

The Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub delivers practical science to reduce waste and pollution. We work with Councils across Australia, with community-led research to help government, industry, communities and Indigenous partners to support healthier, more resilient Australian communities.

The Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub is funded by the Australian Government under the National Environmental Science Program.



National Environmental Science Program

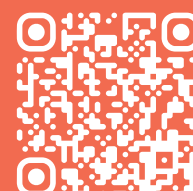


Turning local waste into useful new products

Regional councils are looking for waste solutions that work beyond major cities. In New England and North West NSW, Hub Leader Professor Veena Sahajwalla AO met with Armidale Regional Council, Uralla Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council and Gunnedah Shire Council to discuss fit-for-purpose recycling technologies.

This project explores how difficult waste streams such as plastics, glass and multilayer packaging can be turned into useful products closer to where waste is generated. For councils, the benefit is practical: less reliance on landfill, lower transport pressure and new local resource recovery opportunities.

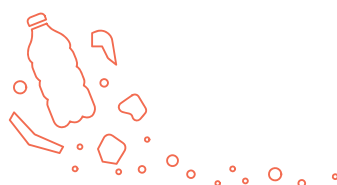
Find out how SCAW Hub research is helping councils explore practical waste solutions for regional and remote Australia.





Understanding microplastics

Microplastics from tyres, textiles, packaging and synthetic turf are spreading across our communities. Researchers from the Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub are tracking how these particles move through air, soil and water, and building evidence to guide product design, regulation and local action. We're helping councils understand where microplastics start - and how to reduce their spread.

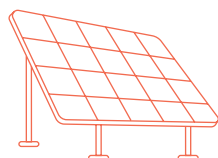


Learn more:



From waste solar panels to silver mines

As solar panels reach end of life, councils and regions need practical pathways for reuse and recycling. This project, led by Professor Veena Sahajwalla AO and Dr Rasoul Nekouei, is developing a roadmap to recover valuable materials such as silver, copper, aluminium and silicon from waste solar panels.



Learn more:



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