

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

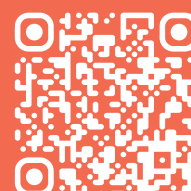


Tracking microplastics from fields to waterways

Sports fields, stormwater drains and road edges can all become pathways for tiny plastic particles. Ku-ring-gai Council and AUSMAP visited UNSW labs as part of the Hub's work on synthetic grass microplastics. This project is investigating how synthetic grass blades degrade over time and use, and how particles may move into the environment.

The findings will help councils ask better questions about field design, maintenance, drainage and end-of-life management before microplastics travel further through local parks and waterways.

Better evidence can help councils reduce plastic pollution before it spreads.



Fit-for-purpose technological recycling

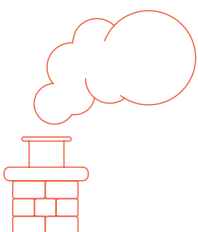
Regional and remote councils face high transport costs, limited recycling infrastructure and market barriers for recovered materials. This project supports councils and industry to test practical circular economy options, including ways to turn plastics, glass and multilayer packaging into useful products closer to where waste is generated.

Learn more:



Wood heater emissions, novel solutions

Wood heater smoke affects many colder communities and can harm health. This project, led by Professor Fay Johnston at the University of Tasmania, is testing practical ways to reduce emissions, evaluate policy options and support councils with local interventions that can improve air quality where people live.



Learn more:



Photos: top left by Vivianne Lemay, Unsplash; bottom right by Rachel Claire, Pexels