

Term	Definition	Source
Aeration	The process by which the oxygen-deficient air in compost is replaced by air from the atmosphere. Aeration can be enhanced by turning or through the forced delivery of air with a blower fan.	Rynk et al., (1992).
Aerobic	In the presence of, or requiring, oxygen.	NSW Waste Boards (2000).
Anaerobic	In the absence of oxygen, or not requiring oxygen. Composting systems subject to anaerobic conditions often produce odorous compounds and other metabolites that are partly responsible for the temporary phytotoxic properties of compost. Anaerobic conditions are important for anaerobic digestion systems.	Recycled Organics Unit (2000a).
Australian Standard	A Standard is a published document which sets out specifications and procedures designed to ensure that a material, product, method or service is fit for its purpose and consistently performs the way it was intended to.	WARR Strategy
Avoidance	Eliminating the generation of waste at its source. Avoidance encourages the community to reduce the amount of waste it generates and to be more efficient in its use of raw materials.	WARR Strategy
Backyard Composting	The composting of domestic kitchen and garden organics in home-made or commercially available composting units.	Modified from NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Best Practice	For any area of waste management, this represents the current 'state of the art' in achieving particular goals. Best Practice is dynamic and subject to continual review and improvement.	WARR Strategy
Capacity Building	Programs of initiatives aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of individuals, organizations and systems to achieve or define outcomes, by strengthening their knowledge base, competence, resources, networks, infrastructure or other forms of support.	Learning for Sustainability (2002)
Cleaner Production	Strategy to continuously improve products, services and processes to reduce	Focusing on our Future

	environmental impact and to work towards ecologically and economically sustainable development. Cleaner production: avoids “end of pipe” approaches by reducing pollution and waste at source; minimizes environmental impact and risk to human health and safety; improves efficiency and reduces production costs; reduces energy, water and material consumption; recovers valuable by products; and minimizes disposal problems, including charges for waste treatment.	(2001)
	An approach to business management which reduces the use of energy, water, mineral resources and minimizes wastes and pollution.	WARR Strategy
Co-mingled Recycling	System of recycling where the generator segregates wastes according to material type and places them into a container for collection in co-mingled form for transportation to a Materials Recycling Facility.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Commercial and Industrial Waste	Inert, solid or industrial generated by business and industries (including shopping centres, restaurants, offices, warehousing and logistics, manufacturing, repair workshops, all retail outlets, hotels, clubs etc) and institutions (such as schools, hospitals, universities, nursing homes and government offices), excluding construction and demolition waste, municipal waste, clinical and related waste and hazardous waste.	WARR Strategy
	Inert, solid, industrial or hazardous wastes generated by businesses and industries (including shopping centres, restaurants and offices) and institutions (such as schools, hospitals and government offices), excluding construction and demolition waste and municipal waste.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Community	Includes all spheres of government, industry, special interest groups and the general public. The term is also used in a more specific sense to refer to those affected by particular issues under consideration or who are interested in some way.	Learning for Sustainability (2002)
Compost	An organic product that has undergone controlled aerobic and thermophilic biological transformation to achieve pasteurization and a specified level of maturity. Compost is suitable for the use as soil conditioner or mulch and can improve soil structure, water retention, aeration, erosion control and other soil properties.	WARR Strategy

	A stable and pasteurised material, high in organic matter, that is the product of an aerobic composting process. Compost is suitable for the use as soil conditioner or mulch and can improve soil structure, water retention, aeration, erosion control, and other soil properties.	Modified from NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Compostable organics	A generic term for all organic materials that are appropriate for collection and use as feedstocks for composting or in related biological treatment systems (eg anaerobic digestion). Compostable organics is defined by its material components: residual food organics; garden organics; wood and timber; biosolids and agricultural organics.	WARR Strategy
Construction and Demolition Waste	Materials in the waste stream which arise from construction, refurbishment, demolition, and excavation activities.	WARR Strategy
	Waste being material resulting from the demolition, erection, construction, refurbishment or alteration of buildings or from the construction, repair or alteration of infrastructure-type development such as roads, bridges, dams, tunnels, railways and airports and that is not contaminated or mixed with any other type of waste, and does not contain any asbestos waste. Soil or naturally occurring excavated material (cleanfill) in connection with construction activities is also classified as construction and demolition waste.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Contamination	Any introduction into the environment or a product (water, air, soil or recyclable materials) of microorganisms, chemicals, wastes or wastewater in a concentration that make the environment or the product unfit for its intended use. Contaminants can have a detrimental impact on the quality of recycled materials and can spoil the potential for resource recovery.	WARR Strategy
	Any introduction into the environment or a product (water, air, soil, or recyclable materials) of microorganisms, chemicals, wastes, or wastewater in a concentration that makes the environment or the product unfit for its intended use.  Materials and items in the recycling stream that are not included as part of a particular council's recycling service and, as a result, are not collected, or are	Modified from Rynk et al., (1992); BIEC (1997)

	collected but not processed as recyclable material and require disposal.	
Deposit-Refund Systems	Can be voluntary or mandated through regulation. They involve the payment of a deposit by the consumer when the product is purchased. The deposit acts as an incentive for the consumer and the deposit is refunded when the used product is returned to the producer or agent. Producers are then responsible for ensuring that the product is recycled or, depending on the product, disposed of safely.	WARR Strategy
Digestion	The process by which organic or volatile matter is gasified, liquified, mineralised, and/or converted into more stable organic matter through the actions of living organisms.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Disposal	The controlled release back into the environment of liquid, solid or gaseous wastes, and the residues of waste management processes.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Domestic Waste	Component of the municipal waste stream generated from households.	WARR Strategy
	Represents all household waste placed on the kerbside for collection by council or council contractors. See also municipal waste.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Drop off Recycling	Places where materials or goods can be lawfully deposited for resource recovery or special management	WARR Strategy
Eco-efficiency	The concept of creating more goods and service while using fewer resources and creating less was and pollution	WARR Strategy
Ecologically Sustainable Development	Focuses on “using, conserving and enhancing the community’s resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased’. Put more simply, ESD is development which aims to meet the need of Australians today, while conserving our ecosystems for the benefit of future generations.	Focusing on our Future (2001)
	Development which aims to meet the needs of Australians today, while conserving our ecosystems for the benefit of future generations of all species.	Learning for Sustainability (2002)
	Requires the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in decision making processes. ESD can be achieved through the implementation of the following principles and programs: precautionary principle; inter-generational	WARR Strategy

	principle; conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity; and improved valuation.	
Ecological Footprint	An accounting tool for ecological resources. Categories of human consumption are translated into areas of productive land required to provide resources and assimilate waste products. Sometimes referred to as “appropriate carrying capacity” the ecological footprint is a measure of how sustainable our lifestyles are.	Focusing on our Future (2001)
Education	Any process or activity that engages people in learning by sharing and developing knowledge, skills and attitudes. Education can occur through formal or non-formal processes. Non-formal education includes learning through a range of activities such as community participation, information and communication (including mass media), entertainment and recreation, extension and awareness-raising programs, experiential learning programs, skills training, on the job training and development, and short courses and personal development activities. These may be delivered by government agencies, non-government organizations and industry at a community and individual level. Formal education can occur through the curriculums of pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, vocational education and training institutions, and universities.	Learning for Sustainability (2002)
Energy from Waste (EfW)	EfW technologies can convert materials such as compostable organics, tyres, plastics, clinical and related wastes into heat and electricity using a number of processes including: Combustion – the burning of biomass, such as the use of bagasse by the sugar industry in NSW to produce heat and electricity using steam turbine generators. Gasification – the efficient conversion of solid fuel to gaseous fuel such as was used to produce ‘town gas’ from coal, before the advent of natural gas. The gas made can produce heat and electricity using gas engine generators. Pyrolysis – the production of carbon rich solid fuel and a hydrocarbon rich gas by heating a biomass feedstock in the absence of oxygen, such as used to produce charcoal from wood.	WARR Strategy
Environmental	Aims to provide organizations with the information required to understand the full	Focusing on our Future

Accounting	spectrum of their environmental costs and to integrate these costs into decision-making. When these costs are clearly identified, a company is more likely to take advantage of the opportunities to reduce environmental impacts.	(2001)
Environmental Education	A process to: provide knowledge, understanding and awareness about a particular issue; promote and develop positive attitudes and values in relation to that issue and the motivation for actively participating in environmental improvement and protection; develop skills and problem solving techniques; lead to positive practices and a behavioural change as a result of the interaction of the above. The UNESCO Thessaloniki Declaration (1997), Educating for a Viable Future aimed to clarify the concept of education within sustainability. Education is described as a process of transmitting knowledge and information to the public to make them understand the problems and to stimulate awareness. Further to this, education is seen as an ongoing lifelong process aimed at developing the capability of adapting to rapid changes in the world.	Focusing on our Future (2001)
	Any process or activity that assists the development of awareness, knowledge, skills and attitudes leading to environmentally responsible practices and behaviour. The term 'education for sustainability' refers to holistic and integrated environmental education that leads to the development of a sustainable society.	Learning for Sustainability (2002)
	Programs and activities which facilitate the development of environmental awareness, knowledge, skills and attitudes leading to environmentally responsible practices and behaviour.	WARR Strategy
Environmental Citizenship	A process whereby people exercise rights and accept responsibilities for active participation as member of communities, nations and the planet to achieve sustainability	Learning for Sustainability (2002)
Extended Producer Responsibility	Shared responsibility for the life cycle of products including the environmental impact of the product from the extraction of virgin materials, to manufacturing, to consumption and through to and including ultimate disposal and post-consumer consequences.	WARR Strategy
Hazardous Material	Any waste containing significant quantities of a substance that may constitute a	NSW Waste Boards

	danger to the life or health of living organisms and the environment, or pose a threat to the safety of humans or equipment if incorrectly handled. Hazardous waste properties include toxicity, flammability, chemical reactivity, corrosivity and infectiousness.	(1999).
Hazardous Waste	The NSW EPA classifies waste in the following order, ranging from the least harmful to the most harmful to the environment inert, solid, industrial, and hazardous. The hazardous waste type contains contaminants listed under "Environmentally Significant Transformations" at levels high enough to require treatment to render them safe before disposal.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Inert Waste	The NSW EPA classifies waste in the following order, ranging from the least harmful to the most harmful to the environment inert, solid, industrial, and hazardous. The inert waste type is the least likely to undergo "Environmentally Significant Transformations" and, therefore, should not release significant quantities of greenhouse gases or leachates contaminated with nutrients and/or chemicals.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Kerbside Recycling	A formalized kerbside collection system for recyclables from households, where the generator segregates waste according to material type and places them in containers on the kerbside for separate collection. The system is usually administered by local government authorities.	WARR Strategy
	A formalised kerbside collection system for recyclables from households, where the generator segregates wastes according to material type and places them in containers on the kerbside for separate collection. The system is usually administered by local government authorities.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Land Rehabilitation	The process of restoring and stabilising an area of land/soil to a standard suitable for a given landuse activity.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Landfill	Solid or liquid material disposed of by burial in the ground.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Landfill site	Waste disposal site used for the controlled deposit of solid waste onto or into land.	WARR Strategy
	A waste facility used for the purpose of disposing waste to land.	EPA (1999).

Leachate	Liquid released by, or water that has percolated through, waste or recovered materials, and that contains dissolved and/or suspended substances and/or solids and/or gases.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Life cycle	Cosecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation of natural resources to the final disposal	WARR Strategy
Life Cycle Assessment	An environmental management technique for assessing the environmental aspects and potential impacts throughout the life cycle of a product, process or service' from cradle to grave' or, as referred to sometimes as 'cradle to cradle'. LCA can: identify opportunities to improve the environmental aspects of products at various points in their life cycles; aid decision making processes such as strategic planning, setting priorities, design or redesign of products and processes in industry and government or non-government organisations; help in selecting relevant indicators of environmental performance; provide a basis for marketing claims and support for environmental labeling schemes.	Focusing on our Future (2001)
	Analysis of environmental impacts incurred during the life cycle (the production, consumption and disposal) of a product.	WARR Strategy
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)	Plant and equipment for sorting and pre-processing materials from the waste stream for resource recovery.	WARR Strategy
Mobile Garbage Bin (MGB)	A wheeled kerbside container for the collection of waste or other materials.	EcoRecycle Victoria (1999).
Mulch	Any pasteurised organic product (excluding polymers which do not degrade such as plastics, rubber and coatings) that is suitable for placing on soil surfaces. Mulch has at least 70% by mass of its particles with a maximum size of greater than 15 mm.	Standards Australia AS 4454 (1999).
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	The solid component of the waste stream arising from the household waste placed at the kerbside for council collection and waste collected by council from municipal parks and gardens, street sweepings, council engineering works and public council bins. Excluding hazardous, clinical and related wastes.	WARR Strategy
	Household domestic waste that is set aside for kerbside collection, other types of domestic waste (e.g. domestic clean-up, and residential garden waste), or local	NSW Waste Boards (1999).

	council generated waste (e.g. waste resulting from street sweeping, litter bins and parks). See also domestic waste.	
On-site	A reference to something being done in relation to waste on site is a reference to that thing being done only on the premises on which the waste was generated.	EPA (1999).
Organic matter	Chemical substances of animal or vegetable origin, consisting of hydrocarbons and their derivatives.	WARR Strategy
Presentation Rate	Percentage of households who present a bin at the kerbside, for collection each collection period.	Bega Valley Shire Council.
Prevention	Eliminating the generation of waste at its source. Avoidance encourages the community to reduce the amount of waste it generates and to be more efficient in its use of raw materials	WARR Strategy
Processing	Subjecting a substance to a physical, chemical or biological treatment or a combination of treatments. Composting, for example, is a form of processing.	WARR Strategy
Producer responsibility or product stewardship	An environmental policy approach where the responsibility for a product or material is extended throughout the life cycle of a product. This fosters consideration of environmental issues in the design of products to minimize life cycle impacts and sharing in economic, physical or legal responsibility for those environmental impacts that cannot be eliminated by design. Ultimately the environmental costs for treatment and disposal should be incorporated into the cost of the material. This encourages clear accountability for materials by all involved in the production and consumption chain, and is considered a logical extension of the polluter pays and product stewardship principles where industry and consumers take life cycle responsibility for the products they produce and use.	Focusing on our Future (2001)
	A system of shared responsibility relating to the whole product chain sharing responsibility for the life cycle of the product.	WARR Strategy
Putrescible Waste	Component of the waste stream liable to become putrid. Putrescible waste usually breaks down in a landfill to create landfill gases and leachate. Note: Usually applies to food and animal product. Paper, cardboard, garden waste will also breakdown to create landfill gas and leachate.	WARR Strategy

	Residual compostable organic materials being food or animal matter (including dead animals or animal parts), or unstable or untreated biosolids. This waste is able to be readily decomposed by microbial action and, during the process of such decomposition, often creates offensive odours.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Recyclable	Able to be processed and used as a raw material for the manufacture through a commercial process of wither the same product or another product.	WARR Strategy
	A material or item that, depending on individual circumstances, can be reprocessed to provide raw material for new products.	BIEC (1997).
Recycling collection	A system of gathering, transporting and storing recyclable materials from diffuse sources for export from or processing at a centralized facility/	WARR Strategy
Renewable Resource	A material that can be replenished or regrown within a reasonable timeframe, for example any organic matter that can be regenerated.	WARR Strategy
Reprocessing	The processing of residual or surplus resources (waste) that has been recovered into a different non-waste product.	EPA (1999).
Resource Recovery	Converting waste into valuable resources such as fuel or fertilizer.	Focusing on our Future (2001)
	Extraction of useful materials of energy form waste materials. This involves recycling or conversions into different unrelated products or uses.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
	Process that extracts material or energy from the waste stream.	WARR Strategy
Re-use	Using a product again for the same or a different purpose without further manufacture, eg use of second had boxes for repacking goods or for storage of household goods.	WARR Strategy
	Waste reused with or without cleaning and/or repairing.	EPA (1999).
Solid Waste	The NSW EPA classifies waste in the following order, ranging from the least harmful to the most harmful to the environment inert, solid, industrial, and hazardous. The solid waste type can include putrescible waste and is likely to release higher quantities of the contaminants listed under "Environmentally Significant Transformations" than inert waste and consequently needs to be	NSW Waste Boards (1999).

	managed with greater care.	
Source Segregation	Physical sorting of the waste stream into its components at the point of generation.	WARR Strategy
	Separation of recyclable materials from other waste at the point and time the waste is generated (i.e.. at its source). This includes separation of recyclable material into its component categories (e.g. paper, glass, aluminium), and may include further separation within each category (e.g. paper into computer paper, office whites and newsprint).	EcoRecycle Victoria (1999).
Sustainability	The goal to be achieved through ecologically sustainable development. It refers to the ability to continue an activity into the future or maintain a state of condition undiminished (or enhanced) over time. Sustainability involves integrated ecological, personal and social (including economic) goals and implies changes in behaviour and practices by individuals and organisation	Learning for Sustainability (2002)
Transfer Station	A waste handling facility used to transfer waste from collection vehicles to a bulk haul vehicle in order to achieve long-distance transportation efficiency. It may also be used to sort and redirect waste with the potential to recycle prior to disposal.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Triple bottom line	Requires organizations to be accountable to shareholders and the community against three criteria: economic prosperity; environmental quality; social equity. Organisations therefore need to perform not against a single financial bottom line but against the triple bottom line.	Focusing on our Future (2001)
Waste collection	A system of gathering, transporting and storing waste materials from diffuse sources for export from or processing at a centralized disposal facility.	WARR Strategy
Vermicast	Any organic material, which has been subject to worm activity under aerobic, and mesophilic conditions. Vermicast consists primary of worm excreta, and may contain weed seeds and pathogenic microorganisms as the product is not subjected to a pasteurisation process.	Recycled Organics Unit (2000a).
Vermicompost	Any organic material which has been pasteurised by a composting process to kill weeds seeds and pathogenic microorganisms, and has been subject to worm activity under aerobic and mesophilic conditions. Vermicompost consists of a mixture of decomposed organic material, worms excreta, and small worms.	Recycled Organics Unit (2000a).

Vermiculture	System of stabilising organic materials under controlled conditions by specific worm species and microorganisms under mesophilic temperatures. Commercial vermiculture systems include: windrows or beds; stackable trays; batch-flow containers, and continuous flow containers.	Recycled Organics Unit (2000a).
Waste		
Waste Audit	The physical sorting and separation of waste into individual components for the purpose of quantifying individual fractions.	Modified from NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Waste Education	Refers to activities that facilitate the development of resource conservation and waste management awareness, knowledge, skills and attitudes, leading to environmentally responsible practices and behaviour. Waste education occurs through a wide range of education activities including school education, mass media programs, community involvement activities and vocational and professional training.	Focusing on our Future (2001)
	Aims to establish a citizenry which has the knowledge and practical skills to: duce current consumption levels and the exploitation of non-renewable resources; ake consumer choices that have a positive environmental impact; develop and mplement waste reduction practices at home, at works and at play; develop an hanced understanding of the interconnectedness of society and the natural and built vironments.	People and Waste
Waste Hierarchy	Ranks strategies for dealing with waste according to how successfully they conserve resources: Avoidance – employing alternative strategies that minimize or do not create, waste. Reuse – Waste reused with or without cleaning and/or repairing. Reusing a product or component or parts of a product, without having to reprocess or remanufacture it. Recycling – The processing of waste into a similar non-waste product. Reprocessing – The processing of waste into a different non-waste product.	Focusing on our Future (2001)
	A priority waste flow list, under the Waste Minimisation and Management Act (1995) where waste avoidance is the highest priority followed by, re-use, recycling,	NSW Waste Boards (1999).

	and reprocessing. Waste disposal is viewed as the last option for waste reduction.	
Waste Minimisation	Application of activities such as waste avoidance, reduction, re-use and recycling and behaviour modification to minimize the amount of waste that requires disposal.	WARR Strategy
	The prevention of waste at its source, either by preventing the generation of waste altogether or reducing waste output. It also entails the re-designing of products and changing social patterns of production, distribution, and consumption.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Waste Reduction	Limiting the waste through product design, material selection, policy and management. To lessen the amount of waste that already has been generated.	WARR Strategy
	Decreasing the amount of waste at its source.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).
Waste Reduction and Purchasing Plan (WRAPP)	A company wide plan to reduce waste and increase purchases of recycled content products.	WARR Strategy
Waste Stream	Flow of materials from a point of generation to ultimate disposal. Note: Components may be diverted from this stream for resource recovery.	WARR Strategy
	A general term used to denote all waste material placed out for removal, either by the recycling or garbage contractor.	NSW Waste Boards (1999).