

Why do we need it?

We have a waste problem

By 2046, Victoria is forecast to send an estimated 5.9 million tonnes of waste to landfill each year. This is enough to fill 7.8 MCGs or 5,000 Olympic sized swimming pools.¹

While waste generation per capita is reducing, population growth means the amount of overall waste produced is still increasing and we need to have a solution to manage this residual waste into the future.



Landfilling buries useful resources

By landfilling, we are burying useful materials and metals that could otherwise be used. We need to find a sustainable alternative to recover valuable resources.



Disposing of waste into landfill will become more expensive

The Victorian Government has set ambitious targets to divert 72% of waste from landfill by 2025 and 80% by 2030.² The Recycling Victoria policy published in 2020 will drive an increase in landfill levy charges to discourage waste disposal to landfill. This means ratepayers will start to see an increase in their rates if there is no alternative to landfill.

Waste-to-energy (WtE) is an alternative to landfills

✓ **WtE provides a sustainable, safe, alternative process to managing waste that cannot be recycled**

✓ **Energy recovery is higher in the waste hierarchy**

The Waste Hierarchy is reflected across Victorian waste policy and identifies the preferred approaches to dealing with waste, with avoidance being the most preferable outcome.

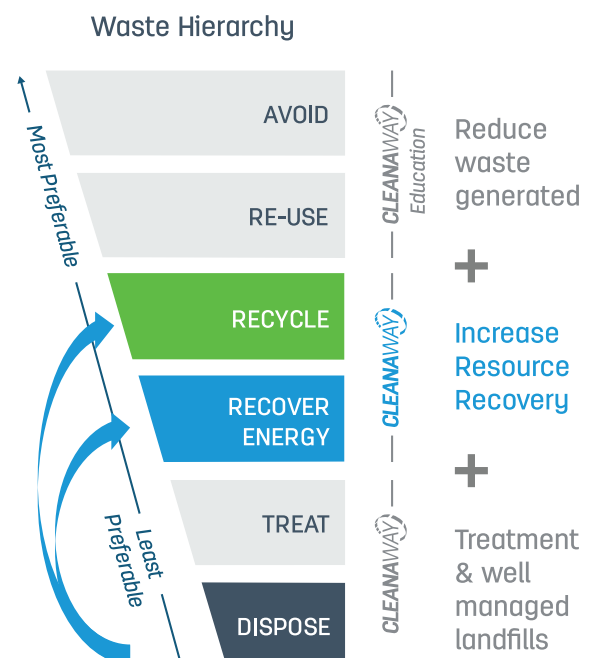
WtE sits above disposal in the waste hierarchy as it allows us to recover energy and materials from waste that would otherwise be sent to landfill. This makes WtE preferable to the current system of landfill disposal for managing our non-recyclable waste and is common practice across Europe and most other developed countries.

✓ **WtE is complementary to recycling and can divert over 95% of general waste from landfill**

WtE supports and contributes to recycling. WtE allows for metals that would otherwise be sent to landfill to be recovered out of the ash and recycled. The ash will be stabilised and reused in construction, such as roads.

✓ **WtE produces electricity for the grid to power homes and businesses**

WtE facilities produce reliable power to the grid and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.



¹ Sustainability Victoria (2022). Victoria's Waste Projection Model.

² Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. (2020). Recycling Victoria: A new economy