

Councillor Giles - QoN - Soft Plastic Trial

Tuesday, 27 February 2024
Council

Council Member
Councillor Janet Giles

Public

Contact Officer:
Iliia Houridis, Director City Shaping

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Janet Giles will ask the following Question on Notice:

What has happened to the Curby soft plastic trial?

REPLY

1. The kerbside soft plastics recycling trial commenced in December 2022 and was open to 1000 City of Adelaide residents.
2. The trial is being led by the Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority (CAWRA), with the support of the National Plastics Recycling Scheme (NPRS) and Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC).
3. The trial is part of the National Plastics Recycling Scheme project (NPRS) by Australia's food and grocery manufacturing industry. The South Australian portion of the trial includes the Cities of Adelaide, Charles Sturt and Port Adelaide Enfield and was supported by Green Industries SA.
4. The intent of the trial is to:
 - 4.1. Inform the design of a scalable model for 'bag-in-bin' kerbside collection and sorting of soft plastic packaging / test additional services using existing kerbside systems.
 - 4.2. Accelerate the development of a viable and efficient advanced recycling industry for soft plastics in Australia.
 - 4.3. Support delivery of the National Plastics Plan 2021 with targets including 70% of plastic packaging being recycled or composted and 50% average recycled content within packaging.
 - 4.4. Collect data to inform government agencies and assist with the development of product stewardship schemes, such as the NPRS.
 - 4.5. Show leadership in facilitating circular economy and resource recovery activities including recovering more valuable materials from landfill.
 - 4.6. Better understand the likely costs of a full-scale soft plastic recycling service.
5. The trial was due to conclude in December 2023 however an optional extension was continued in the first quarter of 2024 for participating residents.
6. The 1,000 residents currently participating in the trial can continue to present their soft plastics through the kerbside service until further advice is received from CAWRA.
7. CAWRA is due to provide advice before the end of the 2023/24 financial year on the continuation or otherwise of the trial. Preliminary advice is that the service may not be offered at scale at this point in time due to the immaturity of the recycling services sector for the waste material.

8. Administration will update Council Members and trial participants when advice is received from CAWRA.
9. In line with CoA's strategic goals, Administration continues to advocate for less reliance on problematic materials like soft plastics and improved recovery and recycling of these materials, including a submission to the Select Committee of the Legislative Council of South Australia on Recycling of Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Materials in September 2023.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.
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