



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 100

April 2007

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PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

This year's Waste & Recycle Conference themed *Planning in an Uncertain Climate: A Delicate Balancing Act*, will be held at the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle from **10-14 September 2007**.

It will focus on finding acceptable solutions to the

growing production of waste with the right balance between economic, social and environmental needs.

A call for papers and sponsorship options will be available from the Waste & Recycle website.

For more information visit

www.wasteandrecycle.com.au



Planning in an Uncertain Climate: A Delicate Balancing Act?

WE WANT YOU IN KAL

On **Monday 14 May 2007**, the Municipal Waste Advisory Council's (MWAC) Officers Advisory Group (OAG) will be undertaking a non-metropolitan meeting in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

During this time the OAG will be conducting site visits to various waste infrastructure facilities in the area.

The OAG will also be holding a waste workshop for Local Government Elected

Members and Officers in the area.



Topics which will be discussed include:

- ◆ The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Bill;
- ◆ Container Deposit Systems (CDS);
- ◆ Zero Waste Plans (ZWP); and

◆ Any issues raised by Local Governments in the area.

The Workshop will be held on **Monday 14 May 2007** at the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Any Officers or Elected Members in the area who are interested in attending the workshop, please contact Shelley Inglis on 9213 2062 or email singlis@walga.asn.au by **Wednesday 9 May 2007**.

MWAC SUBMISSIONS AVAILABLE

Following a Workshop held on Wednesday 14 February 2007, the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) has developed a submission on the Waste Management Board paper (WMB), *Technology and Market*

Development for Tyre Derived Products.

MWAC has also developed a submission on the WMB's paper, *Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Census*. The WMB's papers are

available from the Zero Waste website www.zerowastewa.com.au

MWAC's submissions are available from the WasteNet website www.wastenet.net.au

USED OIL—NOT GOING AWAY

The situation regarding used oil recycling in WA is still critical. Collection of used oil is occurring but only in a limited fashion.

It should be emphasised that the Federal Government, through the *Product Stewardship for Used Oil Program* has provided numerous Local Governments with used oil collection infrastructure. Local Government has played its part by facilitating the collection of

the used oil, working on the understanding that the Federal Government will ensure markets for the material. However, market development has not yet occurred.

WA Local Government Association President, Cr Mitchell said "State and Federal Governments need to work together to provide *immediate* help for Local Governments in Western Australia; otherwise all the good work of the community will go to waste."

Local Government, other interested groups and individuals need to bring this issue to the attention of the State and Federal Environment Ministers to ensure that the issue continues to be the focus of action.

For more information (and contact details for the Ministers) please contact Shelley Inglis 9213 2062 or email singlis@walga.asn.au

Planet Ark Recycling Hotline recently received an unusual call from a police station in WA wanting to know how to correctly dispose of illegal porn magazines. The Hotline was able to advise them of a nearby recycling shredding service.



(Source: www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au)

SAG INVESTIGATION OUT NOW

The Stakeholder Advisory Group on Best Practice Container Deposit Systems (CDS) for Western Australia has released a report which includes the findings and background information on their investigation process and deliberations.

The report, *Stakeholder Advisory Group Investigation into Best Practice Container Deposit Systems for Western*

Australia is available from www.zerowastewa.com.au

Consultants, McLennan Magasanik Associates, have been employed by the State Government to undertake a full economic analysis, including triple bottom line consideration, of CDS in WA.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council will be providing a response to the Waste

Management Board on the paper. If you have comments please contact Megan Graham on 9213 2086 or email mgraham@walga.asn.au

The Western Australian Local Government Association Policy Statement on best practice CDS for WA is available from the WasteNet Website www.wastenet.net.au

HOLE CAPACITY OF PERTH

The concern has been raised with the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) that there may be a shortfall in landfill space in the Perth metropolitan area under certain circumstances. These would include emergencies where additional waste, above and beyond current predictions, is generated.

In order to understand the current and potential capacity for waste to landfill in the Perth metropolitan area, MWAC is conducting a survey of all landfill operators.

The results of this survey will be used to provide a consolidated picture of landfill in the Perth region.

Landfill operators who received the survey are asked to email it back to Shelley Inglis as soon as possible. The consolidated results will be provided back to all operators who respond.

For more information contact Shelley Inglis on 9213 2062 or email singlis@walga.asn.au

KISS MY WAAMI

Local Governments' Expressions of Interest (Eoi) to participate in WA Asset Management Improvement (WAAMI) Program need to be registered with the Association by **Monday 30 April 2007**.

WAAMI is a structured asset management programme that develops the capacity of Local Government to determine their asset renewal funding gap through the auditing, planning and management of infrastructure assets.

For further information, please visit www.walga.asn.au or contact A/Executive Manager Infrastructure, Michelle Mackenzie on 9213 2031.

CREDIT TO THE SMRC

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) has recently closed tenders to sell more than 111,000 tonnes worth of greenhouse gas abatement units.

The 111,000 credits were approved by the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO), in recognition of methane gas abatement achieved at the waste composting facility at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale.

The Canning Vale waste processing facility diverts from landfill the household rubbish of more than

350,000 residents. When the disposal of organic matter to landfill is avoided through composting, methane emissions are avoided.



It is the net difference in emissions between landfilling and composting that gives the SMRC its Verified Emission Reductions (VERs), also known as carbon credits.

In Australia, Carbon Trading is voluntary and the credits are purchased by companies, organisations and individuals

wishing to offset their carbon footprints or become carbon neutral.

The SMRC composting facility has temporarily stopped accepting material.

Council Chairman Doug Thompson said the Council decision to implement a temporary closure was made to ensure the community as not affected as final remedial work was carried out.

For more information contact Chuck Ellis at the SMRC on 9329 2714.

A floating house built of trash in a Rio de Janeiro slum will be preserved as a model for recycling in a government anti-pollution campaign. The house is kept afloat by hundreds of empty plastic bottles.

IT EQUIPMENT REST HOME

On Saturday 31 March 2007 the City of South Perth, in partnership with the South



East Metropolitan Regional Council (SEMRC), held a computer

drop-off day at the Collier Park Waste Transfer Station.

On the day, 72 residents of South Perth brought along their used IT equipment, most of which was at least seven years old.

The computers are now with Direct Recycling, who is dismantling the computers as a part of their own trial in recycling computer parts.

For more information contact Sarah Muirhead at the SEMRC on 9391 6033.

CLASSY NEW HOLES

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) is currently constructing a new Class III landfill cell to contain 1.1 million cubic metres of commercial and



municipal waste, and a new Class

IV cell to contain 300,000 cubic metres of low hazard contaminated soil at their Red Hill Waste Management Facility.

As a part of the project additional leachate ponds are also being constructed. The

construction works are expected to be completed by May 2007, costing in excess of \$8 million.

For more information visit www.emrc.org.au

(Source: EMRC Newsletter March 2007)



(Source: www.planetark.org)

NPC ROUND 2

The National Packaging Covenant (NPC) is currently seeking Stage 1 Expressions of Interest for project funding with the jurisdictional project group (JPG). Funding is available for projects that cost-effectively deliver against the goals and targets of the covenant which are:

- ◆ Increased recovery of

- ◆ 'away from home' sources;
- ◆ Supporting Local Government adoption of good practice kerbside and drop-off recycling systems;
- ◆ Expansion of materials that can be recycled, including market development;
- ◆ Increased Public Awareness;
- ◆ Litter reduction and

- prevention programs; and
 - ◆ Improved data collection
- Round 2 of NPC Project Funding closes **Wednesday 2 May 2007**. For more information visit www.zerowastewa.com.au or Joanna Cooper on jcooper@packagingcovenant.org.au

CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION

To celebrate the 100th issue of the Information Bulletin the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) has developed the A-Z of waste at MWAC.



to the WMB's paper on *Used Industrial Plastics in WA*;
J- Joint Ground Water Monitoring Contract– MWAC administers the joint ground water monitoring contract, the current

tonnes of material from landfill;

S- Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme (SWIS)– MWAC has received SWIS funding for its Battery Study;

T- Tyres– MWAC has developed submissions on the WMB papers *Used Tyre Review of Management at Landfill* and *Used Tyre Stockpile Guidelines*;

U- Used Oil– MWAC administered the distribution of Used Oil Collection Infrastructure to 62 LG's;

V- Variation to NEPM– MWAC has developed a submission to the *Proposed Variation to the NEPM*;

W- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Bill– MWAC has produced a submission on the WARR Bill 2006 and has a Policy Statement on Waste Management Legislation;

W- WasteNet Website– All of the MWAC Policy Statements, Submissions and general information is available from the wonderful WasteNet Website;

X- X² Issue of Information Bulletin– MWAC Information Bulletin is celebrating its 100th Issue;

Y- Young Waste Professionals– MWAC Staff are all involved with the Young Waste Professionals; and

Z- Zero Waste Plans (ZWP)– MWAC has been collaborating with the DEC in development of ZWPs.

A company in Japan has produced a new line called 'Treasure Chairs', chairs for office use reproduced from difficult-to-recycle car seats.



(Japan for Sustainability, n.55)

A- Auditing Continuity Data Compilation (AC/DC) Scheme

– a recycling rebate scheme for Local Government (LG) administered by MWAC;

B- Battery Collection Model Study– a study being conducted by MWAC, funded through SWIS;

C- Container Deposit Systems (CDS)– MWAC has developed a Policy Statement on Best Practice CDS;

D- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)– MWAC works closely with the DEC on a number of projects;

E- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)– MWAC has developed a Policy Statement on EPR;

F- Fridge Magnets– MWAC has promotional fridge magnets on where to correctly dispose of your used oil;

G- Glass Market Development– MWAC has developed a submission on the Waste Management Boards (WMB) paper, *Used Glass Market Development*;

H- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)– MWAC has developed a Policy Statement on HHW.

I- Industrial Plastics– MWAC has developed a submission

tender is held by GHD;

K- Kerbside Recycling– MWAC collects and records Kerbside Recycling data for WA in the AC/DC Scheme;

L- Landfill Levy and Strategic Waste Funding– MWAC has developed a Policy Statement on the Landfill Levy;

M- Market Development– MWAC has developed a submission on the WMB paper *Technology and Market Development for Tyre Derived Products*;

N- National Packaging Covenant (NPC)– WALGA is a signatory of the NPC and is hosting the next meeting in Perth;

O- Organics– MWAC is currently developing an Organics Policy Statement;

P- Productivity Commission (PC) Report– MWAC produced developed a number of Submissions on the PC Report;

Q- Quality– MWAC produced a range of quality papers in 2006, all outlined in the 2006 MWAC Annual Summary;

R- Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (RRRS)– over its lifetime, the RRRS (administered by MWAC) provided over \$15 million to Local Government and assisted with the diversion of 1.5 million

ZERO DISCUSSION

The Conservation Council is holding an Environmental Matters Information Evening 'Getting to Zero Waste' **7:30 Thursday 26 April 2007**.

It will be based on discussion of waste management in Western Australia, the Towards



Zero Waste targets and Container Deposit Systems (CDS). Guest speakers will include Barry Carbon, Chair of the Waste Management Board,

Mark Batty, Executive Manager Environment & Waste of the Western Australian Local Government Association

and Conservation Council representatives.

The evening will be held at City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi St, West Perth.

To register email conswa@conservationwa.as.n.au or phone 9420 7266.

TIME OF GRACE TO END

The *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* came into force on 1 December 2006. The introduction of this act established a six-month grace period allowing the reporting of contaminated sites without facing legal action.

The six-month period will

expire at the end of May 2007. Substantial fines could apply to any responsible bodies who have not reported a site after this date.

The Department of Environment and Conservation has received 134 reports so far, 43% from Local

Government, 39% from businesses and 18% from Government sectors.

For more information visit www.dec.wa.gov.au

(Source: Environmental Management News, 22 March 2007).

SKILLS TO PAY THE BILLS

At Skyworks, held this Australia Day, the rubbish collected for the whole of the event (both North and South of River and including Kings Park) was 36.87 tonnes.

Although separate public place recycling bins were in place, the contractor was not able to separate these recyclables from the general waste due to contamination—therefore despite best efforts, all went to landfill.

Public place recycling at events is a difficult challenge. At another event, the West

Coast Blues and Roots festival in Fremantle, recycling efforts were highly successful - of the 220 cubic metres of waste generated, 70% was recycled. At a similar event held earlier in the year, Southbound Music Festival, 77% of the 160 cubic metres of waste generated was recycled.

These results were made possible through collaboration of festival promoters Sunset Events and Green Skills Inc. As a non profit environmental organisation, Green Skills recently received

funding from the Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme (SWIS) to pilot a series of 'Towards Zero Waste Public Events' to be held in 2007. Based on their pilot SWIS Project Green Skills are developing a Public Event Recycling Consulting Service, which will be able to assist Local government, business and community groups to develop and implement public place recycling programs.

For more information contact Tracey Bell of Green Skills on 9360 6667.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUBE

Following the Federal Government's indication they will be moving towards the use of fluorescent lighting, questions have been raised about the safety of recycling

the tubes, which contain mercury.

The Waste Management Board has listed companies that offer fluorescent tube pick up and

recycling services in Western Australia.

For more information visit www.zerowastewa.com.au

COMPOST—BE AWARE

To celebrate International Composting Awareness Week, **Sunday 6—Saturday 12 May 2007**, the Department of Environment and

Conservation (DEC) has developed a calendar of events to promote composting and recycled organics throughout the metropolitan region.

For more information or to get involved visit www.compostweek.com.au

STAMP OF APPROVAL?

The Waste Management Board recently commissioned a review of the Green Stamp Program in WA.



The aim was to objectively assess and review the program for its strengths and weaknesses as well as

opportunities for improvement.

The review is available www.zerowastewa.com.au

The average household in Britain throws away almost a third of all the food it buys. The main causes of food wastage were: purchasing more food than needed; keeping food in refrigerators above correct temperature; and food going out of date.



(Source: www.news.independent.co.uk)

ARK UP

The Planet Ark Website, launched in November 2006, contains details for recycling and safe waste disposal in all 672 Council areas around Australia.

There have been over 250,000 visits to the website since its launch.

Alternatively, for those without access to the web, there is a recycling hotline - 1300 733 712.

Staff have encountered some challenging questions such as how to recycle pigeon manure, a swimming pool and even the foam from a fire extinguisher.

Electronic waste remains the main area that people seek clarification on - the most common recycling queries involve computers, printer cartridges and mobile phones.

For more information visit www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au

Over 3 billion disposable nappies are thrown away in the UK each year with 90% ending up in landfill. This is a cost of 67 million Pounds for Local Authorities.



(Source: RRF, 23 March 2007)

SA RETAIL & PESTS

Retail Guide

Zero Waste SA has released a guide to help retailers reduce their waste. The guide gives practical advice for how shop managers and tenants can cut the amount of waste going to landfill. It is not a specific guide but rather provides general concepts and opportunities to consider in

planning and launching an effective and ongoing program. For more information visit www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au

(Source: Environmental Management News, 30 March 2007)

Compost Pest

Compost SA has co-funded a research position at SARDI

looking into the disease suppressive characteristics of compost.

With Federal and SA Government backing, Mathew Ayres will begin full-scale field trials this year.

(Source: Inside Waste, March/April 2007)

EVOLUTION AWARDS

The National Packaging Covenant (NPC), with support of the Packaging Council of Australia, is holding the Evolution awards in order to publicly acknowledge brand



owners and retailers for outstanding effort in packaging and waste management.

NPC signatories are invited to apply and nominations close **Tuesday 15 May 2007**.

For more information visit www.ferret.com.au/FerretAwards/2006EvoAwards.asp

RECYCLE OR ELSE

Sydney City Council, as well as several other Local Governments in NSW, have demanded the NSW Government enforce already existing legislation and require manufacturers to collect and

recycle e-waste. The NSW *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* included provisions for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for certain

wastes of concern, electronics was one of these wastes.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 19 March 2007)

COMPOST YOUR CUTLERY

Global food packaging company Huhtamaki has introduced a range of compostable plastic products to the Australian market.

It plans to introduce a clearly visible brand mark on its

BioWare range of corn-starch based products, including plates, cups and cutlery, to make it easier for customers to choose products that appear



and function like the traditional version, but which are more sustainable.

(Source: Environmental Management News 28 March 2007)

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UK

Battery Trials

WRAP in the UK has launched a Community Drop-Off Battery Recycling Trial.



Residents will be encouraged to recycle their batteries by depositing them at special collection points located through the community. It will collect AAA, AA, C and D size batteries as well as button, mobile phone, laptop and rechargeable

batteries. The trial will run for one year and its results will help the Government identify the most cost effective ways of meeting the EU Battery Directive, which requires a 25% collection of used batteries.

For more information visit www.wrap.org.uk

(Source: Wrap Newsletter, March 2007)

Sampled Out

A new quality Protocol on Composting has been released in the UK. Some composters and farmers were unhappy with the protocol soil tests requirements, which had to occur for every hectare of land for which the compost is used, before, and then every 20 years after using it.

(Source: www.letsrecycle.com)

SCORE E

Consumers will now be able to review the environmental impact of electronic goods at Wal-Mart Stores as companies that supply electronic goods are forced to

evaluate their products. A scorecard system will become compulsory in 2008 and evaluate products on their energy efficiency, durability,

ability to be upgraded, end of life solutions and amount of packaging.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 14 March 2007)

TIRED OF TYRES

The Irish Government is consulting on draft regulations which will establish a clear producer responsibility audit system to track the movement of waste tyres from the time they are

discarded until they are either reused or processed for recycling or reuse.



For more information visit www.environ.ie

(Source: www.letsrecycle.com)

DON'T WASTE LATEX

Engineers at the State University of New Jersey, USA, have developed a process to

hazardous waste, by blending it with common plastics.

advantage of consuming unwanted paint and reducing amount of HDPE used.



recycle waste latex paint, the largest component of household

It was found that paint blended with polyethylene exhibited similar characteristics and performance as pure polyethylene, with the

For more information visit <http://urwebsrv.rutgers.edu>

(Source: RRF, 30 March 2007)

FILL TAX

The European Commission is exploring the possibility of a Europe-wide tax on landfill.

A Green Paper has been released which has further discussion about the use of other market-based instruments.

For more information visit www.ec.europa.eu

(Source: www.letsrecycle.com)

Two operators of a demolition company in the UK have been jailed for 20 months for illegally dumping asbestos and excavation waste.



(Source: www.letsrecycle.com)

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

Date: 20 June 2007

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Local Government House

Check out the WA Local Government
Association Website at www.walga.asn.au



Visit WasteNet www.wastenet.net.au

CONTACT DETAILS

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2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

23-24 April 2007	Identi Plast 2007 Concert Noble, Brussels, Belgium For more information visit www.plasticseurope.org
26 April 2007	Conservation Council Getting to Zero Waste Information Evening 7:30pm, City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi St, West Perth RSVP April 19 to conswa@conservationwa.asn.au For more information visit www.conservationwa.asn.au
6-12 May 2007	International Compost Awareness Week For more information visit www.compostweek.com.au
11-12 May 2007	Australian Tidy Towns Awards Ballarat, Victoria For more information visit www.kab.org.au/tidytowns
20-22 June 2007	12th International Congress for Battery Recycling Budapest, Hungary For more information visit www.icm.ch
18-20 July 2007	Banksia Awards Sydney, NSW For more information visit www.banksiafdn.com
18-20 July 2007	National Energy from Waste Conference 2007 Sydney, NSW For more information visit www.wmaa.asn.au
2 August 2007	4th Australian Wine Industry Environmental Conference Adelaide Convention Centre For more information visit www.awitc.com.au
27 August– 2 September 2007	Keep Australia Beautiful Week For more information visit www.kab.org.au
10-14 September 2007	Waste & Recycle 2007 Conference Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au
19-21 November 2007	2nd National Landfill and Transfer Station Conference Melbourne, Victoria For more information visit www.wmaa.asn.au
3 May 2007	National Packaging Covenant Round 2 Expressions of Interest For more information visit www.wastenet.net.au

2007 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Getting the Environment Right"

WHAT IS THE MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL?



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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.

