



Renae Eden, Environment Officer, Adelaide Airport Limited with a table top card that promotes correct recycling

# SNAPSHOT

Zero Waste SA Industry Program



## Airport recycling program cuts landfill departures

Partnering with the right waste contractor can be a winning factor in an effective waste reduction and recycling program – especially for an operation the size of Adelaide Airport.

Every year about 21 million passengers and visitors pass through the airport's main terminal while an additional 5200 people work within the airport precinct.

All these people have the ability to generate a large amount of waste and Adelaide Airport Limited has been doing its best to keep it out of landfill.

A 2009 KESAB *Environmental Solutions* audit outlined the scale of the challenge. In just one year an estimated 689 tonnes of waste was being sent to landfill from the terminal and an additional 29 tonnes from airport offices and the maintenance compound.

Adelaide Airport Limited turned to Zero Waste SA's Industry Program which helped fund a waste contract review.

"A template was developed to list our various requirements so that we could compare apples with apples and find a contractor which best suited our needs," says Adelaide Airport Limited Environment Officer Renae Eden.

"In addition to the template, the waste contract review provided us with an opportunity to workshop some questions to help us find the right contractor to meet our recycling requirements. It was a very transparent process and will enable us to measure our recycling and track improvements."

“Whereas some of our recycling services had been integrated in an ad hoc manner, we now have a waste contract that acts as a one-stop shop to accommodate our various recycling streams.”

**Renae Eden**  
Environment Officer  
Adelaide Airport Limited

Equally impressive are the cost savings. The airport estimates the new streamlined waste management system will save it about \$20,000 every year.

And through its various recycling initiatives the airport aims to increase the rate of recycling per passenger by 25% of 2009 levels by 2014.



**Government of South Australia**  
Zero Waste SA

**AVOID • REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE**



New bins at Adelaide Airport have different shaped slots for waste and recycling to reduce the risk of contamination

# SNAPSHOT

Zero Waste SA Industry Program



## Creative bin system

Passengers and visitors at Adelaide Airport are required to think before they dispose of their waste.

An innovative three-bin system installed throughout the main terminal has different shaped holes for waste and recycling. The cans and bottles bin has a round hole, there is an oblong slot for paper and cardboard, and general waste goes into a square hole.

“It’s an effective method of making people pause and think before they use the bins and helps avoid contamination of the recyclables,” says Environment Officer Renae Eden.

Previously all this waste went to landfill. Now, more than 50 tonnes of waste is expected to be diverted from landfill every year as a result of the new bin system which has been specially designed to complement the decor of the award-winning terminal.

## Adelaide Airport Limited

Adelaide Airport Limited purchased a 50-year operating lease for Adelaide Airport in May 1998 with an option for an additional 49 years. The airport generates \$1.6 billion in revenue annually, which equates to 2.3% of South Australia’s Gross State Product.

[www.adelaideairport.com.au](http://www.adelaideairport.com.au)

## Zero Waste SA

A South Australian Government agency that advances improved waste management policies and the development of resource recovery and recycling. The Zero Waste SA Industry Program advises and supports companies to achieve sustainability goals in waste, water and energy.

[www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au)

**Renae Eden**  
Environment Officer  
Adelaide Airport Ltd  
8308 9226  
[reden@aal.com.au](mailto:reden@aal.com.au)

**Aubrey Thomas**  
Senior Adviser, Industry Sustainability  
8204 9046  
[aubrey.thomas@zerowaste.sa.gov.au](mailto:aubrey.thomas@zerowaste.sa.gov.au)

**John Blumson**  
Manager, Industry Sustainability  
8204 2043  
[john.blumson@zerowaste.sa.gov.au](mailto:john.blumson@zerowaste.sa.gov.au)

**www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au**  
Level 8, Statewide House  
99 Gawler Place  
Adelaide SA 5001

Published April 2012 • FIS 91393



**Government of South Australia**  
Zero Waste SA

**AVOID • REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE**