

Mayo Recycling Centre

Mayo

Started: 1992

Contact: Joan Ewing

In addition to providing recycling services for things like glass and tin, the volunteer run Mayo Recycling Centre has a “Free Store” full of clothes, books and household wares. The centre and store are open four hours a week in the summer and two hours in the winter.



Community benefits: Reducing what is going into the town dump creates an environmental benefit. The Village of Mayo also saves money as less waste means dump management costs are lower. There are also social benefits as low income people can pick up free clothes and household items. Art students use some of the goods from the store and a local egg producer picks up egg cartons. The free store is key to promoting reuse.

Lessons learned: Keeping the free store organized and clean has been one of the biggest challenges as it is difficult to find people to share the work load. It is possible that the local church may take over management of the store. This could help raise money for the church if they charged a bit for the items and would reduce the workload for current volunteers at the centre.

Future of the project: The option of hiring someone to run the recycling operation is being explored. This would likely require the centre becoming the Mayo depot for liquor bottle returns so it could raise enough money for staff wages.