

National Recycling Week 2022

Not a Load of Rubbish! Recycling Facilities Tour

As part of National Recycling Week, the City of Marion is showing residents what happens to the items disposed of in kerbside bins with a tour of their national award-winning recycling facility and landfill operation at Seaford Heights and an organics processing site.

The full-day tour is being held this Friday, November 11. The tour is fully booked, however, there are plans to run further tours in 2023.

The Southern Materials Recovery Facility (SMRF) at Seaford Heights recently took out the “Outstanding Facility Award” at the national Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards.

The SMRF was officially opened in October 2021 and is a joint initiative of Australian recycling and resource recovery specialist, Re.Group, and the Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA), a joint subsidiary of three South Australian councils – the City of Marion, the City of Onkaparinga and City of Holdfast Bay.

The SMRF is not only South Australia’s largest household recycling facility, it is home to world-leading advanced screening and optical and robotic sorting technologies funded by Federal and State Government grants.

The 4,400m² facility has been designed to meet the highest standards of recycling purity to ensure nothing goes to waste. The use of recycled glass and sand from the facility in road and civil construction projects also supports the business goal of being a leader in the transition from recycling to a circular economy.

The SMRF’s has the capacity to handle up to 60,000 tonnes of yellow-bin recyclables every year. Not only is the facility processing household recycling from the Cities of Marion, Onkaparinga and Holdfast Bay, it is also processing recyclables from councils across the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, servicing more than 360,000 southern residents.

Besides SMRF, Council’s Recycling Facilities Tour will also include a visit to the organics processing out at Peats Soils in Brinkley.

Planet Ark's National Recycling Week runs from November 7 to 13 and is an opportunity for the community to learn how they can reduce their environmental footprint and prevent waste.

During National Recycling Week, the City of Marion will also be sharing top tips for recycling to keep resources out of landfill.

The City of Marion has received new instructions from our recycling partner about what to do with lids, namely.

- Plastic lids must be kept ON empty containers, for example, milk bottle and laundry liquid containers.
- If plastic lids are larger than 5cm, such as the lid on peanut butter containers, they can be placed separately into recycling bins. DO NOT collect them in another container.
- Metal lids, including beer bottle tops, can be placed loose into the recycling bin as they will be picked up the magnets.
- Beer/soft drink can pull tabs should be placed inside aluminium cans.
- The 'lids off' rule still applies to bottles being collected for 10c deposits. Please place these lids on your red waste bin as they are smaller than 5cm diameter.
- For more recycling information visit our website:
<https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/services-we-offer/waste-and-recycling>

Please be aware that these instructions are for the City of Marion area. It may be different in your local area so check with your local council or recycler.

Note

REDcycle has temporarily closed its soft plastic drop-off points at Coles and Woolworths supermarkets as their recycling partners have temporarily stopped accepting and recycling soft plastics due to several unforeseen issues exacerbated by the pandemic.

For now, soft plastics should go in the red bin rather than return to the store and cannot go in the yellow bin.

Drakes and Foodland soft plastics drops will remain unaffected as they are not managed by REDcycle

Avoidance is key – to reduce soft plastic waste:

- Bring reusable bags from home to the shops
- Buy in bulk to reduce the number of packets you buy.

National Recycling Week was founded in 1996 as an opportunity for Australians to take waste and recycling into their own hands.

According to Planet Ark's research, since 1996 the annual recycling rate in Australia has increased from just 7%, or 1.5 million total tonnes recycled, to more than 60% of all disposed materials, around 43 million tonnes each year.

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