



Towards Zero Waste Strategy

Progress Report for 2006-07

Introduction

The Victorian Government's *Towards Zero Waste Strategy* (launched in 2005) is a call to action for all Victorians to generate less waste and maximise opportunities for material recovery. The strategy sets four statewide targets for waste reduction, resource recovery and littering, and specific targets and actions for Victoria's municipal and business sectors to deliver more sustainable use of resources by 2014. This assessment reports on Victoria's 2006-07 progress towards these targets.

Summary of results

- **62% of all Victoria's solid waste was recycled in 2006-07 (compared to 60% for 2005-06)**
- **Victoria's commercial & industrial (C&I) and construction & demolition (C&D) sectors significantly exceeded their 2006-07 resource recovery targets**
- **Victoria is still on track to meet *Towards Zero Waste* targets by 2014.**

2014 Targets	2006-07	
	Projected Result*	Actual Result
1.5 million tonne reduction in solid waste generated (reported as total solid waste generated)	10.13 million tonnes generated	10.28 million tonnes generated
75% by weight of solid waste recovered for reuse, recycling and/or energy generation	57%	62%
Sectoral recovery rates achieved		
• Municipal waste (65%)	38%	41%
• Commercial & industrial waste (80%)	63%*	68%*
• Construction & demolition waste (80%)	65%*	71%*
A 25% improvement in littering behaviour from 2003 levels.	10%	7.7%

* Figures generated through modelling.

Target 1

A 1.5 million tonne reduction in the projected quantity of solid waste generated by 2014.

It is widely recognised that waste generation is closely linked to economic activity and population growth. Figure 1 shows the Victorian trend in waste generation, which coincides with a continued period of economic and population growth. Implementing the actions of *Towards Zero Waste* is expected to slow down the rate of growth in waste generation.

In 2006-07, total waste generated in Victoria was 10.28 million tonnes, up from 10.21 million tonnes in 2005-06, and an increase of 0.7%. This is less than the predicted 1% increase in waste generation. As with the 2005-06 results while more waste was generated, the amount of materials recovered for reprocessing also increased.

Figure 2 illustrates the trend in waste generation against Gross State Product (GSP) and population, showing a downward trend has occurred in the last few years. In 2006-07 waste generation per \$million GSP was 42 tonnes, a 2% decrease from the previous year.

Waste generation per capita steadied at 2.02 tonnes, increasing 9kg per person in 2006-07 as compared to 40kg in 2005-06.

Despite this increase in waste generation, it is encouraging to note that volumes recycled have increased at a greater rate than expected, meaning the rise in waste generation is not showing up as an increase in landfill volumes, but rather as greater volumes of recycled materials. With a focus on enhanced recycling activities and improved product stewardship initiatives it is expected that the landfilled volumes should decrease even further in future years. On the whole, these figures indicate that Victoria is still on track to meet its targets.

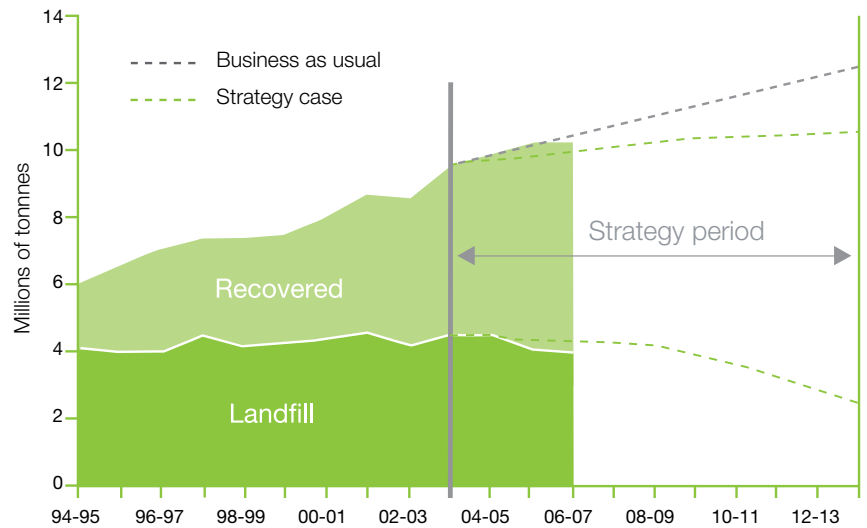


Figure 1: Solid waste generation in Victoria, actual and projected 1994 to 2014



Figure 2: Waste generation in Victoria relative to economic and population trends 1993-2007

Note: projected figures for GSP and population reported in previous years have been rebased with updated information. This has affected some of the data in Figure 6, especially the 2000-01 period.

Target 2

75% by weight of solid waste recovered for reuse, recycling and/or energy generation by 2014.

Victoria's resource recovery rate has continued to rise and was 62% for 2006-07 (compared to 60% for 2005-06). This equates to over 6.36 million tonnes of material recovered and diverted from landfill, an increase of 226,000 tonnes, or 3.7%, from the previous year. Both the construction and demolition and the commercial and industrial sectors contributed significantly to this increase, with both exceeding their 2006-07 targets by 5% and 6% respectively.

The total quantity of glass recovered for reprocessing in Victoria in the 2006-07 financial year exceeded 200,000 tonnes, an increase of 20% on the previous year. The increase has again largely been due to Visy Recycling's new glass sorting facility at Laverton, which has enabled more efficient sorting and hence greater processing of glass. Further improvements to the facility have been planned which will allow for even higher volumes of glass to be processed in future. Victorian metal waste recovery decreased 13% to around 1.26 million tonnes in 2006-07. This reduction was caused by a significant decrease in the exports of steel. However local reprocessing of metal waste has seen an increase.

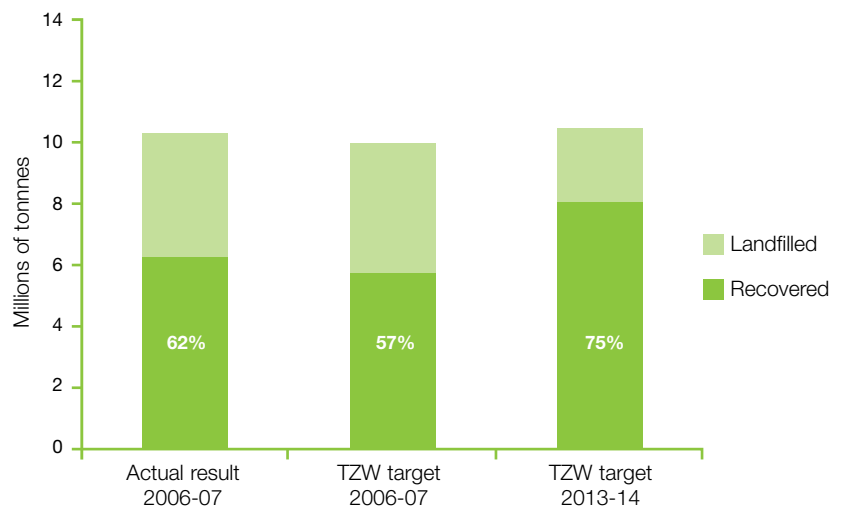


Figure 3: Total solid waste recovery in Victoria against TZW targets

Target 3

Sectoral resource recovery targets to be achieved by 2008-09 and 2014.

a) Municipal Solid Waste

Resource recovery rates for municipal solid waste surpassed the 2006-07 38% target by 3%. More than 1 million tonnes of material was recovered, an additional 123,464 tonnes on the previous year.

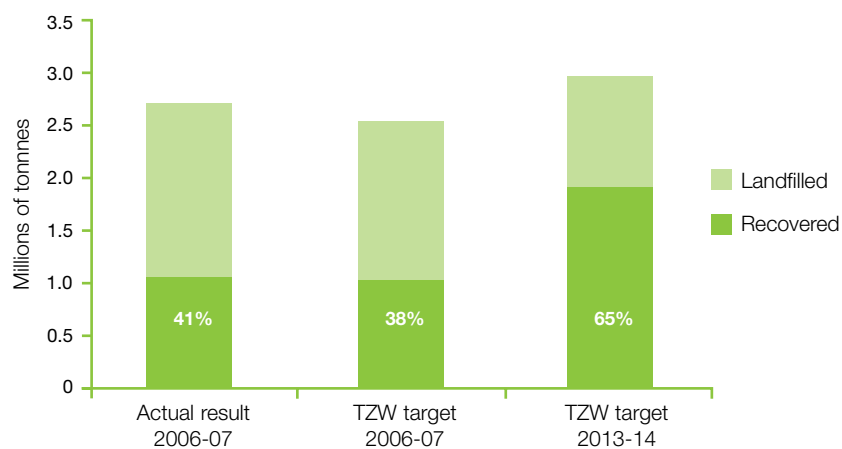


Figure 4: Resource recovery rate for municipal solid waste

b) Commercial and industrial

The commercial and industrial sector's resource recovery rate of 68% outperformed the target for 2006-07. More than 2.37 million tonnes of material was recovered, an additional 35,179 tonnes when compared with the 2005-06 result. As has been the case for much of the past decade, export demand, coupled with the growth in domestic consumption has led to steadily increasing prices in this sector.

These results indicate that the commercial and industrial sector is on course to meet its 2014 resource recovery target of 80%, especially given continued investment by the sector itself and through support from Sustainability Victoria for C&I and C&D projects (\$5.8 million over the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years).

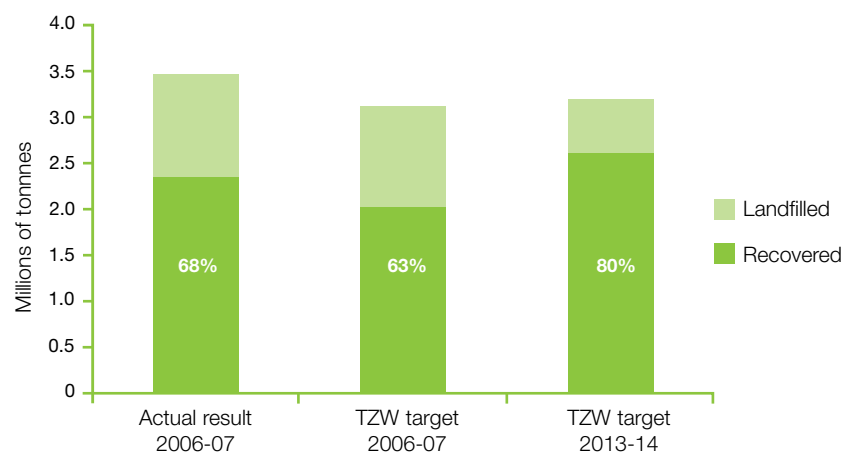


Figure 5: Resource recovery rate for commercial and industrial solid waste

c) Construction and demolition

The construction and demolition sector resource recovery rate in 2006-07 was 71%, well above the target of 65%. This equates to 2.9 million tonnes and an increase of 127,000 tonnes of recovered material compared to the 2005-06 period.



Figure 6: Resource recovery rate for construction and demolition solid waste



Target 4

A 25% improvement, from 2003 levels, in littering behaviours by 2014.

This target requires the prevention of litter rather than its clean up and results are based on data obtained from the *Victorian Litter Report* conducted once every two years. The data in Figure 7 shows that in 2007 the actual reduction in litter prevention fell short of the projected target by 2.3%

Work is currently underway on a Future Directions Paper for litter reduction prevention and management, which will identify further actions that can be undertaken to improve littering behaviour.

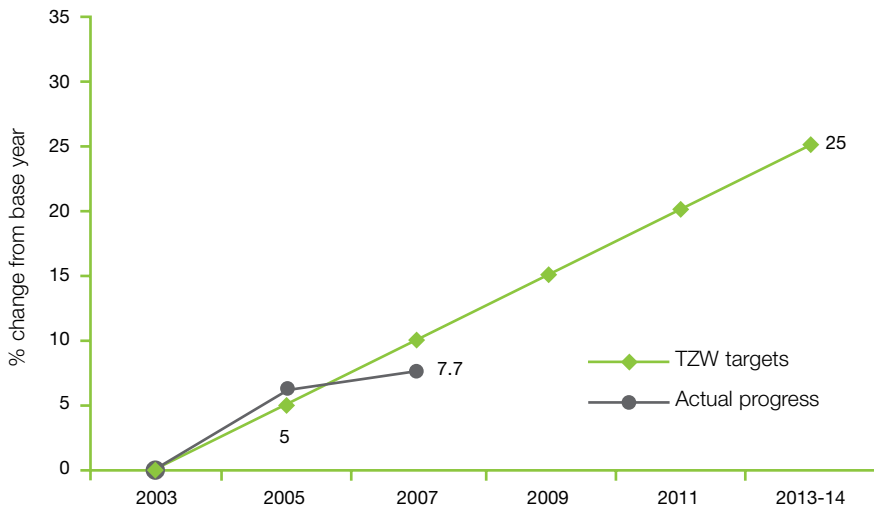


Figure 7: Littering behaviour trends in Victoria



Measuring performance

Sustainability Victoria prepares an annual assessment of the State's progress towards the strategy's targets, with a formal review to be conducted in 2009-10. The assessments draw upon a range of Government and industry resources, including annual surveys of the recycling industry and local government, landfill audits and litter surveys.

More information

If you would like to read more about Victoria's *Towards Zero Waste Strategy* visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

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