal – Alcoholic beverage container	1	0.32	Total	25	5.09
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<p>18. Contamination rates in consumer packaging recovery systems (eg. kerbside, events, venues, public places, workplaces).</p> <p>18A Report % contamination from domestic systems.</p> <p>18B Report % contamination from Away from Home systems (where available).</p> <p>18C Report specific examples of % contamination by system or location if available.</p>	<p>The ACT will assist with the NPCC's reporting of aggregated data through the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on contamination rates through the NEPM reporting; • Data regarding contamination levels from specific events (where available) 	<p>Aggregated data from the MRF (which accepts and sorts material from the ACT domestic collection, commercial operators, events and some local councils from surrounding NSW region) shows that contamination levels were on average of 9.48% in the 2006-07 year. These levels have dropped somewhat due to the introduction of more advanced sorting technology, though there have been some transitional problems which suggest that contamination is likely to drop further in the 2007-08 reporting period.</p> <p>Domestic kerbside audits were last completed in April 2004 and indicated a contamination rate of 13.2% in the recycling bins. Audits are scheduled for November 2007 and the results will be reported in the 2007-08 report.</p>
<p>21. Estimated tonnage of consumer packaging sent (a) for recycling and (b) to landfill from on-site collection facilities. Relates to the facilities reported in KPI # 16.</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 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 and reporting mechanisms are currently under development.</p>
<p>24. Implementation of NEPM procedures by jurisdictions.</p>	<p>The ACT will implement its NEPM and report as required.</p>	<p>The NEPM was implemented by a new IWRP (Industry Waste Reduction Plan) under the Waste minimisation Act 2001 and came into effect on 1 December 2006. Since the implementation of the updated used packaging (environment protection measure) no compliance or enforcement action has been required.</p>

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	ACTION	REPORTING
25. Enforcement of the NEPM to “free-riders” and non-compliant Covenant signatories.	The ACT will implement its NEPM and report as required.	Since the implementation of the updated used packaging (environment protection measure) no compliance or enforcement action has been required.
26. Implementation of Buy Recycled purchasing policy or practices. 26A Report whether the signatory has implemented a Buy Recycled purchasing policy or practices. 26B If yes, provide details and quantitative data where available.	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.	The ACT Government is currently reviewing its stationary procurement contract and is taking the Sustainability Policy into consideration as part of this process. It is currently possible for agencies to specify recycled content ‘default’ products, to encourage their purchase as first preference. The ACT Government is also working with the Buy Recycled Business Alliance to further encourage the uptake of recycled products, through initiatives such as the national database of recycled products.
27. Establishment of baseline performance data.	Baseline data will be provided.	Baseline data was provided with our Action Plan 2005-2010.
28. Annual Reporting against Action Plan.	The ACT will report annually against the Action Plan.	This document fulfils the ACT Government’s reporting requirements for 2007.
29. Demonstrated improvement and achievements against individual targets & milestones.	KPI targets (unless otherwise stated) aim to improve on results achieved in the previous year’s annual report. As such, timelines are continuous.	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.