

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 124

April 2009

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## E FOR FREE

Free Public e-waste collection days are being hosted by Local Governments and Regional Councils in the metropolitan area on **Saturday 6/ Sunday 7 June 2009**.

The event will be held at eight collection sites across the metropolitan area in:

- ◆ City of Joondalup
- ◆ City of Perth
- ◆ City of Rockingham
- ◆ SMRC Regional Resource Recovery Centre (Canning Vale)

- ◆ City of South Perth
- ◆ City of Stirling
- ◆ City of Swan
- ◆ Sims E-waste Recycling (Spearwood).

Products that will be accepted on the days include computer equipment and accessories, printers, scanners, mobile phones, telephones, TV's, video and DVD players, stereo equipment, digital and video cameras.



E-waste products NOT accepted include CRTs removed from their cases or CRTs that are cracked or broken, white goods, vacuum cleaners, microwaves, other kitchen and household appliances.

The e-waste collection and recycling will be undertaken by Sims E-Waste.

For more information visit [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

## WASTE POLICY—NATIONAL

A consultation document on the National Waste Policy has been released. The aim of the National Waste Policy is to develop a policy framework to foster synergies between good environmental outcomes, innovation, job creation and Australia's long term economic growth.

There are 2 consultation sessions in WA on the National Waste Policy in: Perth **7.30–9.30am Wednesday 29 April**, Forrest Centre: 221 St Georges Terrace Kalgoorlie **9–11am Thursday 30 April**, Rydges: 21 Davidson Street.

WALGA will be developing a submission on the National Waste Policy.

RSVP for sessions [wastepolicy@environment.gov.au](mailto:wastepolicy@environment.gov.au) or phone 1800 803 772. For more information visit [www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy](http://www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy)

## RISKY BUSINESS? SPONSOR/PRESENT

The Waste & Recycle Conference 2009, themed *The Business of Risk or just plain Risky Business?* is calling for papers to present at the Conference **Tuesday 15 - Friday 18 September 2009**.



Speakers are sought on a range of issues including climate change, carbon liability, landfill risk and mitigation, contracting and risk management and waste to energy. Expressions of interest to present are due by **COB Thursday 30 April**.

Sponsorship packages for the Conference are also available. Get in quick to secure your place!

For more information visit [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)

## CHANGE IS IN THE AIR!

### New Governance

MWAC has recently changed its governance arrangement with the commencement of a new Partnership Agreement between WALGA and the Regional Councils.



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

We would like to thank Cr Clive Robertson (City of Melville), Cr Jeff Munn (City of Armadale) and Cr Corrine MacRae (Town of Cambridge) for their contributions to MWAC.

### New Chair

The change in governance meant the need to hold an election for Chair and Deputy

Chair of MWAC. At its meeting on Wednesday 22 April, MWAC elected Mayor Troy Pickard (City of Joondalup) as its Chair and Cr Michael Aspinall (Shire of Gingin) as its Deputy Chair.

### Bye to Brendan

Brendan Mohr, Deputy Chair of the Officers Advisory Group (OAG), has left the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, thus will no longer be sitting on the OAG. Brendan from all MWAC, staff and members, thank you for all your input to the Group, and good luck with your future endeavours.

There are currently vacancies for non-metropolitan officers on the Municipal Waste Advisory

Council. For more information Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or rbrown@walga.asn.au

### Au revoir Kellie

Kellie Field, MWAC Project Coordinator has left WALGA to work at the Department of Environment and Conservation in the Contaminated Sites/Acid Sulphate Soils Section.

Kellie has been a great contributor during her time at WALGA but we are sure that she will be invigorated by the new challenges of working in State Government. Good luck Kellie!



**E Waste collection event 6-7 June 2009**

Visit the WasteNet Website for more details [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

## UNDER COMMISSION

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Draft Bill has been released. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), with input and funding from the State and Territory Associations, has commissioned Deacons to analyse the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill and Associated Legislation for

Local Governments. The resulting Briefing Paper is a comprehensive but reader-friendly overview of the legislation, and how it will affect Local Governments, particularly those with a mandatory obligation to report CO<sub>2</sub>-e emissions from either landfill or waste water treatment facilities.



The Paper is available from the WALGA website [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au) For more information please contact Melanie Bainbridge on 9213 2039 or mbainbridge@walga.asn.au

The draft Bill and associated Legislation is available from [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)

## OPERATION HAZARD

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program collection days for April and May 2009 are as follows:

- ◆ **Sunday, 3 May** (RRC) hosted by the City of Mandurah at Mandurah Library Carpark Pinjarra Road, Mandurah
- ◆ **Saturday, 9 May** (EMRC) hosted by the City of Swan at City of Swan Depot Bishop Road, Middle Swan
- ◆ **Saturday, 23 May** (MRC) hosted by the City of

Joondalup at the Joondalup Operations Centre Carpark Off Ocean Reef Road Joondalup

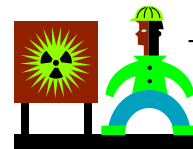
- ◆ **Saturday, 6 June** (EMRC) hosted by the Town of Bassendean at Town of Bassendean, 69 Scaddan Street, Bassendean

For more information visit [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

### Operator Training

Training for operators working at

permanent HHW storage facilities has been arranged for **Tuesday, 12 May.**



Training will be conducted by ERGT and will be held at Tamala Park. Training will be funded by the HHW Program. Registrations are limited to 12 people, so get in quickly!

For more information or to register contact Rebecca Brown on rbrown@walga.asn.au or on 9213 2063.

## ENVIRONMENTAL VACANCY

WALGA is seeking an Environment Policy Officer. This position provides key support to the Executive Manager Environment & Waste Team, assist on policy development, legislation and programs directly related to environmental issues relevant to Local Government in

Western Australia. The position requires strong generalist environment knowledge base and/or policy/advocacy experience, a high level of written communication skills, well developed interpersonal and presentation skills, and posses



a commitment to making a difference.

Total Package \$56k - \$60k. Performance based contract

Applications close **5.00pm Friday 1 May**. For more information visit [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)

## WHAT WALGA'S UP TO

WALGA's Eco Office is happy to share its most recent activities and initiatives with all of WA Local Government.

### Beach Clean Up

In March, 11 enthusiastic WALGAites took on the challenge of cleaning up South Beach in the City of Fremantle. A great day was had by all with the City of Fremantle Councillor Jon Strachan meeting us at the beach.

### Printer Cartridges

In March, Eco Office joined

the free Planet Ark Cartridge Recycling Program. WALGAites are filling the 2 boxes fast with cartridges from home and toner cartridges from work. This Program is so easy and works well with our current practice of reusing printer cartridges.

### MobileMuster & Batteries

In March, Eco Office bundled up the second box of mobile phones for the year. Over the last year WALGA have sent four boxes of batteries off to be recycled.

### Earth Hour

Eco Office held an Earth Hour event at Kings Park. Whilst the WALGA band played, WALGA and members of the Sustainability Officers Network Group (SONG) looked over the city and watch the lights being turned off.

For more information on Eco Office activities, contact **Rob Weymouth**, Sustainability Facilitator on **9213 2042** or [rweymouth@walga.asn.au](mailto:rweymouth@walga.asn.au)

## WHAT'S NEW AT MINDARIE?

A new resource recovery facility was officially opened on Friday 27 March 2009. The plant is owned and operated by BioVision 2020 Pty Ltd under a 20 year contract with the Mindarie Regional Council (MRC).

The MRC manages 350,000 tonnes of waste annually

which is generated by about half a million people in MRC's seven member councils.

The \$80 million household waste treatment plant located in Neerabup is designed to produce about 40,000 tonnes of compost a year and divert 70,000 tonnes of waste from landfill.

The plant will play a role in reducing the waste to landfill by up to 20%, with additional environmental benefits such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information visit [www.mrc.wa.gov.au](http://www.mrc.wa.gov.au)



(Source: WMA magazine, pg 17, March 2009)

## IN A STATE

### Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme (SWIS)

The first round of SWIS funding for 2009 is now open. Local Government, business and industry are all eligible to apply.

Funding will be provided for initiatives which are inline with the Waste Authority's "Priority

areas for funding" and the statement of Strategic direction for Waste Management in Western Australia. Applications close **5pm Friday, 22 May 2009**.

### Community Grants Scheme (CGS)

The first round of funding for CGS is now open. Community



based groups including local interest groups and individuals are able to apply. Applications close **5pm Friday, 29 May 2009**.

For more information on both grant schemes visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)

## REPORTS OF DEATH—EXAGGERATED

Recent reports regarding the possible closure of a local waste management and recycling business in WA will not impact the *drumMUSTER* operation within the State, according to a recent memo from *drumMUSTER*.

*drumMUSTER* understands that an offer has been made to purchase the existing business and that *drumMUSTER* will continue to be part of the new operations.

*drumMUSTER* has also received a number of expressions of interest in the recycling of the chemical containers from other interested parties.

The March round of collections are nearing completion with our next State campaign scheduled for September to support the growing number of ongoing collection services provided by Local Government in WA.

With the support of Local Government, the program will

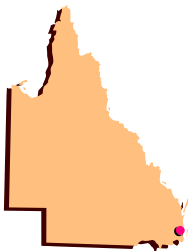
continue to provide a recycling service for chemical users in all regions of WA.

To view the entire *drumMUSTER* memo visit [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

For further information please contact your *drumMUSTER* consultants Graeme Passmore (Southern WA) on 0429 933 307 or Bevan Henderson (Northern WA) on 0429 089 780.

### Queensland News

Prior to Anna Bligh being re-elected as Queensland Premier, she committed \$57 million to employ 3,000 jobless people to clean up national parks, work in waste or obtain a nationally recognised "green qualification".



(Source: WME magazine, pg 10, March 2009).

## THE POWER OF WASTE

A \$45,800 grant to Murdoch University from the Waste Authority's Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme (SWIS) is having a powerful effect on the development of innovative technology that has the potential to convert food waste into electricity.

The two cubic metre pilot plant is based on the university's ground and it anaerobically

treats food waste within a sealed fermentation tank. The biogas generated by the process is approximately 60% methane, 40% carbon dioxide.

The plant was designed by Dr Jaya Nair and was constructed by a local plastic fusion company. Nair said that the system is portable and would be ideal for remote communities or small applications. Once testing

has been completed and the process is standardised, an eight to ten cubic metre plant will be able to supply household electricity.

SWIS and CGS projects are supported by the Western Australian Landfill Levy fund.

For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)

## FLOWER POWER

The Banksia Environmental Awards for 2009 are now open.

Entries are encouraged from Local Government, State and Federal Government, academia, community and

individuals. Entering the awards provides an invaluable opportunity for recognition and presents others with the inspiration to follow.



Entries close **Monday, 11 May 2009**.

For more information on the award categories visit [www.banksiafdn.com](http://www.banksiafdn.com)

## FREE WORKSHOPS



International Compost Awareness Week will be held between **Sunday 3- Saturday 9 May** this year.

Western Australian registered events are as follows:

- ◆ Free Compost & Worm Farm Workshop, **Sunday 3 May**, Lockridge.
- ◆ Richgro Compost Support Week, **3-9 May**, Richgro.
- ◆ Red Hill Composting Tour, **Friday, 8 May**, Red Hill.
- ◆ Free Compost & Worm Farm

Workshop, **Friday, 8 May**, Bayswater.

- ◆ Free Compost & Worm Farm Workshop, **Saturday, 9 May**, Koongamia.

For more details on the events visit [www.compostweek.com.au](http://www.compostweek.com.au)



## URANIUM BACK ON MENU

Curtin University geologist John de Laeter says that WA has many location suited to safely store nuclear waste produced from local use.

He continues saying that Australia would eventually need to build nuclear reactors and he did not think that underground nuclear waste

storage was dangerous. (Source:www.environmentalmanagementnews.net)

The lifting of the moratorium on uranium mining has once again opened the debate on this activity. There are potential implications for Local Government, relating to transport of material on Local

Government roads and associated liability as well as the environmental impacts of accidents.

A Uranium Summit is being held **Tuesday, 7–Wednesday, 8 May** in Fremantle. Local Government will be represented at this event.

## SIMPLY CERTIFIABLE



The seedling inspired logo has been launched by the Australasian Bioplastics

Association. The logo aims to help consumers and Local Governments to identify compostable packaging material.

The logo is licensed from the European Bioplastics Association and will now appear on certified packaging material in Australia and New Zealand. In order for a company to display the logo, the biopolymer plastic must undertake testing by an independent accredited and globally recognised laboratory.

The tests must verify that the product will have no adverse effects on the soil or the quality of compost.

For more information visit [www.bioplastics.org.au](http://www.bioplastics.org.au)

(Source: <http://www.environmentalmanagementnews.net>)

## BAFFLING BOFFIN WAFFLE

With many politicians and bureaucrats fed up with confusing jargon, Britain's Local Government Association (LGA) has written up a list of 200 words it wants public bodies to avoid if they are to communicate properly.

You may have thought your meetings are confusing. Read below for some of the terms and phrases that are in the banned list :

- ◆ “cascading” meaning “sending an email around”

- ◆ “menu of options” meaning “choices”
- ◆ “Slippage” meaning “delay”
- ◆ “democratic legitimacy” meaning “voted in”



“consensually transparent”.

The banned words have been taken from documents produced by central government and public sector bodies. The banned list is being distributed to all of Britain's Local Government Offices to try to get everyone to be clear together, otherwise known as

While the LGA agrees that some of the terms are quite funny, they believe that many people miss out on government services because they don't understand what is on offer.

(Source: [www.reuters.com/article/oddlyEnoughNews/idUSTRE52H30H20090318?feedType=nl&feedName=usoddyenough](http://www.reuters.com/article/oddlyEnoughNews/idUSTRE52H30H20090318?feedType=nl&feedName=usoddyenough))

## JAPAN LOOKS SHARP

Japan's Home Electric Appliance Recycling Law will come into effect this month.

The recycling of flat panel TVs at Kansai Recycling Systems Co Ltd will start in accordance with the new law.

The recycling line cost \$314,000 US to construct. It

is expected to recycle 30,000 used flat-panel TVs in the 2009/10 financial year.

The shareholders include Sharp Corp (43.3%) and Mitsubishi Material Corp (40.0%). Sanyo Electric Co Ltd, Sony Corp, Hitachi Appliances Inc, Fujitsu



General and Mitsubishi Electrical Corp each hold a 3.3% share in the company.

(Source: [http://techon.nikkeibp.co.jp/english/NEWS\\_EN/20090319/167425/](http://techon.nikkeibp.co.jp/english/NEWS_EN/20090319/167425/))

### Cow Tax

The Irish Government may have to introduce a “cow tax” to help it reach targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the EU's climate change strategy.

(Source: [irishtimes.com](http://irishtimes.com), 9 March 2009)



## MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Next Meeting

Date: 17 June 2009

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Local Government House

Check out the WA Local Government Association Website at [www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)



Visit WasteNet [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

### CONTACT DETAILS

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Email: [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)

MWAC Policy Coordinator  
Ms Judy Scott  
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Email: [jscott@walga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walga.asn.au)

Waste Management Officer  
Ms Bienne Argent  
Tel: 08 9213 2069  
Email: [bargent@walga.asn.au](mailto:bargent@walga.asn.au)

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WEST PERTH WA 6005  
Postal Address:  
PO Box 1544,  
WEST PERTH WA 6872

## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3 May 2009 **Household Hazardous Waste Temporary Collection Day**  
Rivers Regional Council  
City of Mandurah, Library car park, Pinjarra Road.
- 9 May 2009 **Household Hazardous Waste Temporary Collection Day**  
Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council  
City of Swan, Bishop Road Depot, Middle Swan.
- 3-9 May 2009 **International Composting Awareness Week**  
For more information visit [www.compostweek.com.au](http://www.compostweek.com.au)
- 23 May 2009 **Household Hazardous Waste Temporary Collection Day**  
Mandarie Regional Council  
City of Joondalup, Joondalup Operations Centre Carpark, off Ocean Reef Road, Joondalup.
- 3-5 June 2009 **WasteQ 2009: Can you afford not to...?**  
The Sebel Citigate King George Square, Brisbane, Queensland
- 5 June 2009 **World Environment Day**  
For more information visit [www.unep.org/wed/2009/english](http://www.unep.org/wed/2009/english)
- 6 June 2009 **Household Hazardous Waste Temporary Collection Day**  
Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council  
Town of Bassendean, 69 Scaddan Street, Bassendean.
- 6/7 June 2009 **Free E-waste Collection Days**  
Various locations around the Perth metropolitan area.  
For more information visit [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)
- 14-18 September 2009 **Waste & Recycle Conference 2009**  
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia  
For more information visit [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)

## 2009 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 1 May 2009 **United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards**  
For more information visit [www.unaavictoria.org.au](http://www.unaavictoria.org.au)
- 29 May 2009 **Community Grants Scheme (CGS)**  
For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)
- 22 May 2009 **Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme (SWS)**  
For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)
- 31 July 2009 **Submissions for Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards**  
For more information phone 6467 5131 or email [tidytowns@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:tidytowns@dec.wa.gov.au)



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
*"Getting the Environment Right"*

## WHAT IS THE MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL?



The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) is a standing committee of the Western Australian Local Government Association with delegated authority on municipal waste issues.

MWAC's membership includes the major Regional Councils (waste management). This makes MWAC a unique forum through which all the major Local Government waste management organisations cooperate.

MWAC focuses its work in three main areas:

- The proactive development of policy on priority issues;
- Comprehensive representation of Local Government views on legislation, regulations, administrative policy and related matters; and
- The delivery of grant funded programs consistent with Local Government priorities.



WESTERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

