

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 111

March 2008

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## DOLLARS FOR DANGER

A Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Agreement has been given Ministerial sign off and is expected to be implemented by mid-2008.

The approved HHW Program will include funding of \$1 million per year, for a period of 3 years. Funding will be

for the collection and disposal of HHW, from both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, and for essential infrastructure.

A steering group has been established to oversee the Programs implementation.



The Program will be administered by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council.

For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 6063 or email [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)

## W&R CONFERENCE NOW TRADING

Sponsorship and trade opportunities for the Waste & Recycle 2008 Conference, *The Heat is On: No Time to Waste*, to be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, from **8 to 12 September 2008** are now available!



Invited and guest speakers include: Jeff Seadon; Enzo Favoino; Mike Munger; Garth Hickie; Helen Speigelman; and Sandra Cointreau.

The possibility also remains for abstract submissions to be accepted.

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

## COMMUNICATING POLICY

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council is developing a Policy Statement on Consultation, Communication and Waste Education Processes.

A telephone survey was conducted in March 2008 with a varied range of Elected Members and Officers from Metro, Non-Metro, Regional Councils and VROC's being consulted.

The questions covered a wide range of issues and concerns regarding

consultation and communication.

The majority of responses indicated that when responding to communication requests, staff shortages and insufficient time were the biggest factors in replying. The best media type for receiving feedback from MWAC was by email, fax back and telephone calls.

In March 2008, a two yearly review commenced for the Container Deposit Systems

(CDS) and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Policy Statements.

It is anticipated that a Draft revised EPR and CDS Policy Statement will be released for comment in the near future.

For more information contact Judy Scott on 9213 2086 or email [jscott@walaga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walaga.asn.au)

## WASTED OFFICERS WITH MWAC

Ms Bienne Argent is the new Waste Management Officer with the Municipal Waste Advisory Council. and has a wealth of experience from a variety of backgrounds including veterinary nursing and work at Perth Zoo. challenges of Local Government.

Bienne studied Conservation Biology at Murdoch University This should place her in good stead for dealing with the

For more information contact Bienne on 9213 2069 or email bargent@walga.asn.au

## THE MODEL YOU ARE LOOKING FOR?

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) held a series of workshops, in February and March 2008, on a proposed Regional Funding Model to assist in the implementation of Strategic Waste Management Plans. The workshops were well attended with Local Government Officers, CEOs and Councillors alike, providing invaluable feedback. This feedback has been used to improve the Regional Funding Model proposed by DEC. Currently the information is with the Waste Management Board who will make a decision on the future of the proposed model in the coming months.

WALGA and DEC would like to thank attendees for their participation in the process. For more information on the model please contact Chantelle Noack on 6467 5315 or email Chantelle.Noack@dec.wa.gov.au

## WALGAS NEW SOLUTION

The Western Australian Local Government Association, through Workplace Solutions and Environment and Waste team, has developed an Environmental Management Training module for Local Government Councillors. The module will be run through WALGA Workplace Solutions and delivered by Environment and Waste Staff. It is designed to inform Elected Members and increase awareness and knowledge of environmental issues facing Local Government.

For more information on the training please visit [www.workplacesolutions.asn.au](http://www.workplacesolutions.asn.au) or contact Bernadette Howes on 9213 2090 or email [bhowes@walga.asn.au](mailto:bhowes@walga.asn.au)



## USED OIL EXPRESSES ITSELF

The Western Australian Local Government Association is currently developing Expressions of Interest for a used oil collection/recycling contract intended to go out in mid-April. The Waste Management Board have been approached to fund the collection of used oil from Local Government and the item was discussed at their March meeting. The item has now been deferred until the April Board meeting.

For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email [rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)

## ON HER WAY TO THE TOP

MWAC Project Coordinator, Ms Shelley Inglis, will be departing the Western Australian Local Government Association and Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) at the end of March 2008. Shelley has been with MWAC since May 2006, initially as the Waste Management Officer, and later as the MWAC Project Coordinator. Shelley leaves Perth to travel the top end of Australia. A new Project Coordinator has been recruited and will commence work in April 2008.

For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213



Nike and basketball star, Steve Nash, have teamed up to create the Nike Trash Talk basketball shoe. The shoe is made primarily from manufacturing waste and other recycled materials.



(Source: [www.greenbiz.com](http://www.greenbiz.com))

## NO BUFFER, NO PLAY

In March 2008, WA Local Government Association representatives met with representatives of the Licencing and Policy Unit of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) regarding landfill buffer distances.

DEC is the regulatory authority responsible for issuing a works approval to construct and a licence or registration to operate for landfills which meet the prescribed premises threshold for Categories 64 and 89, as specified in Schedule 1 of the

*Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*. DEC clarified that a 500m landfill buffer distance between Class II and III (putrescible) landfills and sensitive premises is recommended. Landfills have the potential for issues such as wind blown waste, dust, odour and vermin and conflicting land uses can be avoided where separation distances are maintained. The recommended buffer distance for Class I inert landfills (Category 63) is 150m.

Licence holders for landfills should ideally own the land within the buffer distance, seek to purchase that land in the

near future, or have binding agreements where by the adjoining landowner will not use the land for sensitive land uses within an agreed time frame. Local Government need to provide advice on buffer distances to proponents requesting to set up landfills within their shire as inadequate landfill buffer distances could potentially lead to DEC rejecting works approval and licence applications.

For more information please email Nanette Schapel on [nanette.schapel@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:nanette.schapel@dec.wa.gov.au)

Nokia has released 'ReMade' a mobile phone produced from 100% recycled materials. The phones are made from materials such as recycled cans, plastics from drink bottles, car tyres.



(Source: RRF, 22 February 2008)

## STOP DUMPING

Keep Australia Beautiful WA is holding two free workshops for Local Government and land managers on illegal dumping.



needed to tackle illegal dumping simply and effectively. The workshops will be held at Technology Park in Bentley on the following dates:

- ◆ 8:45am - 4:30pm on **Tuesday 15 April 2008;** and
- ◆ 8:45am - 4:30pm on

**Tuesday 6 May 2008.**

Please RSVP to Nancy on 6467 5122 or email [kabc@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:kabc@dec.wa.gov.au) For more information please contact Jennie Anderton on 6467 5130 or [Jennie.anderton@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:Jennie.anderton@dec.wa.gov.au)

The workshops will clarify the use of the Litter Act 1979 and introduce tools that are

## ROUND ONE WITH THE BOARD

The first round of the Waste Management Board Community Grants Scheme is now open. Community based groups including local interest groups, environmental groups and individuals are encouraged to apply.

Previously funded projects have achieved the following objectives:

- ◆ community education courses empowering participants to improve waste management practices;
- ◆ demonstration site for the reuse of materials; and

◆ encouraged community to minimise waste while on holidays.

Applications close **Friday 4 April 2008.**

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

## KAL KERBS CONTAMINATION

The City of Kalgoorlie Boulder has established new rules where residents who repeatedly misuse their recycling bins could face losing them permanently.

three written warnings and after this, further contamination may result in a permanent ban.



have received two written warnings will be visited by Local Government Officers and educated about their recycling bin.

Under the rules, residents could lose the bin for three months after being issued

Cameras affixed to collection trucks will be used by drivers to check the contents of the recycling bins. Residents who

For more information contact Joanne Gray on 9021 9617.

## THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO MARKET

The Department of Environment and Conservation has released a report *Technology and Market Development for Used Oil Products in Western Australia*. The report was developed by Cardno BSD and includes analysis of the existing situation in Western Australia including market characteristics, industry condition, influences affecting the market for used oil products; and the potential market size, trends, threats and opportunities for the State. The report is available from [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)

Sainsbury's supermarkets in the UK have launched collection of clothes made from recycled plastic, thrown out by stores or returned to recycling bins, such as soft drink bottles, fruit and vegetable packaging, and even meat trays. The shirts, trousers and skirts will go on sale at the group's stores later this year.



(Source: *The Observer*, 24 February 2008)

## REACHING SKY-HIGH

During the recent 2008 year of implementing the new Skyworks the Cities of Perth and South Perth embarked on a new initiative to improve recycling at the event by providing recycling compounds on the north and south side of the Swan River. The recycling was collected in supervised compounds and sponsored by Coke. A custom made surf board was offered by the sponsor to a lucky recycler who was drawn from a barrel at the end of the day. It was considered a great effort for a Public Event Recycling Program and there was much learnt during the day. For more information contact Sebastian Camillo at the City of South Perth on 9474 0781.



## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WAY

### SA Deposits Increased

The SA Government has increased the deposit on cans and bottles from five to ten cents. This is the first increase since the scheme was initiated in 1977. The ten cent deposit is in reaction to a declining recovery rate for drink containers and will be implemented in 2008.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 13 February 2008)

### Food Waste Collection Trial

The SA Government is encouraging SA Local Governments to register interest in a three month pilot that will introduce the kerbside collection food waste, which will be placed in a biodegradable bag in the garden organics bin.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 24 January 2008)

### Plastic Phase Out

The SA Government has indicated its intent to phase out the free plastic bag by the end of the year. Legislation is now being drafted and is anticipated to be introduced in State Parliament next month.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 3 March 2008)

## GARRETT'S GOT HIS RULER OUT

Federal Environment Minister, Hon. Peter Garrett, has ruled out the possibility of a national levy for plastic bags.



Whilst the Federal Government is committed to the objective of phasing out single use, lightweight plastic bags by 1 January 2009,

they do not intend to introduce a levy to achieve this.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 10 March 2008)

## NSW TAKES A GOOD LOOK AT ITSELF

The NSW Local Government Association has developed a report which compares a range of Local Government services in 2005/06.

Government for domestic waste collection services and the cost of providing that service to residential properties.

2005/06 also looked at recycling rates for each Local Government.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 24 January 2008)

Issues identified in the report included differences between the amount charged by Local

The report *Comparable information on NSW Local Government Councils*

## ONE LIGHTWEIGHTED PLASTIC BEER

### One Bin Campaign

A campaign aimed at reducing office waste has been launched in the UK. The 'One Bin' campaign launched by Envirowise encourages offices to remove individual desk bins and force workers to walk to one central bin. The campaign challenges office workers to think about how they use materials and waste.



For more information visit [www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk) (Source: RRF, 29 February 2008)

### Lightweighted

Wrap in the UK has announced the results of a study into the carbon impact

of bottling wine in the UK in glass vs. PET bottles.

The study demonstrates the positive environmental impact of lightweighting and the incorporation of recycled content into wine bottles.

The report is available [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk) (Source: [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk))



### Plastic

The British Government has announced that retailers will now be charging for plastic bags in the UK. Legislation is being introduced to allow the new levy to come into effect in early 2009. (Source: Environmental Management News, 14 March 2008)

### Beer

Top beer brands in the UK have released new lighter bottles in response to a consumer demand for more environmentally friendly packaging.

The new bottles were developed with WRAP and save thousands of tonnes of glass and significantly reduce CO2 emissions. WRAP has also been working to help create lightweight wine bottles which have been adopted by supermarkets.

For more information visit [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)

(Source: [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk))

## GETTING IN GOOD PRACTICE

The Irish National Farming Union has joined with other industry and stakeholders to reduce the amount of non-

packaging plastics going to landfill. An information sheet on good practice has been distributed to farmers. For more

information visit [www.agwasteplastic.org.uk](http://www.agwasteplastic.org.uk) (Source: Warmer Bulletin, Issue 113)

## FUTURE CLEAR AS GLASS

Waste industry group Stewardship Ontario has signed a deal with Canadian recycled glass processor Unical to build a new glass

processing plant in Toronto, Canada.

\$11.2 million over the next seven years.

The plant will save on the cost of operating five municipalities recycling programs by approx.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 7 March 2008)

## AT PEACE WITH GREENER ELECTRONICS

Greenpeace has published an updated version of their *Greener Electronics*.



The guide ranks major Indian and global manufacturers of electronic products on their policies and practice on eliminating harmful chemicals and on taking responsibility for

their products once they are discarded by consumers. The guide is available from [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)

(Source: RRF, 7 March 2008)

## GERMANS SAVE THE DAY

A German waste management group and Naples have reached an agreement on helping the Italian city get rid of most of the garbage that has been piling up in the

streets since collection stopped, the agency said.

streets of Naples since collection came to a near halt in December.

As of the end of January, some 250,000 tons of backlogged trash had piled up on the

(Source: RRF, 22 February 2008)

This Easter Cadbury in the UK has released an unboxed 'eco-egg'. The egg reduces wrapping waste and is a part of Cadburys effort to reduce 30% of its carbon emissions by 2020.



(Source: RRF, 29 February 2008)

## MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Next Meeting

Date: 23 April 2008

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)

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## 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 29 March 2008 **Earth Hour 8pm-9pm**  
For more information visit [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)
- 15 April 2008 **Illegal Dumping Workshop**  
Technology Park, Bentley, WA  
For more information please contact Jennie Anderton on 6467 5130 or [jennie.anderton@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:jennie.anderton@dec.wa.gov.au)
- 16-19 April 2008 **Towards Zero Waste Summit**  
Hangzhou Province, China  
For more information contact Wei Fisher on 9222 0914 or email [wei.fisher@doir.wa.gov.au](mailto:wei.fisher@doir.wa.gov.au)
- 4-10 May 2008 **International Composting Awareness Week**  
For more information visit [www.compostweek.com.au](http://www.compostweek.com.au)
- 6 May 2008 **Illegal Dumping Workshop**  
Technology Park, Bentley, WA  
For more information please contact Jennie Anderton on 6467 5130 or [jennie.anderton@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:jennie.anderton@dec.wa.gov.au)
- 9-11 July 2008 **National Environment Conference**  
Port Douglas, QLD  
For more information contact Malcolm Petrie on 07 3000 22020 or email [Malcolm\\_petrie@gag.asn.au](mailto:Malcolm_petrie@gag.asn.au)
- 25-31 August 2008 **Keep Australia Beautiful week**  
For more information visit [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)
- 8-12 September 2008 **Waste & Recycle 2008 Conference, *The Heat is On: No Time to Waste***  
The Esplanade Hotel Fremantle  
For more information visit [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)
- 20-21 September 2008 **Clean Up the World Weekend**  
For more information visit [www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au)
- 10-16 November 2008 **National Recycling Week**  
For more information visit [www.planetark.com](http://www.planetark.com)

## 2008 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 4 April 2008 **Community Grants Scheme**  
For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)
- 30 September 2008 **Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme—Phase 2**  
For more information visit [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
*"Setting 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



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

