

2 Where to Obtain Waste and Recycling Data

This guidance note forms part of a series of resources to assist local governments with the collection and reporting of waste and recycling data. The remaining guidance notes and case studies can be downloaded from www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/publications/lg-resources.



Local governments (LG) provide a range of waste collection services. Information about these services may be obtained from a variety of sources depending on the individual operations of each local government.

If waste and recycling services are conducted 'in-house', then waste and recycling data may be held (and obtained) within one or a variety of the following local government departments:

- Engineering Services
- Environmental Services
- Health and Engineering Services
- Waste Education
- Waste Services and / or waste contractor/s
- Works and Engineering Services
- Accounts Services (financial data)
- Corporate / Marketing Services (sustainable purchasing).

Financial information may be obtained from the accounts department but this may not contain data on tonnages and types of waste and recycling.

Table 1 provides a list of potential sources of waste and recycling data.

Table 1: Waste and recycling data and potential sources

| Waste and recycling data | Potential data available | Likely source of information |
|---|---|--|
| Mixed waste to landfill (tonnes) | • Landfill weighbridge dockets / electronic reports | • Landfill manager |
| | • Contractor dockets / electronic reports | • Private contractor – ideally specified in the contract to provide relevant data |
| | • Estimate of volumes at landfill if no weighbridge (convert to tonnes using DER standard conversion factors) | • Size of waste vehicle combined with number of collections – recorded at landfill entrance • Survey of landfill space carried out by professional surveyor |
| | • Estimates of volumes of waste to landfill where sites are unmanned | • Use of cameras and/or traffic counters • Occasional surveys of numbers and types of vehicles and materials deposited |
| Recyclables collected (tonnes) | • Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) (or other recycling facility) weighbridge dockets / electronic reports | • MRF (or other recycling facility) manager |
| | • Contractor dockets / electronic reports | • Private contractor – ideally specified in the contract to provide relevant data |
| | • Estimate of volumes at facility if no weighbridge (convert to tonnes using DER standard conversion factors) | • Size of waste vehicle combined with number of collections – recorded at MRF • Size of container multiplied by number of collection over the given period |
| Hard waste/ vergeside collections for junk and/ or green waste (tonnes) | • Weighbridge dockets / electronic reports (from landfill or recycling facility) | • Landfill manager or recycling facility manager |
| | • Contractor dockets / electronic reports | • Private contractor – ideally specified in the contract to provide relevant data |
| | • Disposal point (e.g. e-waste recycler) | • Invoices / dockets (may be with accounts) |

| Waste and recycling data | Potential data available | Likely source of information |
|--|---|---|
| Permanent public place services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where specific vehicle used for collection: weighbridge docket / electronic reports (from landfill or recycling facility) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with person responsible for organising collection rounds for public place bins |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can estimate if number of collections per week and size of bins is known | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with person responsible for organising collection rounds for public place bins |
| Drop-off services (at transfer station or depot) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volumes received at 'drop-off' estimated by vehicle type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded at site gatehouse (manually or electronically) |
| Special events (total tonnes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where specific vehicle used for collection: weighbridge docket / electronic reports (from landfill or recycling facility) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with person responsible for organising collection rounds for public place bins |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can estimate if number of collections per week and size of bins is known | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with person responsible for organising collection rounds for public place bins |
| Recycled material (tonnes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invoices / dockets / electronic reports from recyclers / compost facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be supplied to accounts department. May need to be sourced again from destination facility |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate using MRF data for outgoing material using the proportion of their total material processed from LG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRF manager for recycling sales data and proportion of total throughput from the LG |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor dockets / electronic reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private contractor – ideally specified in the contract to provide relevant data |
| Waste composition data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available if waste audits conducted on household waste and recycling streams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste officer / manager at LG |
| Annual charge of collecting / processing / disposal of domestic material | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rates information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts department in LG (note: data does not always include volume / weight or classification of the material disposed of) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service provider invoices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste collection contractor company |
| Charges per household | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires dividing total charges by number of dwellings serviced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of dwellings from rates or electoral information or from the WA Local Government Directory |
| Commercial premises – tonnes collected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimation from number of commercial entities and number and type of bins provided. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be taken as percentage of data obtained for disposal of waste and recyclables if commercial waste collected as part of domestic waste 'pick ups'. Size of waste vehicle combined with number of collections |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial collection round separate from domestic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weighbridge docket / electronic reports (from landfill or recycling facility) Service provider dockets / electronic reports Rates information |
| Commercial premises – cost of providing services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of collection may be combined with domestic cost of collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimation may be made on number of commercial entities as a percentage of overall costs |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from accounts department in LG for charge to commercial premises | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate tonnages in relation to relative charges to commercial premises |
| Sustainable purchasing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies or contractual requirements to purchase products with less environmental impact than other, competition products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information generally obtained from Administration or Accounts Department of LG. May also be available from Corporate Services |
| Education programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of programs and type of strategies used to educate different sectors of the community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information generally obtained from 'Waste Educator' or Environmental / Sustainability Services Landfill Administration may operate an education centre or provide tours of waste management facilities Contractor may provide waste education services |
| Littering and illegal dumping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on illegal dumping – number of incidents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rangers Services generally compile information on illegal dumping |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up of littering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up events may collect information about quantities of litter collected |