



# Landfill levy

CUSTOMER SERVICE INFORMATION, JUNE 2024

## What is the landfill levy?

The landfill levy is a fee on waste disposed of in landfills.

## Why is there a landfill levy?

The aim of the levy is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The levy is designed to encourage people to reduce waste, and to re-use or recycle.

## Who is collecting the levy?

The levy was introduced through the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022*. Landfill operators (including councils that operate a landfill) are required to pay the levy to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas). The Department then administers the levy and ensures compliance with levy regulations.

## When was the levy introduced?

1 July 2022.

## How much is the landfill levy?

- For the 2023-24 financial year, the levy is **\$21.36 per tonne** of waste disposed of to landfill.
- From 1 July 2024, the landfill levy is **\$44.88 per tonne** of waste disposed of to landfill.

## Why is the levy increasing?

The levy has been introduced with staged increases to help businesses and customers adjust to the change. The amount of a fee unit is adjusted each year to account for inflation and other factors.

- On 1 July 2022 it commenced at 12 fee units;
- On 1 July 2024, it increases to 24 fee units;
- On 1 July 2026 it will increase to the full amount of 36 fee units.

## What happens to the levy money collected?

The levy monies are directed into a dedicated reinvestment account established and managed in accordance with the legislation. Funds from the levy are used to:

- promote resource recovery;
- provide opportunities for recycling businesses;
- educate the public about waste, and
- regulate the levy.

## What kind of businesses will the government support with the money collected from the levy?

The levy can support new facilities and infrastructure to recycle and reuse more things, such as:

- factories to make plastic building materials out of recycled plastics;
- furniture made from timber offcuts; or
- compost made from organic waste (like food scraps).

## Do businesses have to pay the levy?

Businesses that send their waste to landfill will pay increased fees either at the landfill gate or through council rates. However, if businesses recycle, re-use and reduce their waste, they will pay less at the gate.

## Won't people just dump their rubbish to avoid paying the levy?

Illegal dumping by the public already occurs. The state government has imposed heavier fines for littering and increased resources for the investigation and prosecution of illegal dumping.

## Do people in other states have to pay a levy?

Yes. Most states and territories already have a waste levy, and some have had a levy for decades.

Customers in regional areas of mainland Australia pay an average of \$80 per tonne. In metropolitan areas this increases to \$85 to \$170 per tonne.

## What about materials that can be recycled?

The levy only applies to waste disposed of into landfill. If you go to a resource recovery facility (e.g. a 'tip shop' or recycling hub), you will only pay the facility's operational or handling fees. If the business has a landfill and resource recovery facilities, you may be able to avoid or reduce your payment. If in doubt, ask the operator of the facility.

## What about charities?

Charities and not-for-profit businesses that receive donations of goods from the public for repurposing and recycling play an important role in the circular economy, however they often deal with dumped goods and goods not fit for resale or repurposing. Charitable recyclers may apply for assistance offered by the Waste and Resource Recovery Board at <https://wrr.tas.gov.au/>

