



SNAPSHOT

Zero Waste SA Industry Program

ETSA Utilities

ETSA Utilities' strategic response to a major challenge

Rolling out a waste reduction program in an organisation the size of ETSA Utilities is a huge task. And SA's new environmental regulations to cut industrial waste to landfill have added a degree of urgency.

ETSA Utilities turned to the Zero Waste SA Industry Program for the tools and strategies it needs to reach its targets under the EPA's Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy.

"We are changing the way we manage waste," says Environmental Sustainability Project Officer Allison Purnell-Sullivan. "But the dispersed nature of our business, with so many stakeholders and work units - all with different needs - means effective resource recovery is a significant challenge."

The utility is one of South Australia's largest employers with more than 1800 staff spread across about 30 depots.

A salvage facility at Angle Park with a strong focus on scrap metals has been the main driver of ETSA Utilities' resource recovery efforts. It also has a well established program of recycling and reusing oil, refurbishing transformers, and recycling disused office and street lights.

One of the first Industry Program initiatives was a funded diagnostic to benchmark sustainability systems, and a waste management and recycling review. While ETSA Utilities is performing better than it realised, improved systems should nearly double its current level of recycling.

It will use the review findings to develop a range of improvement projects. Initially the focus will be on larger sites, with a template approach for other metropolitan and regional depots.



ETSA Utilities Environmental Sustainability Project Officer
Allison Purnell-Sullivan



Government of South Australia
Zero Waste SA

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Recycling targets

The Industry Program review found that ETSA Utilities produced 4128 tonnes of waste in 2009 of which 1557 tonnes, or 38%, was recycled. A target of 60–70% is considered possible through initiatives such as:

- strong communication, education and engagement of all staff
- diversion of non compostable waste from landfill
- potential recycling of waste concrete from disused stobie poles
- salvaging recyclables from plastics, timber and non-lead acid batteries
- augmented coloured bin recycling systems with signage
- food waste and comingled recycling in all major kitchens and canteens
- ongoing ideas and assistance from ETSA Utilities' EARTHED volunteer environment team.

ETSA Utilities

The operator of South Australia's electricity distribution network with responsibility for thousands of kilometres of powerlines and hundreds of substations.

www.etsautilities.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

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