



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Environment Regulation**

REPORT

Annual Report to the Australian Packaging Covenant

*For implementation of the Western Australian
State Government Action Plan covering the
period June 2010 to June 2015*

Produced and published by

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As part of the changes to machinery of government the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) was separated on 1 July 2013 into two agencies: the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) and the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW). Any information in this report for the period up to 30 June 2013 relates to activities under the former DEC.

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1. Introduction

This is the third annual report on the implementation of the Government of Western Australia (WA Government) Action Plan 2010–2015 for the Australian Packaging Covenant (the covenant). The Action Plan was prepared by the Department of Environment Regulation (DER), formerly the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), as part of its obligations under the covenant.

During the reporting period, the WA Government contributed over \$260,000 (plus GST) to four covenant projects to support packaging recovery and litter reduction. In 2012–13, an additional five projects were approved.

DER coordinates covenant commitments, including reporting obligations on behalf of the WA Government. This annual report for 2012–13 outlines how the WA Government is delivering its obligations as a state government signatory to the covenant. The action plan has been developed with reference to the *Key Performance Indicators* developed by the Australian Packaging Covenant Council (APCC).

2. Nominated Contact Officer

Requests for further information or advice should be directed to the nominated officer for the action plan:

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3. Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicator 1 – Proportion of signatories in the supply chain implementing the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines for design or procurement of packaging materials			
Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
1.1 Encourage brand owners to become signatories to the covenant, including the implementation of the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPG), by ensuring they are aware of and remain compliant to their obligations under the Environmental Protection (NEPM-UPM) Regulations 2007.	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> covenant non-signatories contacted WA covenant signatories number of companies that complied with Regulations/NEPM non-complying signatories contacted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contact all non-signatories and non-complying signatories referred by the covenant secretariat in any given year. 	<p>The Environmental Protection (NEPM-UPM) Regulations 2007 expired on 30 June 2012. During the reporting period DER progressed the development of the Environmental Protection (NEPM-UPM) Regulations 2013.</p> <p>DER did not actively pursue or manage non-compliant signatories or non-signatories under the Regulations during the reporting period because the Regulations had not been made.</p> <p>There were 52 WA signatories as at 30 June 2013, one more than reported in the previous year.</p>
1.2 Undertake an annual brand owner survey by specific industry sectors to identify non-signatories to the covenant.	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> industry sector brand owners surveyed brand owners referred to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all specified industry sector brand owners surveyed all identified non-signatories forwarded to 	<p>Under an agreement with other participating jurisdictions a brand owner survey was undertaken in June 2013 to identify brand owners that are not signatories to the covenant. Results were forwarded to the covenant secretariat.</p> <p>Nineteen brand owners were identified by the</p>

Key Performance Indicator 1 – Proportion of signatories in the supply chain implementing the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines for design or procurement of packaging materials

Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
	covenant secretariat	covenant secretariat.	covenant secretariat in the reporting period.
<p>1.3 Facilitate industry in reviewing and optimising consumer packaging through continued communication with other jurisdictions and industry representatives on policies and strategic frameworks relevant to the covenant.</p>	<p>Continued representation at the following existing channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Australian Packaging Covenant Council (APCC) • the Jurisdictional Projects Group (JPG) • forums of Australian Environment Ministers under their NEPC Act 1994 obligations. 	<p>Achieve attendance at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 per cent of APCC meetings • 100 per cent of JPG meetings • 100 per cent of SCEW and standing committee meetings. 	<p>In 2012–13 a DER representative attended three of four APCC meetings. There was no representative at the March 2013 meeting because the government was in caretaker mode prior to the state election.</p> <p>DER maintains the Chair and secretariat of the WA Jurisdictional Projects Group. There was one meeting held during the reporting period.</p> <p>In 2012–13 WA attended one of two of Standing Council on Environment and Water (SCEW — formerly EPHC) meetings, and three of three Senior Officers Committee (SOC) (previously EPHC Standing Committee) meetings.</p>
<p>1.4 Develop and implement a waste strategy that will influence the framework for waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste strategy developed by the Waste Authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved waste strategy publicly available. 	<p>The waste strategy was released in March 2012.</p>

Key Performance Indicator 1 – Proportion of signatories in the supply chain implementing the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines for design or procurement of packaging materials

Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
management and recycling in WA.			

Key Performance Indicator 1 – Proportion of signatories in the supply chain implementing the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines for design or procurement of packaging materials

Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
<p>1.5 Provide appropriate financial and other support to assist industry and councils to implement recycling services that encompass the SPG.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of packaging recycling projects provided with funds by the JPG • value of JPG funds allocated to packaging recycling projects • where appropriate, match NPCIA funds allocated to WA based and nationally focused projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four • \$300,000 annually plus GST • 50:50 ratio government/industry funds. 	<p>Four projects received funding during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Glass Crusher Regional WA Australian Food and Grocery Council Aim: reprocess 760 tonnes of glass bottles and jars and re-use it locally in civil construction applications, (e.g. pipe embedment, road construction). \$99,000/\$24,750 (project value/WA contribution). • Introduction to cardboard recycling Midwest Regional Council Aim: introduce cardboard recycling and compaction services to divert nearly 2,000 tonnes of cardboard from landfill per annum. \$157,150/\$58,575 (project value/WA contribution). • Provision of cardboard recycling infrastructure at four transfer stations and a mobile cardboard baler. Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council Aim: collect and bale cardboard at transfer stations diverting between 60 and 120 tonnes per annum from landfill. \$71,050/\$372,100 (project value/WA contribution).
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Clubs Department of Environment Regulation KABC Aim: encourage better litter disposal and

Key Performance Indicator 1 – Proportion of signatories in the supply chain implementing the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines for design or procurement of packaging materials

Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
<p>1.6 Continue the Community Grants Scheme (CGS), aimed at providing support to community organisations to tackle priority waste issues.</p> <p>Continue the Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme (SWIS), aimed at providing targeted support for resource recovery projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> priority areas defined number and value of grants awarded against each priority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> grants awarded in priority areas as appropriate. 	<p>Priority areas were not defined for CGS rounds. Seven CGS waste and resource recovery projects totaling nearly \$190,000 were approved during the period.</p> <p>The SWIS had two funding rounds in 2012–13 funding is available for packaging related projects.</p> <p>Data was collected and reported to NEPC in March 2014.</p>

Key Performance Indicator 3 – Proportion of signatories with on-site recovery systems for recycling used packaging

Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
<p>2.1 Collect recycling data and NEPM data from WA local government and report to the National Environmental Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> report packaging data to NEPC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> data provided to NEPC by 30 November each year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data was collected and reported to NEPC in March 2014.

Key Performance Indicator 3 – Proportion of signatories with on-site recovery systems for recycling used packaging

Council (NEPC).			
<p>2.2 Survey all state government agencies on their in-house recycling activities and provision of public place recycling infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • survey mailed out • data collated • data reported in Annual Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 per cent of agencies approached. 	<p>The then Department of Environment and Conservation wrote to all 112 state government entities advising of the 2012–13 state government on-line survey.</p> <p>Eighty-four entities completed the survey.</p> <p>Seventy-nine entities reported in house recycling at 492 of 1256 sites across WA, a decrease of 42 sites over the previous year.</p> <p>The number of respondents that provide recycling services for packaging materials is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copy paper – 74 (88 per cent of respondents) • cardboard – 66 (78 per cent) • mixed paper and cardboard – 63 (75 per cent) • aluminium cans – 50 (60 per cent) • PET plastic bottles – 45 (54 per cent) • HDPE plastic bottles – 42 (50 per cent) • milk cartons – 43 (51 per cent) • co-mingled packaging recycling – 47 (56 per cent). <p>In most instances, the weight or volume of materials recycled was not readily known.</p> <p>Eight respondents provide public place recycling</p>

Key Performance Indicator 3 – Proportion of signatories with on-site recovery systems for recycling used packaging

			facilities.
2.3 Produce an annual report against this action plan reporting against covenant KPIs 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 and including data collected above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report produced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 October each year. 	<p>The annual reporting date was amended by the SCEW at its June 2011 meeting. Reports are now required to be provided by 31 March in the following year.</p> <p>This report covers the 2012–13 reporting year.</p>

Key Performance Indicator 4 – Proportion of signatories with a policy to buy products made from recycled packaging			
Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
3.1 Facilitate the implementation of purchasing policies for recycled goods by promoting the WA Environmental Procurement Policy and Environmental Purchasing Guide across WA Government agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> number of WA Government agencies informed about the WA Environmental Procurement Policy and Environmental Purchasing Guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 per cent of agencies informed about the policy and guide. 	<p>112 state government entities were informed of the following procurement and purchasing documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>State Supply Commission's Sustainable Procurement Policy</i> <i>The Australian and New Zealand Government Framework for Sustainable Procurement</i> <i>The State Supply Commission's Environmental Purchasing Guide</i> <i>The Waste Management Association of Australia's Commercial and Industrial Waste Recycling Directory</i> <i>Eco Buy "Green" Database.</i>
3.2 Survey all state government agencies on their awareness and implementation of WA's Environmental Procurement Policy and Environmental Purchasing Guide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> survey mailed out data collated data reported in Annual Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 per cent of agencies approached. 	<p>The then Department of Environment and Conservation wrote to all 112 state government entities requesting input to the 2012–13 on-line survey.</p> <p>Fifty-one of 84 (63 per cent) respondents advised they apply the State Supply Commission's Sustainable Procurement Policy.</p> <p>Thirty-four of 84 (42 per cent) advised they apply the State Supply Commission's Environmental</p>

Key Performance Indicator 4 – Proportion of signatories with a policy to buy products made from recycled packaging

Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
			Purchasing Guide. Twenty-three of 84 (28 per cent) advised they applied their own internal sustainability/environmental procurement policy.

Key Performance Indicator 6 – Formal processes for working with others			
Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
4.1 Promote the covenant and the SPG via the Waste Authority website (previously the Zero Waste WA website).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain covenant and SPG information, and links to the covenant website, on the Waste Authority website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> information and links available. 	The Waste Authority website continues to provide information on the covenant and links to the covenant website.
4.2 Provide appropriate financial and other support to assist industry and councils to implement product stewardship focused projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as per 1.5 above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as per 1.5 above. 	<p>The WA Government contributed over \$260,000 (plus GST) to four covenant projects during the period.</p> <p>An additional \$95,000 was committed to five new projects during the reporting period.</p>

Key Performance Indicator 7 – Other product stewardship actions			
Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
5.1 Develop and implement a waste strategy that will influence the framework for waste management and recycling in WA and, in particular, assist industry associations and local manufacturers to develop product stewardship schemes for priority wastes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> waste strategy developed by the Waste Authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> approved waste strategy publicly available. 	The waste strategy was released in March 2012 and is available on the Waste Authority website at www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au .
5.2 Continue to participate in the Environmental Protection and Heritage Council to progress national product stewardship schemes to address priority wastes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continued representation at appropriate EPHC meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> achieve attendance at 100 per cent of EPHC and standing committee meetings. 	<p>In 2012–13 WA attended one of two of Standing Council on Environment and Water (SCEW — formerly EPHC) meetings, and three of three SOC meetings.</p> <p>WA is represented on the Waste Thematic Oversight Group and National Waste Policy Working Groups.</p>

Key Performance Indicator 8 – Litter is not waste to landfill, it is waste that has been inappropriately/carelessly discarded

Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timing/Status
6.1 Develop and regularly update litter awareness information materials for councils, schools, community groups and stakeholders to increase awareness of litter disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> number of targeted community education and involvement campaigns implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 per annum. 	<p>The 18 litter education and engagement projects delivered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Beaches Awards Sustainable Cities Awards Adopt-a-Spot Clean Clubs Litter Reporter Scheme Outback Packs Local government training program Clean Marine Campaign Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Community Beverage Grants KABC resources KAB Week Bin your Butt program Learning about Litter School program Clean Schools KABC website Kevin the Crab Facebook Talking Rubbish newsletter.

6.2 Maintain effective litter data that monitors litter trends, item type and littering locations in WA.

- Conduct bi-annual counts at 151 sites across WA.

- bi-annual counts reported annually.

Two litter counts were undertaken during the reporting period.

The table below shows annual litter performance of WA compared to other jurisdictions over the period 2005–13.

	Items per 1,000m ²								Volume (litres) per 1,000m ²							
	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
NAT	70	74	68	63	66	61	58	56	8.86	9.68	8.59	7.73	7.55	6.49	6.24	6.13
ACT	-	68	56	56	51	45	58	55	-	7.04	6.06	4.77	3.31	3.73	4.93	4.66
NSW	80	71	77	65	75	69	58	61	14.95	14.69	11.90	12.13	13.43	10.72	8.98	10.15
NT	-	64	60	84	70	34	49	51	-	5.32	7.24	6.00	5.09	3.16	3.84	2.61
QLD	89	86	76	59	76	78	70	68	7.66	7.59	7.44	5.60	5.65	5.94	4.88	4.82
SA	60	61	68	57	54	55	57	53	7.23	11.08	9.55	8.02	7.13	5.36	5.53	4.62
TAS	59	70	61	64	86	85	86	83	5.15	6.68	5.90	9.20	9.04	8.23	5.96	6.52
VIC	71	80	48	43	50	39	36	30	7.87	7.74	4.19	2.87	4.91	3.99	3.67	3.20
WA	60	83	85	87	71	75	62	63	8.57	12.19	13.06	11.93	9.44	9.03	10.28	10.46

4. Members of Jurisdictional Projects Group (Western Australia)

Chantelle Cummins – (Chair) Department of Environment Regulation

Jennie Anderton – Keep Australia Beautiful Council

Rebecca Brown – Western Australian Local Government Association

Kyle Boardman – City of Mandurah

Klaus Mueller – Shire of Manjimup

Stephen Fitzpatrick – Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council

Jamie Young – Amcor Recycling Australia

Bill Marchbank – Consultant