

## Why Conduct a Waste Audit?

### A Community and Business Focused Rationale

A waste audit is a practical, evidence-based tool for understanding how much waste your organisation or workplace generates and how effectively materials are being sorted into the appropriate waste streams. By examining real waste, staff, volunteers, and stakeholders gain a clear picture of what is being sent to landfill, what could have been recycled, recovered, or composted, and where simple habit or system changes can achieve major reductions. It provides clear, practical information that supports better waste management, helping to reduce environmental impact and operating costs.

The findings from a waste audit provide organisations, community groups and businesses with practical, data driven insights into how waste is generated and managed on site. By examining materials firsthand, teams can identify inefficiencies, analyse trends, communicate findings clearly, and implement targeted improvements. This process supports strategic planning, environmental reporting, and sustainability initiatives, helping organisations translate goals into real-world actions that reduce waste, cut costs, and minimise environmental impact.

### **Conducting a Waste Audit Helps Organisations to:**

#### **1. Establish a baseline for improvement**

A waste audit shows how much waste is generated and where it ends up so you can set meaningful, measurable goals.

#### **2. Identify avoidable waste and reduce costs**

Highlights opportunities to avoid, reuse, compost, or recycle waste, reducing landfill and associated costs.

#### **3. Improve sorting and reduce contamination**

Audits reveal where sorting errors occur identify simple improvements such as signage, bin placement, or system changes.

#### **4. Increase awareness and support behaviour change**

Seeing real waste makes its impacts tangible, builds responsibility, and strengthens a culture of sustainability across the community and/or business.

#### **5. Support Reporting and Sustainability Goals**

Reliable audit data helps track progress, demonstrate outcomes, and meet environmental and sustainability commitments.

By conducting a waste audit, organisations gain the insights needed to make informed decisions, improve waste systems, track measurable progress over time and reduce costs.

**This work aligns with the NSW Government's [Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041](#), which sets long-term goals to avoid and reduce waste, value resources and support the transition to a circular economy. term goals to avoid and reduce waste, value resources and support the transition to a circular economy.**

