



| NSW Department of Education

Recycling & Rubbish Collector

Recycling and rubbish collectors support business, industry and our environment by conserving energy through recycling waste. You'll collect, recycle and dispose of household, commercial and industrial rubbish while keeping our streets clean, sanitary and safe.

What recycling & rubbish collectors do

Recycling and rubbish collectors remove waste and goods for recycling from homes, businesses and institutions such as schools and hospitals. They work outdoors in all weather conditions driving or riding in large trucks, which are fitted with hydraulic lifting and automated compacting equipment.

They travel along established routes to homes or businesses and pick up bags, bins or recycling materials and throw them into their truck. In consultation with local government, recycling and rubbish collectors often plan and organise these schedules and routes for collection. They may separate recycling materials, remove hazardous waste and operate industrial machinery at recycling plants and waste disposal facilities.

Recycling and rubbish collectors perform a lot of heavy lifting. Working conditions may be dirty, smelly and unhygienic. They work irregular hours, including early mornings.

Will I get a job?

No real growth is predicted for this occupation over the next four years, with the total of 2,200 workers in Australia to remain the same.

What will I earn?

Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

You'll like this job if...

You enjoy outdoor work. You're physically fit. You come up with practical solutions to problems. You're cooperative. You're able to stand for hours and lift heavy items. You work quickly and methodically. You can concentrate for long periods while doing repetitive tasks. You have good hand-eye coordination.

A day in the life...

Work as a recycling and rubbish collector may involve these tasks:

- drive and ride in / on garbage and recycling collection trucks
- collect rubbish and recycling from domestic, commercial and industrial premises
- load rubbish and recycling into bins and garbage and recycling trucks
- unload garbage and recycling trucks at appropriate facilities
- operate waste compacting equipment on garbage trucks
- coordinate larger disposal systems
- supervise other garbage collectors as required.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate II in Waste Management (CPP20411)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 86.2%*

Certificate III in Waste Management (CPP30711)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 87.9%*

Roles to look for

- Recycling, rubbish or garbage collector
- Waste removalist
- Waste runner

Main employing industries

- Public administration and safety
- Electricity, gas, water and waste services

Other jobs you may like...

- Building and plumbing labourer
- Garden and nursery labourer



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides.

Information sources

Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Career trend: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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