

Bayside City Council

Saving big by buying recycled

Local Government Recycled Champion

This award recognises the local government with the largest investment in recycled content products as a percentage of available expenditure.

Bayside City Council is an inner suburban Council covering an area of 37 square kilometres, and is made up of peaceful, leafy residential suburbs.

Council adopted environmental considerations as part of its purchasing guidelines and has since seen a steady increase in green purchasing.

During 2008-09 Council spent an impressive 4.1% of its total available expenditure ¹ on recycled products and was awarded the Recycled Champion award in the 2010 ECO-Buy Awards for Excellence Green Purchasing.



Bayside's commitment to green purchasing has resulting in significant use of recycled concrete in roadworks.

By far the largest investment for Bayside was in recycled crushed rock and asphalt as part of Council's ongoing maintenance of roads, drains and footpaths, carried out by Citywide Services.

While Bayside City Council is committed to extending green purchasing into all possible categories, it has made inroads through the tendering process – offering advantages to tenderers who specify the use of green products. In the contract tender evaluation stage, points are awarded for the use of green products. This can affect the overall score of a tender and be the difference between winning or losing a contract.

Recycled concrete products not only cost less than virgin quarry products, but are a greener alternative to virgin crushed rock. They also have a significant density advantage compared to virgin materials which means more more cubic metres per tonne can be transported. And because works use less, the products cost less in initial raw materials as well as transport costs. Crushed concrete also has a low permeability and plasticity index, ensuring it performs well in most weather and ground conditions.

Hundreds of compost bins and worm farms along with several thousand wheelie bins – all made from recycled milk bottles – also made up Council's investment in recycled products. And more than 6000 reams of 100% recycled copy paper were purchased, preserving 2.3 hectares of forest habitat.

Combined, Council's green purchases saved almost 100 tonnes of CO₂-e compared to purchasing the same quantities of products made from virgin materials.

¹ Excluding staff costs and depreciation