

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 112

April 2008

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## COMMUNIST WASTE



The Municipal Waste Advisory Council sent four delegates to a 'Towards Zero Waste Summit' in Hangzhou, China. MWAC representatives were

the MWAC Executive Officer and Councillors from the Cities of Geraldton-Greenough and Melville and Shire of Gingin.

The delegates visited waste management facilities for two days, followed by a two-day Summit.

The MWAC Executive Officer presented a paper at the summit on Local Government waste management practices in Western Australia.

For more information contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063.

## SUBMIT TO MWAC

In March 2008, a two yearly review commenced on the Container Deposit Systems (CDS) and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) WALGA Policy Statements.

Revised Policy Statements on EPR and CDS Policy Statements are now out for comment.

With the provisions in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Act for EPR, a strong and united Local Government position is needed. Therefore the review of and additional input into the Policy Statements is vital.

The Policy Statements are available from the

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

Submissions close **Monday 26 May 2008**.

For more information on the Policy Statements and how to make a submission please contact Judy Scott on 9213 2086 or email [jscott@walga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walga.asn.au)

## TIME'S A WASTING...

The Waste and Recycle 2008 Conference is themed *The Heat is On: No Time to Waste*. The Conference runs from 8-12 September and will be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle.

Fantastic sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are still available. These opportunities offer exposure to over 300 delegates from Federal, State and Local Government and the waste management industry.

The proposed keynote and invited speakers include Jeff Seadon, Enzo Favoino, Mike Munger, Garth Hickie, Helen Speigelman and Sandra Cointreau.

Some of the topics that will be covered at the Conference include Climate Change, Extended Producer Responsibility, Carbon Offsets, Organics and Compost, Rural Issues, Legislation and Hazardous Waste. Delegates attending the conference can expect to

participate in discussions regarding the delicate balance between waste management, environment and economy; enhancing your knowledge of current trends within the industry; and investigating how you and your organisation can improve your waste management strategies and practices.

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

## BIG BUCKS FOR HAZARDS

Over the past year MWAC has been working with Department of Environment and Conservation and Local Governments to develop a new Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program.



The new Program has been given the go ahead by Hon. Templeman MLA, Minister for the Environment; Climate Change. The Program is worth up to \$1 million per year for a period of three years.

The Program will fund HHW collection infrastructure and

disposal of HHW for both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

A steering committee consisting of MWAC, Local and State Government will be meeting soon and expressions of interest for the infrastructure will be distributed in the near future.

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

To facilitate the introduction of the new HHW Program, the Western Metropolitan Regional

Council (WMRC) held a Pilot HHW Collection Day on Saturday 16th February 2008.

The three hour collection period attracted an overwhelming 200 vehicles, 1200L of water-based paint, 400L of oil-based paint and 200L of other HHW. This was an average of 10 containers of paint per vehicle.

For more information please email Bernie Burnett at [Bernie@wmrc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Bernie@wmrc.wa.gov.au)

Cascade has launched Cascade Green, a "100% carbon offset" beer. Cascade Green has initially purchased certified carbon offsets for the Hobart Landfill Flare Facility.

(Source: [www.fostersgroup.com/mediacentre](http://www.fostersgroup.com/mediacentre))



## CLIMATE CHANGE FOCUS



MWAC Chair, Mayor Paddi Creevey, indicated at February's Municipal Waste Advisory Council meeting that she would not be continuing on the WALGA State

Council, and hence would resign as MWAC Chair.

Mayor Creevey indicated that she will be focusing her efforts on actions for Climate Change and lobbying to this effect.

The Municipal Waste Advisory

Council would like to thank Mayor Creevey for all her work in the waste industry over the past years and wish all the best for her future endeavours.

## PROJECT KELLIE

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council is very happy to welcome Ms Kellie Field to the team as the MWAC Project Coordinator.

Kellie studied Environmental Science at Murdoch University and has a background as an environmental scientist in contaminated sites.

Kellie is also a fitness trainer and is looking forward to getting MWAC into tip top shape.

For more information contact Kellie on 9213 2062 or email [kfield@walga.asn.au](mailto:kfield@walga.asn.au)

## SMRC ENDORSES FREQUENT PICKUP



The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) has endorsed a report supporting the introduction of weekly kerbside recycling collections by its member Councils.

A nine month trial, funded through the National Packaging Covenant, monitored 300 households in

Bibra Lake.

Households that had weekly kerbside recycling collection showed a 52 per cent increase in the recovery of recyclables, compared to a neighbouring control area.

A follow-up phone survey indicated that 87 per cent of households thought it was important for the weekly collection of recyclables to continue and 85 per cent were

prepared to spend 50 cents extra a week for the service.

The SMRC endorsed report, supporting the introduction of the weekly service, has now gone to the member Councils for their consideration.

For more information contact Brendan Doherty on 9329 2700 or email [bdoherty@smrc.com.au](mailto:bdoherty@smrc.com.au)

## BATTERIES THRIVING

The EMRC dry-cell battery collection program continues into 2008. The program has increased the school participation rate now to 27 schools.

The aim is to educate children on the importance of correct disposal and provides a means of responsible disposal. The school program assists with informing

parents, friends, and neighbours about the benefits of collecting and recycling batteries.



Some teachers integrate the program with the curriculum in the way of storytelling and educational posters. Classes compete to see who can collect the greatest amount of batteries by weight. EMRC collect batteries at the end of

the term for shipping to the recycling centre.

EMRC also provides dry-cell collection bins in all public libraries in the Perth's Eastern Region. Residents are encouraged to take their used household dry-cell batteries to these collection points for recycling. For more information visit [www.emrc.org.au](http://www.emrc.org.au)

## FIRST PAST THE POST



The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has formally endorsed the Pilbara Regional Waste Management Plan.

DEC presented the Pilbara Regional Council (PRC) with a

cheque for \$60,000 for the development of the Plan. Funding will cover activities such as public awareness and the acquisition of equipment and technology.

PRC are currently in the process of establishing a steering group which will be

responsible for appointing a non-partisan recycling coordinator.

For more information contact Adrian Ellson, PRC Executive Officer on 0428 940 632 or email at [prc@roebourne.wa.gov.au](mailto:prc@roebourne.wa.gov.au)

## NORTHAM TO BE RECYCLED

The Shire of Northam has recently sent out a survey to all residents seeking feedback on kerbside recycling collection.

Currently residents are able to deposit recycling at collection points throughout the Shire. The initial

response, approximately a week since the mail out, indicates that almost 90 per cent of residents want kerbside recycling. Once the data has been collated, the extent of the kerbside service will be determined according to response in geographical regions of the Shire.

The Tender process has begun and the Shire are looking at implementing the kerbside recycling collection in the next financial year. For more information contact Phil Stevens on 9 6 2 2 6 1 3 5 or [health@northamshire.wa.gov.au](mailto:health@northamshire.wa.gov.au)

## POSITION OF THE FORTNIGHT

The Waste Management Board has released its Position Paper on Recycled Organics.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council will be engaging with the State Government on this issue.

For a copy of the Position Statement on Recycled Organics go to [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)

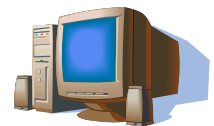
## WASTE LEVY REVIEW

The Waste Management Board (WMB) engaged a consultant to undertake a review of some aspects of the landfill levy in September 2007.

Four Scenes Consulting Pty Ltd conducted a desktop review of relevant reports and held interviews with selected stakeholders.

The final report was released in November 2007 and is now available from the Zero Waste website [www.zerowastewa.com.au/levy/](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au/levy/)

DELL will recycle your e-waste for free, whilst Phillips is lobbying that customers should pay a fee for e-waste recycling (Source:<http://weblog.Greenpeace.org>)



## COMPOST HEAVYWEIGHT

Compost Australia is holding a training workshop *Marketing and Specifying Application Specific Compost Products* on Wednesday 30th April 8.00am-4.00pm in Perth.

Ron Alexander will be presenting the workshop. He has experience marketing organic products in the US, Canada, Europe and Australia. Ron is the co-manager of the US Composting Council's Seal

of Testing Assurance Program. RSVP by **Thursday 24th April 2008**. For more information phone 02 8746 5000 or email [sinead@wmaa.asn.au](mailto:sinead@wmaa.asn.au)

## SECOND HAND ROSE



The NSW Government and the Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Maitland Councils will be establishing a new kerbside collection project for reusable goods in the Hunter, North of Sydney.

The government is providing \$114,000 funding. The service will provide 114,000 homes with three collections per year for the next five years. The program will accept goods such as clothing, toys, mobile phones and DVDs.

The project envisage recycling up to 4000 tonnes of items per year. It also hopes to recycle 1.3 million plastic bags.

(Source: Environmental Management News.net)

Australia is the leader in newspaper recycling, at a



rate of 75 per cent. (Source: Planet Ark)

## RECYCLING RATES IN THE LIMELIGHT

The National Packaging Covenant (NPC) was introduced in 1999 to reduce the environmental effects of packaging and in the future to stop products ending up in landfill. Recently the Covenant recycling data has been in the media headlines.

The aim of the Covenant is to recycle 65 per cent of packaging by 2010. Signatories of the covenant

include hundreds of companies and most Australian governments. WALGA is actively engaged in the NPC.

The covenant recorded 56 per cent recycling rate in 2005 to 2006, but following a recent audit it recorded 43 per cent. Federal Environment Minister, Hon. Peter Garratt commented that the audit figures were only a draft and he would like to

see the figures once properly refined.

The NPC is currently working on its mid term review and is under significant pressure to produce results by 2010.

For more information on the NPC phone 03 9861 2322 or go to [www.packagingcovenant.org.au](http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au) (Source: Canberra Times)

## DRINKING BILL



The Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts will be considering trends in waste production in Australia and examine the effectiveness of existing strategies to reduce, recover

and reuse waste. The Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008 will also be part of their enquiry.

The committee has invited submissions to comment on the terms of reference. Submissions close **Friday 23 May 2008**.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council will be making a submission on the terms of reference.

For more information contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3439 or go to [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)

## SEEKING ROADIES

The WMAA WA Landfill Group is organising their annual Country Road Show. This year it is to be held mid-August in Geraldton.

They are seeking Expressions of Interest (Eoi) from anyone who would like to be a presenter at this year's Road Show.

For further information or to express your interest please contact Jordina Ruta at [wa2@wmaa.asn.au](mailto:wa2@wmaa.asn.au)

## WHAT A COWM!

Centre for Organic Waste Management (COWM) was opened in August 2000 and has extensive knowledge of the processes involved in organic



resource management. The Centre applied for a patent on their intellectual property for bioremediation of soil; soil stabilization; and advanced nitrogen removal from wastewater.

COWM have released their Final Report on this project.

For a copy of the report visit <http://cowm.murdoch.edu.au/publications>

## YOU BEAUTY!

Keep Australia Beautiful WA has announced a Sustainable Cities awards program.

in environmental beautification and protection.

The WA winner will then compete at a national level in October 2008.

It will give local governments and communities an opportunity to present their initiatives and be acknowledged for their efforts

Entry is free and the awards program covers a range of categories including Biodiversity and Youth Environment.

Entries close on **Friday 25 April 2008**. For more information contact Anna McGlynn on 6467 5547 or go to [www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au)

## OLD GLASS, SHINING FUTURE

The Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW, Sydney Water and Benedict Sand and Gravel conducted a trial on using crushed glass for civil construction.

Using crushed recycled glass for embedding water and sewer mains pipe exceeded the performance of natural sand. The



report indicated that the glass was cheaper, easier to handle and spread.

For more information phone 02 8837 6000 or email [sustainability@environmentnsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@environmentnsw.gov.au)

## VIC VERSUS SA



**Victorians could be rewarded for drinking**

Victorians could be receiving 10 cents per recycled drink container under the proposed container deposit legislation (CDL).

home to increase recycling and clean up the environment. Independent MP Craig Ingram and the Greens are aiming to have the legislation drafted by April, prior to the mid-year review of the National Packaging Covenant.

to about 80 per cent of drink containers recycled in South Australia. (Source: [news.com.au](http://news.com.au))

### Food scrap trial in SA

SA is seeking Councils to participate in a three month trial, involving collection of food waste in compostable bags placed in green waste bins. (Source: [emn.net.au](http://emn.net.au))

The aim is to target consumers outside of the

Ingram said that only 30 per cent of recycled product is getting recycled. That compares

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### Chopsticks

In an attempt to reduce landfill the Japanese Cabinet approved plans for a recycling society. They will be urging citizens to take their own chopsticks for dinner time



instead of using disposable ones.

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



### False Teeth

The Japan Society for the Recycling of Dentures is crushing down false teeth and

extracting precious metals. Metal from one denture can turn into 3,000 yen or worth \$28 USD. The money is then donated to organisations like UNICEF.

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



Definition of a Freegan: A person who chooses to reduce their spending and consumption habits by living off waste.

(Source: [www.freegan.info](http://www.freegan.info))

## MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Next Meeting

Date: 18 June 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)

### CONTACT DETAILS

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#### MWAC Policy Coordinator

Ms Judy Scott

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Ms Bienne Argent

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## 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 30 April 2008 **Compost Australia, Marketing Workshop**  
For more information contact WMAA on 02 8745 5000
- 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
- 9-11 July 2008 **National Environment Conference**  
Port Douglas, QLD  
For more information contact Malcolm Petrie on 07 3000 2220 or email [Malcolm\\_petrie@lgag.asn.au](mailto:Malcolm_petrie@lgag.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
- 16-18 September 2008 **NSW Waste Management Conference and Expo**  
For more information visit [www.nswwasteconference.com.au](http://www.nswwasteconference.com.au) or email Veronica Pullens [veronica@wmaa.asn.au](mailto:veronica@wmaa.asn.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

- 25 April 2008 **Sustainable Cities**  
For more information contact Anna McGlynn on 6467 5547
- 23 May 2008 **Management of Australia's Waste Streams & the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008** Terms of reference. For more information contact the secretariat on 02 6277 3439
- 26 May 2008 **Container Deposit Systems and Extended Producer Responsibility** For more information contact Judy Scott on 9213 2069 or email [jscott@walga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walga.asn.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

