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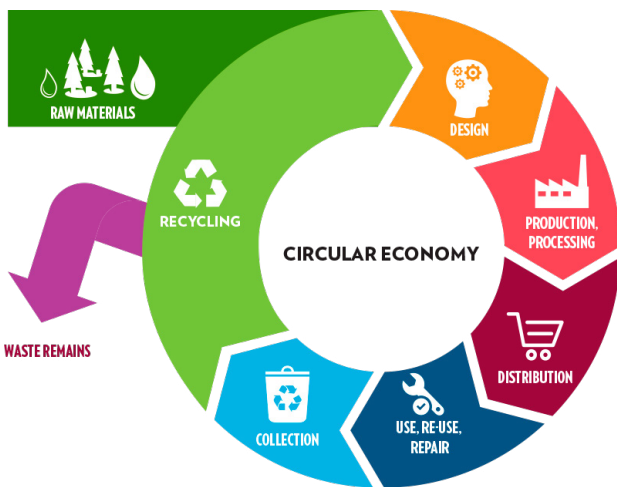
Waste

Waste accounts for about 2% of Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste emissions come from:

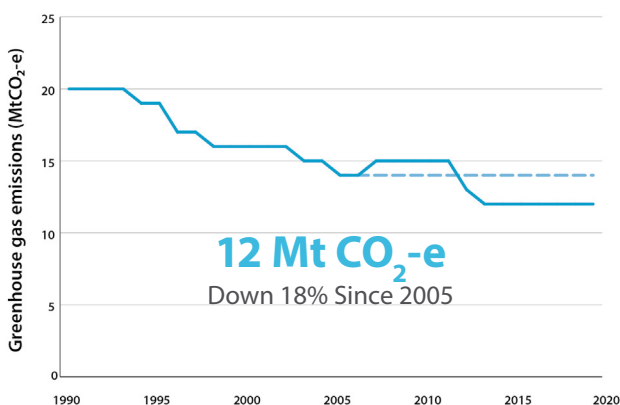
- organic matter (like food waste) decaying in landfills
- processing and treatment of wastewater.

Decaying organic matter produces methane, which is a more powerful greenhouse gas than CO₂.



Source: <https://srp-circular-economy.eu>

Waste emissions



The circular economy

In a circular economy, resources are used for as long as possible and recycled at the end of their life.

A circular economy helps reduce emissions by:

- reducing waste and reducing emissions from landfill
- reducing emissions from creating new products and extracting more resources.

Reducing, reusing and recycling are important parts of the circular economy.

Recycling saves emissions

Recycling products generally uses less energy (leading to less emissions) than making new products.

Energy saved by recycling compared to making new products can be:

- Aluminium 95%
- Steel 75%
- Glass 75%
- Plastics 88%
- Paper 50%

The 2018 National Waste Policy guides collective action by governments, business, communities and individuals on managing waste in a circular economy.

See the Authority’s Stocktake on industry action and our latest report, *Prospering in a low emissions world.*