

Recycling Victoria FAQ: Infrastructure investment



The next step in our comprehensive overhaul of Victoria's recycling system, the Victorian Government is significantly boosting investment in secondary recycling processing and remanufacturing.

As part of a **nearly \$100 million** industry and infrastructure investment package, the Government will drive research, expand the local processing and manufacturing industry, create more products from recyclable materials and support new local jobs.

What is the Recycling Victoria Infrastructure Fund (RVIF)?

RVIF will help local businesses give new life to old rubbish through co-investment in infrastructure to sort and reprocess Victoria's recyclable materials for use in remanufacturing and reprocessing.

The Victorian Government is boosting the existing funding by \$28 million for businesses to address infrastructure gaps for the processing and remanufacture of glass, paper, plastics and hazardous waste, with an initial focus on solvent waste.

This brings the funding available for sorting, reprocessing and remanufacturing infrastructure through RVIF to **\$56 million**.

Additional RVIF funding will also be made available:

- \$10 million to expand waste to energy initiatives for the material that can't be recycled.
- \$11.5 million for new facilities to treat hazardous waste and help prevent dangerous stockpiling.

For more information visit <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Grants-and-funding/Recycling-Victoria-Infrastructure-Fund>

How are we going to grow markets for recycled materials in Victoria?

\$30 million will be made available to help fund research to develop new products made from recycled materials such as glass, plastic, organics, electronic waste, concrete, brick and rubber.

This program will support collaboration between industry, universities and government and will stimulate new markets for recyclable materials by developing product specification, improving quality standards and industry accreditation.

Is funding available for businesses?

Funding of **\$10 million** will be made available through grants for business to improve resource efficiency, reduce waste to landfill, increase recycling and reduce business costs. Peak industry bodies and associations, and coordinated business groups, will also be eligible for funding to deliver programs that improve waste management, prioritising action in accordance with waste hierarchy principles of waste avoidance, reduction, reuse, and recycling.

A further **\$10 million** will support early entrants into Victoria's waste to energy market.

What is the Business Innovation Centre?

The Recycling Victoria Business Innovation Centre is a **\$7 million** innovation and design centre established by the Victorian Government to support businesses to transition to a circular economy.

The Centre will bring together government, industry, research institutions and communities to find innovative solutions to reduce waste, increase recycling and make the most of materials. It will foster business innovation and collaboration across supply chains to reduce waste, increase recycling and reuse, and generate new streams of revenue for businesses.

The Centre will be a collaboration between Sustainability Victoria and partners in businesses, councils, peak bodies and research institutions.

Why is this investment needed?

With widespread disruption to global recycling markets, the Victorian Government is acting now – driving innovation, reducing waste and creating the next generation of jobs

Victoria has built strong foundations for the transitioning waste and recycling industry, through funding of more than \$135 million over the last four years in the waste and resource recovery sector.

The Recycling Victoria Infrastructure Fund will assist businesses to improve the quality of materials recovered, increase the capacity and capability of Victoria's resource recovery sector and support Victoria to meet the national waste export ban requirements.

Who can submit an expression of interest?

Businesses and councils that currently operate or intend to operate facilities in Victoria to reprocess or remanufacture products made from recycled materials can submit an Expression of Interest. Submissions will need to demonstrate capability and capacity to deliver projects and a demonstrated market demand for products.

How much funding will be available for projects?

Grants will be available across four funding streams:

- Paper and cardboard – up to 25% of total project capital cost, capped at \$8 million per project;
- Plastics – up to 25% of total project capital cost, capped at \$3 million per project;
- Glass - up to 25% total project capital cost, capped at \$3 million per project; and
- Hazardous waste (solvents) – up to 25% total project capital cost, capped at \$6 million per project.

What will funding be provided for?

Funding will be provided for the construction and/or expansion of facilities that will reprocess, remanufacture and build end-market capacity for paper and cardboard, plastics, glass and hazardous waste streams.

Funding may support:

- infrastructure and equipment for new facilities, upgrades or expansions to support greater sorting and decontamination of recovered materials;
- infrastructure and equipment for new facilities, upgrades and expansion to enable reprocessing of materials to a higher quality suitable for manufacturers and end markets;
- infrastructure and equipment for the remanufacturing of recovered materials into new products; and
- upfront infrastructure capital cost for the purchase, installation and commissioning of equipment that will recycle solvents from liquid hazardous wastes

How do you apply?

Guidelines and application instructions are available on Sustainability Victoria's website.

Expressions of Interest will be evaluated against the criteria published in the guidelines and projects that are identified as most likely to deliver the desired outcomes may be invited to submit a full business case at a later date.

When does the fund open to submissions?

Expressions of interest are open now. The following timelines apply to the fund:

| Activity | Date |
|---|--------------------------|
| Stage 1 EOI opens | Now Open |
| Stage 1 EOI closes | 3pm, Friday 3 April 2020 |
| Notification of outcome – Stage 1 EOI | May 2020 |
| Stage 2 – Invitation to submit business case | June 2020 |
| Stage 2 – Business case submitted | August 2020 |
| Notification of outcome – Stage 2 business case | October 2020 |
| Funding agreement established | December 2020 |
| Project Delivery | 2021 - 2024* |

Which recyclables are the Victorian Government focusing on?

Changes to the way in which households sort their recycling will result in higher quality materials being available for recycling and remanufacturing. It's important that Victorians have confidence that the recycling they put in their bins is being turned into high-value recycled products. We're investing in the areas that need it the most so that Victoria has a strong, local recycling sector.

Why is the Victorian Government funding infrastructure to handle hazardous waste (solvents)?

Liquid solvent wastes can be hazardous and flammable – posing a significant risk to the health and safety of the community and environment if managed inappropriately. Victoria needs additional capacity to deal with these wastes safely and effectively – the Recycling Victoria Infrastructure Fund targets new infrastructure that will deliver this.