

Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2016 – 2019

Background

Arts Queensland, a division of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), is the State Government body dedicated to arts and culture in Queensland. In delivering the arts and cultural service, Arts Queensland manages a high profile portfolio which includes service delivery venues located at the Cultural Precinct, South Brisbane (the precinct), Fortitude Valley and Cairns.

Arts Queensland's Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2016-2019 (the Plan) is developed in accordance with the [Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011](#) (the Waste Act) and the State's waste management strategy: *Waste – Everyone's responsibility: Queensland Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy (2014-2024)*.

Scope

The Plan applies to Arts Queensland owned assets as follows:

- The Cultural Precinct, South Brisbane comprising:
 - Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art
 - Queensland Museum and Sciencentre
 - Queensland Performing Arts Centre
 - State Library of Queensland incorporating The Edge
- Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, 420 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley
- Festival House, 381 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley.

Leased facilities:

- Level 16, 111 George Street, Brisbane
- Cairns Centre of Contemporary Arts, 96 Abbott Street, Cairns.

Objective

In support of DPC's commitment to promote waste avoidance and reduction, this plan provides the framework and direction Arts Queensland has chosen towards embedding the values of sustainability across the portfolio and to reduce its ecological footprint.

In support of this objective, this plan outlines Arts Queensland's priorities for the next three years to minimise waste across the portfolio.

Principles

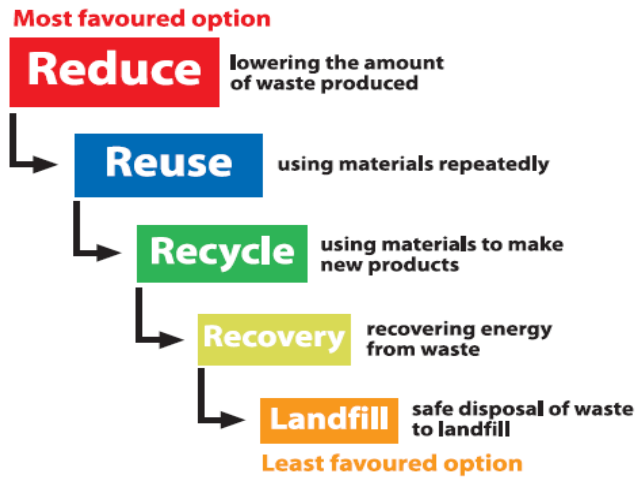
The following principles underpin this plan:

- Achieving enduring cultural change requires commitment at all organisational levels.
- A participative approach is required to reduce waste across Arts Queensland facilities.
- Understanding and ultimately improving waste management utilises effective performance monitoring and reporting systems.

Arts Queensland’s approach to waste management?

Arts Queensland’s approach to waste management is based on the waste and resource management hierarchy (Figure 1), which sets out an order of preference for options for managing waste—from avoiding, to reusing, recovering, treating and disposing of waste.

Figure 1 – Waste Minimisation Hierarchy

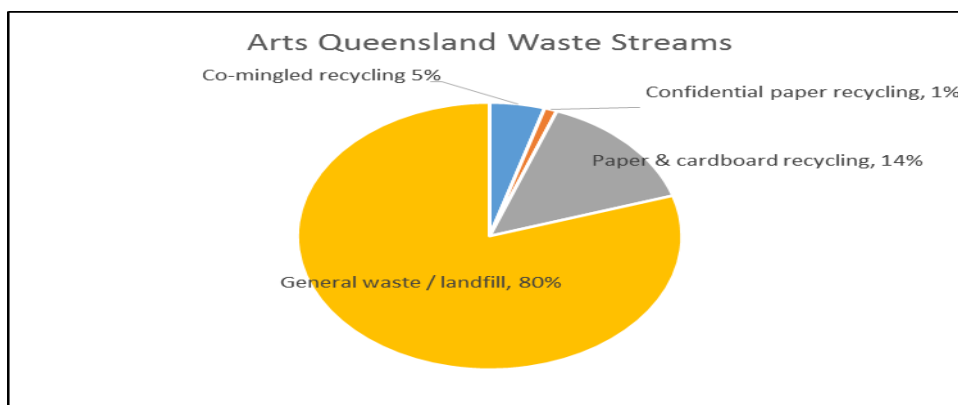


Arts Queensland Snapshot

The majority of the facilities are open to the public seven days a week, 363 days of the year and visitation continues to grow. The precinct is being embraced by Queenslanders with over five million visits in 2015-16 growing from 3.8 million in 2007-08. Participation levels at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts have also increased by approximately 23 percent since 2013-14.

The majority of waste generated through Arts Queensland’s activities is general waste with approximately 873 tonnes generated in 2015-16 (refer **Graph 1**).

Graph 1 – Arts Queensland Waste Streams



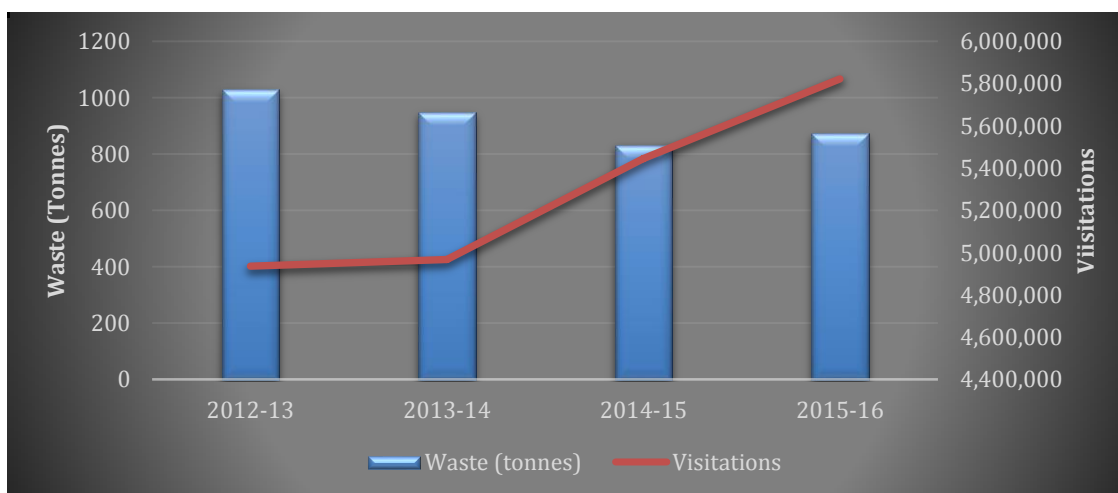
Achievements So Far

Arts Queensland has already made significant progress towards maintaining a sustainable waste management system. Arts Queensland has continued to implement initiatives and encourage changes in behaviour to reduce environmental impact at the precinct, Fortitude Valley properties and Cairns Centre of Contemporary Arts. Waste reduction measures have focussed on increasing the level of recycling and capturing data and benchmarking performance. This has included:

- Recycling of fluorescent lamps rather than disposing of them in the solid waste stream.
- Installation of recycling stations throughout the common areas of the precinct and promoting segregation at the point of waste generation.
- Installation of multi-sort recycling stations in back-of-house areas.
- Ensuring that a proactive approach is adopted to identifying opportunities for recycling programs in the program of renewed building services contracts.
- Ensuring waste from Arts Queensland facilities is transported to facilities which convert waste into a renewable energy source.
- Implementing a battery recycling program.

Reducing the volume of general waste has proven to be a significant challenge for Arts Queensland, particularly with increasing patronage figures, however while visitation has increased by approximately 18 per cent from 2012-13, waste generated from Arts Queensland facilities has reduced by 15 per cent (refer **Graph 2**).

Graph 2 – Cultural Precinct and Fortitude Valley Waste and Visitation



How will we manage our waste?

Arts Queensland will continue to implement a waste reduction program which conforms to the waste management hierarchy. Waste management at Arts Queensland will focus on the following:

- Minimising / avoiding waste generation in the first instance.
- The correct storage and disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable wastes.
- Minimising the volume of hazardous wastes by investigating the use of alternative products.

Reducing general waste

Arts Queensland is committed to reducing waste to landfill through avoiding waste production, improving our rates of recycling and collecting robust data to drive better recycling behaviour with staff and patrons. A priority for Arts Queensland will be to reduce the amount of general waste generated from its activities. This will initially involve a waste audit to gain an understanding of the typical types and quantities of wastes being generated (under a new building services contract for the precinct and Fortitude Valley properties, Arts Queensland has included a requirement that the contractor undertake a waste audit).

The waste audit will identify waste separation performance and opportunities to improve the management of waste across office, tenants, and public and event spaces. The audit findings will assist in identifying changes in waste streams, waste separation behaviours and changes required to infrastructure and or facilities to improve waste and recycling performance. Based on the findings of this audit a targeted waste reduction campaign can be instigated.

Maintaining sustained growth in reuse and recycling

Arts Queensland's policy wherever practical is to recycle waste. This plan builds on existing recycling practices. Recyclables have significantly higher recyclable value if they are captured early and not allowed to be contaminated by other wastes. Arts Queensland acknowledges the value in promoting segregation at the point of waste generation by increasing the numbers of recycling bins available, and subsequently, the opportunity for visitors to the precinct to recycle.

Arts Queensland will increase the number of recycling stations throughout the common areas of the precinct which were initially installed under the Department of Environment and Resource Management's Public Place Recycling Project.

In relation to leased facilities at 111 George Street, the building owner, Department of Housing and Public Works, will be introducing modifications to the facility waste management system. This will involve the introduction of a system that complies with sustainability principles and encourages staff to separate recyclable waste from landfill. In lieu of general bins at desks, there will be a number of waste stations around the floor (staff can still have paper bins at desks and will be responsible for emptying them).

Waste minimisation clauses have been included in all new contracts. In terms of the building services contract, this includes the requirement for a proactive approach by the waste management contractor towards waste and recycling.

Communication and education

In order to implement strategies which align with the hierarchy, Arts Queensland will focus on the prevention of waste and on education and awareness with a view to modifying current waste management behaviour and practice. This will include the development of comprehensive site specific education programs that target tenants, cleaners, contractors and the general public, and educating staff across the portfolio.

Continuous improvement in waste management and performance monitoring

Arts Queensland acknowledges that continuous improvement in waste management is based on effective and ongoing performance monitoring and recording. By monitoring waste management related activities Art Queensland will be able to compile and analyse waste data to enable continuous improvement of waste avoidance, reduction and management measures.

In renewing the building services contract for the precinct and Fortitude Valley properties, Arts Queensland has included a requirement that the contractor report monthly on the location, type of waste, bin volumes, metres collected and volumes removed.

Arts Queensland is also improving waste management data collection and has implemented a new waste management record system in a Carbon Accounting Module in Arts Queensland's Finance System (Finance 1).

Targets

This plan is underpinned by the waste management hierarchy and principles as outlined in *Queensland's Waste Reduction and Recycling Strategy 2010-2020*, which sets the following targets to achieve a low waste Queensland:

- 5 per cent reduction in state-wide general waste generation by 2024
- 55 per cent recycling rate of commercial and industrial waste by 2024

In support of the Queensland Government's targets, Arts Queensland will continue the approach of implementing waste management improvements and promoting awareness of waste management as a fundamental element of facility management activities at the precinct and other Arts Queensland premises.

Reporting

Arts Queensland will meet annual reporting requirements for waste planning and reporting under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (section 148).

Related documents

DPC's Financial Management Practices Manual

Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011

Waste-Everyone's responsibility: Queensland Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy (2014-2024)

Approval



Kirsten Herring
Deputy Director-General, Arts Queensland

Date: 18/11/2016

Arts Queensland Priorities 2016-2019

| | Level 16, 111 George | Cultural Precinct | Fortitude Valley Properties and Cairns Centre of Contemporary Arts |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| Reduce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean-up and de-clutter campaigns • Reduce reliance on and consumption of paper • Encourage and support Paperlite behaviours in the use of an electronic environment • Purchase of environmentally friendly products • Bi-annual clear desk audit • Double sided printing of documents to reduce waste paper | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support Paperlite behaviours in the use of an electronic environment. • Purchase of environmentally friendly products. • Bi-annual clear desk audit. • Undertake a waste audit in 2016-17. • Inclusion of waste minimisation clauses in all new contracts. • Double sided printing of documents to reduce waste paper. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of environmentally friendly products. • Bi-annual clear desk audit. • Undertake a waste audit in 2016-17. • Double sided printing of documents to reduce waste paper. |
| Recycle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the Department of Housing and Public Work's initiative of using waste stations at 111 George Street in lieu of general bins at desks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of recycling stations throughout precinct common areas. | |
| Recover | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage transition to digital format and reduction of reliance on paper based formats. • Encourage and support the purchase of environmentally friendly products through department's suppliers. • Increase staff awareness on sorting general waste into recycling. • Promotion of re-useable stationery and items of surplus furniture and equipment within the department and to other departments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support the purchase of environmentally friendly products. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support the purchase of environmentally friendly products. |
| Dispose | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal of broken and surplus items. • Disposal of surplus paper based material. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal of broken and surplus items • Disposal of surplus paper based material. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal of broken and surplus items. • Disposal of surplus paper based material. |