
From: noreply@stategrowth.tas.gov.au
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To: Climate Change
Subject: Waste Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan - online submission form

Categories:

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How can we build on the work already underway to reduce emissions and build resilience? :

We need to have clear and measurable targets in place, and targets for the short-term as well as long term. The targets need to be monitored, and organisations and businesses need to be held to account if not meeting these targets. We need to continue to focus on reducing plastic packaging, and making manufacturers responsible for the packaging they produce. We have seen the devastating impact of plastic in the oceans, and its toxic effects in the soil. Businesses need to be held accountable for the emissions produced in the manufacture and life of their packaging.

What future opportunities will have most impact:

Again, making manufacturers responsible for their packaging. Actually getting the container deposit scheme up and running, and having it recycle a variety of different types of containers, rather than just a narrow few. Funding a nation-leading recycling facility here, that includes composting and soft-plastics processing and recycling. This would have the added benefit of creating jobs and would prevent food and garden waste going into landfill, only to release more methane. As well as aiming to reduce waste, we also need to recognise the huge amount of waste that we produce, is not being effectively dealt with with current waste and recycling facilities. Working to change the culture of our throw-away society and instead start to replace it with a repair and re-use mindset, by funding repair cafes, more tip shops and other projects that upcycle waste. The FOGO bin system should be expanded to all sectors of the economy and a public education campaign should be run in parallel. The FOGO system has shown to be an effective way of stopping organic waste from entering landfills and converting it into valuable compost. The plan should aim to increase the coverage and accessibility of the FOGO system and provide incentives and support for those who adopt it. All of these ideas need to be coupled with public awareness campaigns - the 'War on Waste' ABC program went a long way to changing mindsets (until COVID arrived!), but mandatory screening of snippets of this program on free-to-air TV, and incentives for those who change their behaviour could have a strong impact. Schools and workplaces also need incentives.

Priorities or future opportunities missing from draft Plan:

The plan needs to acknowledge waste from the forestry industry - it is a major contributor of greenhouse gases. The plan should propose measures to reduce forestry waste generation, increase waste recovery and reuse, and promote low-emission alternatives. We also need to implement measures such as legislating supermarkets to donate unsold food items and establish cooperatives for farmers' surplus produce. This should also be coupled with promoting local food systems.

Any other ways we can collaborate:

Inviting young people to the table to speak about their concerns. Collaborating with local schools would enable this to happen. Students and young people generally don't write submissions to the government, but they still need to have their voices and ideas heard.

Permission:

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