

# ACT GREENS

## 2012 ELECTION INITIATIVE

### REDUCE WASTE TO LANDFILL

#### THE ACT GREENS WILL...

- Commit \$2 million for a comprehensive education program, including free composting equipment for up to 21,000 households;
- Provide \$2 million trash pack subsidy of up to \$180 a year for concession card holders to assist with removal and recycling of garden waste;
- Provide \$1.8 million for recycling bins in town centres, building on the Greens 2008 initiative for recycling across Civic;
- Commit \$200,000 to YellowVan to assist the operations of the only ACT food rescue organisation;
- Fund an additional staff member at ACTSmart to boost organic waste recovery in offices and businesses;
- Fund up to 15 drop-off recycling points for batteries and compact fluorescent bulbs.

# What the Greens will do to reduce waste

## 1. **\$2 million for a comprehensive education program**

Household organic waste (food scraps) make up around half of the waste that goes into the residential garbage bin. The Greens consider household organic waste to be a priority waste stream for the ACT to address. Education, together with direct assistance, is the most realistic and effective way to recover household organic waste. The Government's own commissioned report concluded that education was the cheapest and most cost-effective first step.

The ACT Greens will commit \$2 million over 4 years to a comprehensive education and assistance program including:

- Addressing plastic and disposable nappies, which are the biggest barriers to achieving better recycling rates;
- Encouraging more home composting by giving out free compost bins, kitchen tidy bins with compostable liners and worm farming kits;
- Building connections between private food waste recycling businesses and those who don't have composting options;
- Facilitating working with local community gardens to give them your food scraps for composting.

## 2. **\$2 million trash pack subsidy of up to \$180 a year for concession card holders**

The vast majority of garden waste in the ACT (about 90%) is currently recycled through the well established self-haul system to Mitchell or Mugga Lane. The Hyder report revealed that at \$19 million per year, a garden waste bin for every household would be very expensive for ratepayers and achieve no positive environmental outcome.<sup>1</sup>

The Greens initiative will provide assistance to elderly and disabled Canberrans to recycle their garden waste. The Greens commitment of \$2 million for a 'trash pack' subsidy of up to 50% (\$180) a year will assist concession card holders with the removal and recycling of garden waste. It is anticipated that up to 2,500 households would be able to receive this subsidy.

1. Hyder, Assessment of Waste Infrastructure and Services Options for the ACT, 14 December 2011

### 3. ***\$1.8 to install recycling bins in town centres***

Street level recycling bins for Civic and town centres were in the 2008 Greens-ALP Parliamentary Agreement. They were finally installed in Civic in 2011, however, there have been no plans to extend recycling to other town centres despite their success.

This initiative provides \$1.8 million to expand the street recycling program and install recycling bins in Woden, Gungahlin, Belconnen and Tuggeranong.



### 4. ***Additional food rescue with \$200,000 commitment to YellowVan***

A commitment of \$200,000 over four years goes to assist YellowVan, the only ACT food rescue company, to expand its operations.

### 5. ***ACTSmart funding for separation of food and other organic waste***

Separation of food and other organic waste will be assisted through a \$483,000 funding allocation for an additional officer over 4 years to the 'ACTSmart' program to assist food and agriculture related businesses to separate their food and other organic waste and pass this material on to local composting businesses. This will help keep valuable nutrients in our soils.

### 6. ***Household battery and fluorescent light drop-off recycling points***

The ACT Greens have long been pushing to get household batteries and fluorescent light globes out of the domestic waste stream. Battery and fluorescent recycling drop-off points already operate in other places such as in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and right here at the ANU. We are committing \$48,000 over four years to establish up to 15 drop-off recycling points in accessible locations such as Government shopfronts and libraries.

### 7. ***'Connect and collect' website***

As part of our green business strategy, we're allocating \$70,000 for a website to improve construction and demolition waste recycling.

# Financial impacts summary

		2013-14 (\$'000)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)	TOTAL OVER 4 YEARS (\$'000)
Waste Education incl. Home Composting	Recurrent Expenditure	500	500	500	500	2,000
'Trash Pack' subsidy for concession card holders	Recurrent Expenditure	500	500	500	500	2,000
Town Centre Recycling	Capital Expenditure	687	....	....	....	687
	Recurrent Expenditure	298	298	298	298	1,192
Yellow Van food rescue	Recurrent Expenditure	50	50	50	50	200
Additional funding for ACTSmart	Recurrent Expenditure	116	119	122	126	483
Battery & fluorescent globe recycling drop off points	Recurrent Expenditure	12	12	12	12	48
<b>Initiative Total</b>		2,163	1,479	1,482	1,486	6,610

***“Any party which isn’t addressing our increasing levels of landfill isn’t a serious player in Canberra’s response to our waste problems.”***

***- Caroline Le Couteur MLA***

## Note - the ACT Greens also support:

- a **Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for commercial waste in operation by the end of 2014.**

The Government intends to build a similar but much larger MRF than the existing Mugga Lane facility which processes recyclables from domestic recycling bins for commercial waste. The planned facility is expected to recover between 40,000 to 70,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste, reducing this waste stream's contribution of total waste to landfill by around 20%.

This facility is not the same as the Government's plans to build a 'dirty Materials Recovery Facility' to recover household organics, which the Greens oppose.

- **the continuation of a Bulky Goods collection service.**

The current Bulky Goods collection service one-year trial for concession card holders started in 2011 and has been extended. The Greens support the continuation of this important service.

### Your **Greens** Representatives in the ACT Legislative Assembly



*Caroline Le Couteur MLA for Molonglo*

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