

Australian Recycling Facilities (ARF) standard

A new national benchmark for credible recycling operations, developed by GECA in collaboration with ACOR.

The Australian Recycling Facilities (ARF) standard is a new independent certification framework designed to recognise recycling facilities operating to high environmental, operational and social standards.

Why it matters

The Standard has been developed to:

- strengthen confidence in Australia's recycling sector,
- support transparency and accountability,
- provide independent verification of recycling claims,
- and help identify facilities genuinely contributing to circular economy outcomes.

Certified facilities demonstrate that they are responsibly transforming waste and recovered materials into valuable recycled outputs.

What the Standard covers

The Standard assesses:

- Environmental compliance and management
- Resource recovery and material tracking
- Operational performance and transparency
- Fire safety and hazard management
- Workplace health and safety
- Modern slavery and labour rights
- Continuous improvement commitments

Independent third-party assurance providers conduct all assessments.

Why facilities may choose certification

Certification can help facilities:

- Demonstrate credibility and leadership
- Build trust as preferred suppliers to government and customers
- Support procurement and ESG requirements
- Strengthen operational transparency
- Demonstrate genuine recycling outcomes

Who is the ARF standard designed for?

The ARF standard is designed for recycling and resource recovery facility operators who:

- supply into regulated or government-funded markets,
- need to differentiate from non-genuine recyclers,
- are being asked for stronger reporting, transparency and evidence,
- and want confidence their recycling claims will stand up to scrutiny.

Certified facilities must demonstrate that their primary purpose is the transformation of recovered materials into recycled materials and products with saleable value.

Let's Talk!

You can contact us via info@geca.org.au or **+61 2 9699 2850** for further information on how we can help.

See over page for costs

Standard Guide

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Certification fees

There are two types of fees — Assurance fees, License fees.

Assurance fees (every 3 years, independently-priced):

- Assurance providers quote and you select a provider
- Estimate: \$7,000-\$11,000 per site
- More sites and less complexity means lower cost per site

License fees (annual fee, GECA-controlled):

- \$5,000 for first site, \$3,750 for additional sites
- Can be adjusted for special circumstances

Estimated average cost per site per year:

\$6,500-\$8,000

Assessing more sites at one time lowers the average cost per site.

Join the Founders Program

Sign-up for the Founders Program **between June and August 2026**, and receive **20% off your license fee** for first three years of certification.

Founders program participants will:

- Shape the implementation of the standard
- Provide industry feedback during rollout
- Demonstrate leadership to customers and government
- Access case studies, PR and promotional opportunities
- Build credibility early in the market - market differentiation

[Download the standard](#)

