

# Minutes

# Refuse Disposal Facility Community Reference Group Portfolio Committee – Meeting 50

<b>Date:</b>	25 August 2022	<b>Time:</b>	4:30pm - 7:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Online (Microsoft Teams)		
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Bruce Turner		
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>Independent Chair</b>          Bruce Turner                      Phoenix Facilitation</p> <p><b>Wyndham City Councillors:</b>          Cr Peter Maynard                  Councillor (Iramoo Ward)          Cr Heather Marcus                Councillor (Iramoo Ward)</p> <p><b>Wyndham City Council Staff:</b>          Simon Clay                          Manager Waste Management and Disposal          Chris Rachor                       RDF Operations Manager          Justin Rhodes                      Environmental Systems Officer</p> <p><b>Reference Group members:</b>          Lisa Field                           Resident group representative          Julian Menegazzo                  Adjacent landowner representative          Joe Ferlazzo                       Community representative          Karthik Viswanathan              Community representative          Bianca Bragalenti                  Community representative          Paul Von Harder                   Community representative          Hayley Scott                       Community representative</p>		
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p>Stephen Thorpe                      Director City Operations          Michelle Lee                       Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group</p> <p>Karen Hucker                       Community representative          Mason Asadi                       Environmental group representative</p>		

## Program

Topic	Actions
<p><b>1. Welcome &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>	
<p><b>3. Adoption of Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The draft notes from the previous meeting held on the 23 June 2022 were accepted with no changes.</p> <p>The Action Tracker was circulated prior to the meeting agenda. All 'pending' items have been listed for discussion under the relevant agenda items at today's meeting.</p>	

## ACTIONS FROM JUNE 2022 MEETING

Action Reference	Action Details	Status
M49-4.1	Members who would like to finish up on CRG to contact Justin and/or Bruce	<b>Closed.</b> Mason, Khartik and Lisa advised they would like to make the August meeting their last one.
M49-4.2	Justin to discuss internally with Council how a virtual tour of RDF might look.	<b>Pending.</b> A video for the new baling facility is being prepared and will be reviewed for potential expansion to a site-wide version
M49-4.3	Simon to present data on the recent audit of household wastes	<b>Closed.</b> Presented at item 7

## ACTIONS FROM MEETINGS PRIOR TO LAST MEETING

M43-7.1	Council to discuss and organise a presentation from Deakin University regarding the works at the Hub	<b>Closed.</b> Justin to re-distribute some of the previous information obtained regarding the 'Hub'. CRG agree to let this sit in the background.
M45-8.1	Matthew to report to the CRG recycling initiatives at the RDF at the next meeting.	<b>Pending.</b> Council is planning to construct a trial sorting facility and will report to the group progress (last qtr 2022). Bill Cocoran may present data
M47-4.1	Justin to review memberships and initiate refreshment as required	<b>Pending.</b> Council has asked those members who wish to finish up with CRG to contact Bruce or Justin prior to advertising positions.
M47-5.1	Stephen will ask Council John Nemet to provide an update to the group on dumped rubbish data – particularly on mattresses and shopping trolleys.	<b>Pending.</b> Council waiting on next face-to-face meeting to present this information
M48-4.1	Justin to circulate placeholders for future meetings in 2022/23	<b>Closed.</b> Proposed dates for future meetings (2023) have now been distributed
M48-5.2	Stephen to seek support from Council's Comms Team to make Council's interactive waste guide easier to access, and to consider Karthik's suggestion regarding education on not bagging recyclables.	<b>Closed.</b> Information provided to the CRG on Council improvements on the website.
M48-9.1	Joe to provide questions to Justin to guide a presentation on the tip shop	<b>Closed.</b> The resale shed at the RDF is currently closed. Resourcing (staff) has not been available since the start of the pandemic. The suitability of a resale shed will be considered as part of

		the development of the Advanced Resource Recovery and Bailing Facility [NB the opportunity to revisit this will be taken when the CRG next visits the site – envisaged for December 2022 meeting]
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#### 4. RDF Membership and 2022/23 meeting schedule

Justin has circulated the proposed dates for the CRG in 2023:

- 23 February
- 27 April
- 22 June
- 24 August
- 26 October
- 14 December

Bruce indicated three (3) members have chosen to finish up with CRG – Mason, Karthik and Lisa. Bruce thanked them for their significant contributions to the group. Justin is currently working on the Expression of Interest advertisements for new members. Heather later suggested that advertising on Wyndham TV would reach a lot of potentially interested locals. Bruce said he also hoped current members would promote the opportunity to join the group to their networks.

Simon also informed the CRG that Justin was leaving Council for another role in the agricultural sector. Council would provide the group with a new contact in the coming weeks.

Justin has also been in touch with Michelle Lee to find an industry representative from Recycling Victoria to attend the meetings in the future. Council will continue to follow this up.

#### 5. Members' Reports

##### ***Joe Ferlazzo – Resale Shed***

Joe discussed the status of the Resale Shed and asked for some clarity around its current and future role at the RDF. He noted that the RDF Strategic Plan 2019-25 indicated the establishment of a 'newly developed Resale Shed and Education Centre' was complete.

Simon acknowledged that the indication of completion of the initiative was a typo. He indicated that Council could not adequately staff the Resale Shed due to the current challenges in the labour market. Simon also indicated that the RDF has higher priority functions onsite such as meeting EPA compliance, rehabilitation and capping works and the design of other site infrastructure. The RDF has at least 3 years' worth of projects that need to be completed in which our limited resources are focused. While Simon acknowledged Joe's suggestion that a social enterprise might be a good option to run such a facility, there would need to be a transparent process to select a provider and, realistically, Council would not be in a position to look at the status of the Resale Shed for at least another 12 months.

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Joe queried Council's 2040 Vision which didn't have much reference or detail regarding the Education Centre at the RDF. Simon indicated that due to the large amount of commercial and industrial traffic that would be using the Advance Resource Recovery and Baling Facility, it would be dangerous to collocate a shop and Education Centre into this area.

Simon explained that, recognising the constraints regarding the RDF's location within Wyndham, Council has been undertaking investigations of the potential for multiple (1-3) satellite Transfer Station sites across Wyndham. It is more likely that resale sheds would be co-located at these sites rather than at the landfill. He said the potential to recover valuable materials is there. Joe was very supportive of this idea and also thanked Simon and his team for helping a lot of people pre-covid, including salvaging 400-500 bikes that were able to be repaired.

Lisa commented that she had heard that there had been some issues with the community coming to the RDF, but she noted there was a missed opportunity to get people involved in recovering resources. She said business, including the RDF, need to pivot and adapt, especially if we are to achieve a goal of 90% diversion of non-residual wastes from landfill.

Heather commented that op shops are able to get volunteers, so it should be possible to find people willing to help with a Resale Shed. She cited Melton's op shop as a good example of what's possible. She also said her 'Stitch don't Ditch' campaign had been really successful with the involvement of schools across Victoria, and SA wants to be involved. However, she was disappointed there hadn't been much uptake within the City of Wyndham. Heather felt there needed to be more education across Wyndham supporting these initiatives.

Lisa circulated information by email to everyone that she had collated on examples of transfer and waste recovery centres in Greater Melbourne that she had been hoping to organise a tour of.

Simon advised that due to the workloads at the RDF his former role had been split into two and he was now managing the RDF only. Liza McColl is the manager of the Kerbside collections. Simon indicated that discussions are being held between Stephen, Liza and himself regarding the satellite transfer stations.

### ***Paul von Harder***

Paul joined the conversation after technical difficulties. He said he wondered how the Wyndham RDF Strategy considers any future changes to the industry. For example, electric cars will generate battery waste. Paul was frustrated that Council may miss future opportunities and industry advancements due to the current Council workloads that have been discussed. Simon responded that these were valid and challenging points Paul raised and acknowledged that any strategy needs to be reviewed as circumstances change.

Paul highlighted the potential revenue-generating opportunity in resource recovery. Bruce said he wondered why, if there are promising money-making opportunities that these aren't yet being pursued by industry.

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Simon showed a picture of typical waste that comes to site – primarily cardboard, timber and food waste. It is the recovery of the bulk material within this waste that the Strategic Plan is based on. He said that while the RDF was making a financial return to Council, the emphasis was not the same as a private operator looking to maximise returns. He said that once the Advanced Resource Recovery and Baling Facility is up and running would be the time to consider new and emerging opportunities in more specialised waste recovery.

In response to Paul querying whether anyone from Council had attended webinars run by Veena Sahajwalla (a NSW Australian of the Year and leader in the development of specialised resource recovery processes) from UNSW recently. Simon said he had, along with other officers and Councillors. He suggested Council could reach out to her group to begin to explore the opportunities. Paul gave strong support to this idea.

**Action M50-5.1**

Simon to initiate contact with Professor Sahajwalla's group at UNSW

***Julian Menegazzo***

Julian indicated that noise from the LMS (gas processing) facility at the RDF was still an issue on still nights at his property. He said methane-burning motors are being run at night. He reported he is getting some relief (ie sleep) by using a 'sleep pillow' app to mask noise from LMS.

Justin is working with an acoustic specialist scoping up monitoring works. An initial scope was received from Council's environmental consultant, however Council believed that this would not be detailed enough. Council hopes to have the proposal in the next week. Justin said an adjustment to the burners by LMS was to be trialled, seeking feedback from Julian, to see what works.

***Karthik Viswanathan***

Karthik indicated that it was really pleasing to see examples of recycled materials being reused across Wyndham. For example, the sound wall constructed on the Princes Highway using recycled plastics. Karthik commented that it was really important to ensure that these projects are promoted to show the community the benefits of their recycling. He said this then leads to more interest.

Karthik also indicated that it would be great to connect with the local secondary schools - he mentioned Wyndham Tech School in particular – to promote recycling as they have extensive community networks. He suggested some form of competition or campaign as a way of raising awareness. Hayley supported this idea and recalled inter-school collaborations from her recent experience at secondary school in Wyndham. Heather also supported this and noted in her experience that schools are very receptive. She said these initiatives can be run outside of Council by external champions such as teachers. Simon indicated that he would pass these comments onto the Waste Education Officers in the expanded Kerbside Collections team.

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## 6. Industry Update

Council will continue to liaise with DEWLP and RV to find an industry contact to attend these meetings in the future.

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## 7. Wyndham Waste Strategy and Waste Services Update

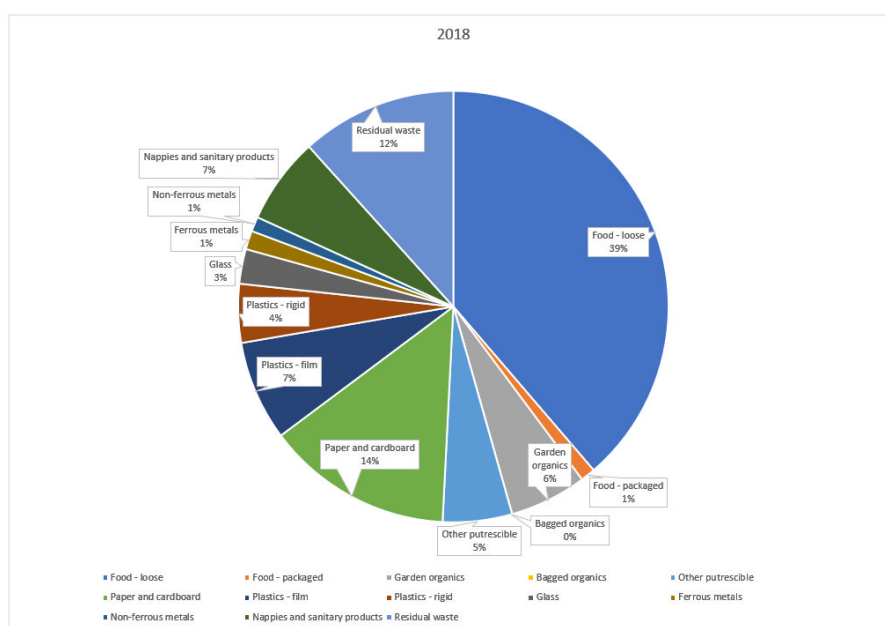
### ***Advanced Resource Recovery and Baling facility***

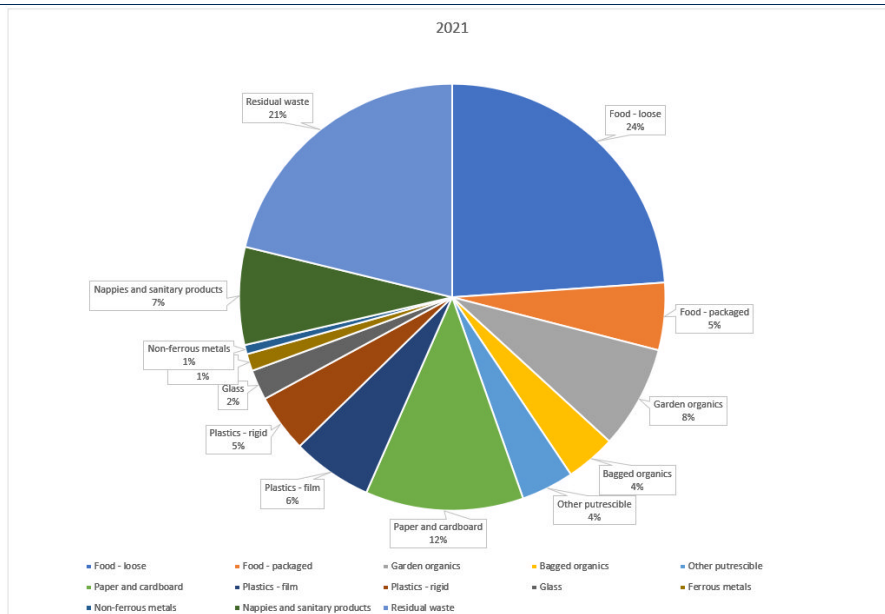
Simon reported that Council is progressing through the tender process to appoint a company to complete the internal design work for the facility. Council had originally envisaged appointing one company to do the complete process design for resource recovery and the external facility to house it. However, companies indicated there was too much financial risk to scope up both works due to industry resourcing pressures. Council has split up the tender and is focussed on the process design aspect first. Once the footprint required is identified, the facility design will be pursued.

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## 8. RDF Operations

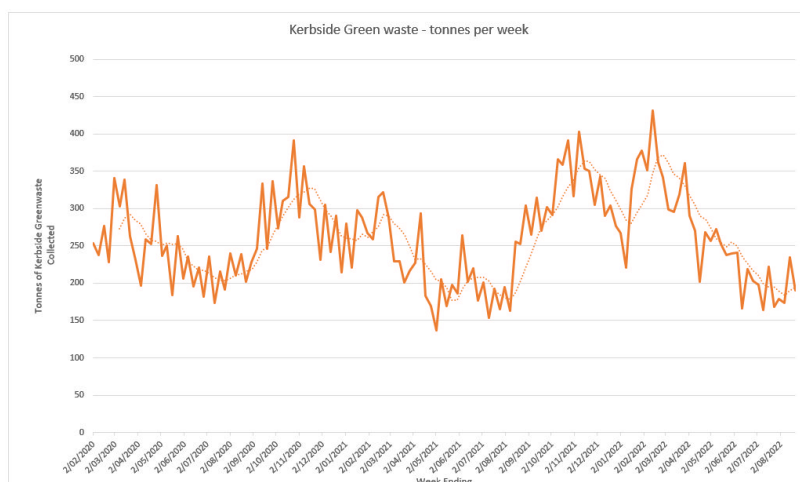
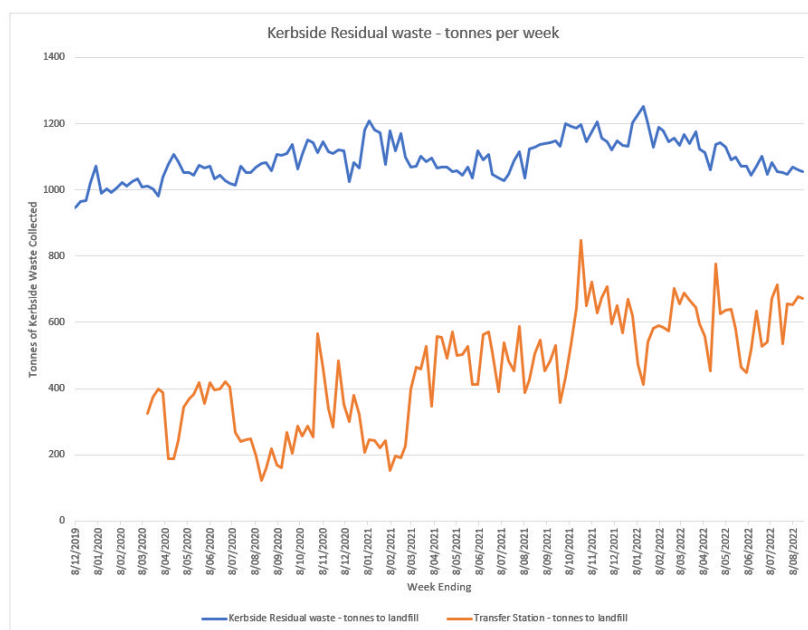
Simon presented information to the CRG regarding the composition of waste from kerbside collections audits in 2018 and 2021. Information was presented and variations discussed. In that time period, the proportion of truly residual waste (ie no potential for reuse or recycling) went from 12% to 21% of the waste stream. Organics still make up a large part of the waste collected.



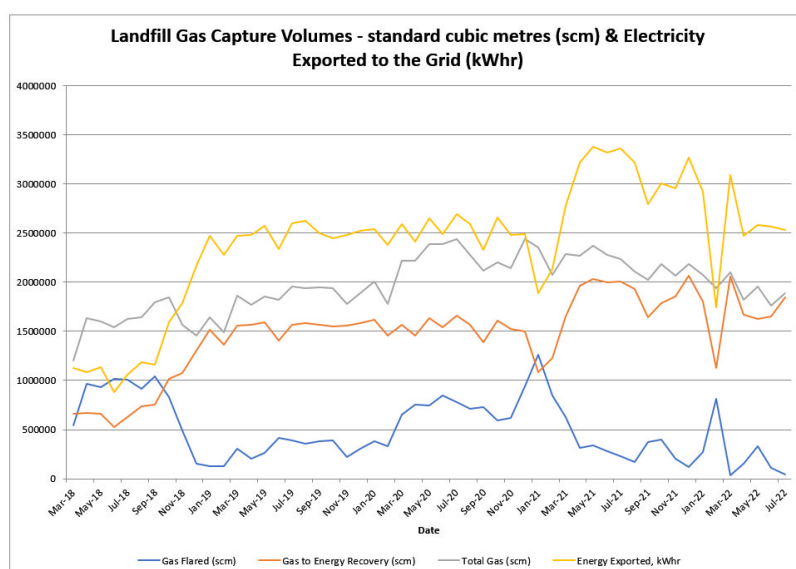
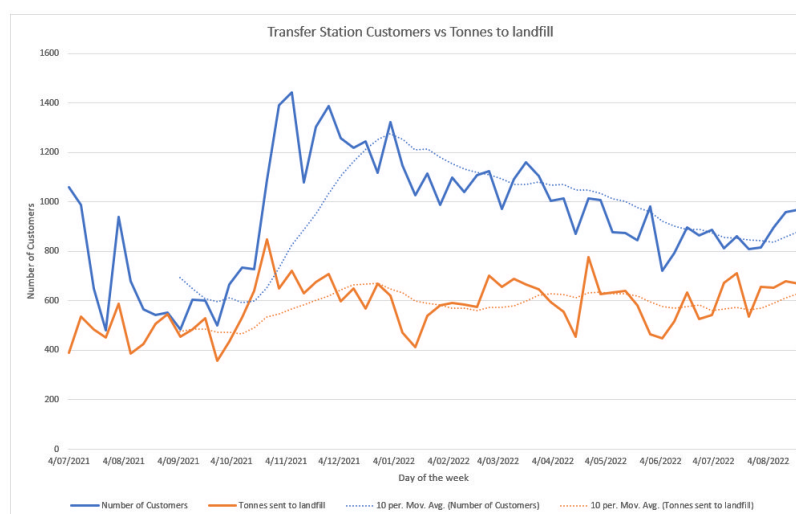
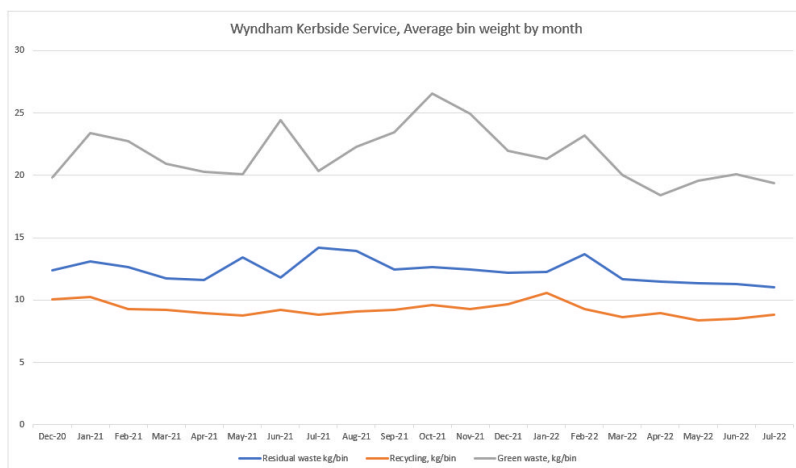


### Performance Dashboard - tonnage, landfill gas

Simon provided information on the amounts of waste recorded coming into the site. Simon noted that the RDF was returning to pre-pandemic tonnages. The green waste tonnages had reduced, however this is expected to increase as we move into spring.







### Complaints Register

No discussion.

### Pollution Abatement Notices

Overburden removal on Cell 4 was nearly complete. It is estimated that approximately 210,000 m<sup>3</sup> of waste has been removed to date (involving some short-term odour issues). Council is required to move approximately 216,000m<sup>3</sup> in total to complete these works. Council expects this to be completed in the next few days.



Preparation works for the Cell 4 capping works has commenced and is estimated it will take 4-6 months to complete.

Council has applied to the EPA to amend the completion dates on the Notices as these works are taking longer to complete than anticipated due to project complexities.

### **Cell 6 and Cell 7 Construction**

An application to amend to the current Operating Licence has been submitted to the EPA to provide permission for Council to commence filling Cell 6. It is estimated that Council will commence filling Cell 6 in the next couple of weeks.

Cell 7 design was underway however the site focus is on the rehabilitation projects for the immediate future.

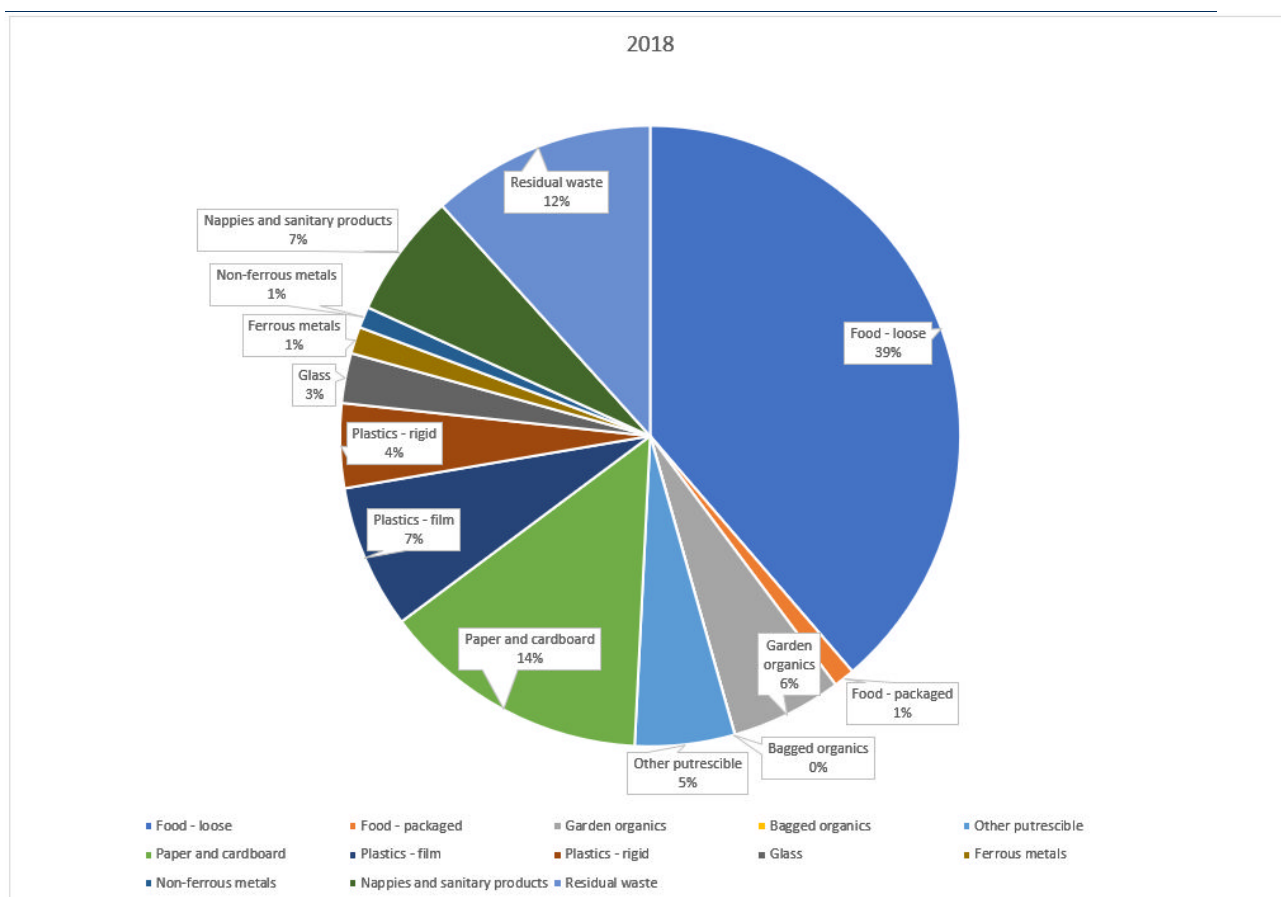
Justin provided an overview of current operations onsite utilizing aerial imagery. He also showed an image of commercial waste taken from the transfer station to a banded area for processing (retrieval of timber, cardboard etc). Bill Corcoran will speak to the CRG about this process at a future meeting.

## **9. Meeting Close/Details of Next Meeting**

CRG members thanked Justin for his very capable support of the group and wished him well for the future.

Khartik thanked the group and said how much he had enjoyed being a part of it.

Next meeting: 20 October 2022 – online or at Civic Centre (tbc)



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