

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 115

July 2008

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## WARR TO END ALL WASTE

### WARR and WARRL Proclaimed

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Act 2007 and WARR Levy Act 2007 were fully proclaimed on 1 July 2008. An InfoPage on the impact of the Acts has been developed and distributed to Local Government. The InfoPage is also available from the WasteNet Website [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)

### WARR Levy—Consultation

The Waste Authority has sent an open letter to all Local Governments and interested parties indicating that there are 2 areas of the Levy they intend to review:

- ◆ Non-metropolitan landfill application; and
- ◆ Category 63 (inert) landfill application of the Levy.

There will be a public session on the application of the Levy to the Category 63 landfills on

**Tuesday 9 September (3–5.30pm).** This will be a FREE session open to all interested parties.

We also understand a series of non-metropolitan public session are planned for August/September. More information will be available on the Waste Authority website [www.zerowaste.com.au](http://www.zerowaste.com.au) in the near future.

## GETTING THEIR ACT TOGETHER?

The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act, and subsequent papers detailing regulations and technical specifications regarding the Act, has been identified by WALGA as an area of concern for Local Governments responsible for the management of large landfills.

WALGA has undertaken research and conducted negotiations on what the

implications of the reporting requirements might be, and what additional resourcing will be available to ensure that Local Governments are equipped to report.

As part of this research, it was identified that clarification would be required on whether Local Government are considered 'constitutional corporations;' for the purpose of the Act.

Legal advice on this issue has been sought and a full breakdown of the issue can be found on the WasteNet Website [www.wastenet.net.au/issues/nger\\_act\\_2007](http://www.wastenet.net.au/issues/nger_act_2007)

For more information contact Melanie Bainbridge, Climate Change Coordinator, on 9 2 1 3 2 0 3 9 or [mbainbridge@walga.asn.au](mailto:mbainbridge@walga.asn.au)

## EARLY BIRD GETS IN CHEAP

Want to go to the Waste & Recycle Conference 2008 (Tuesday 9–Friday 12 September)?

Well get your skates on and register before **Friday 1 August**, for Early Bird discounts.

Don't miss out on the Poolside Tropical Cocktail Function, exciting range of workshops and tours, or the inaugural Outdoor Exhibition of Big Toys. Not to mention international Keynote speakers Jeff Seadon, Mike Munger, Enzo Favoino and

Helen Spiegelman.

Visit the Waste & Recycle Conference website [www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au) for the Registration Form and Brochure (you can also register online here).

## RESULTS ARE IN!

MWAC recently conducted a problematic waste survey. The survey was completed by 74 Local Governments and Regional Councils (33 metropolitan, 41 non-metropolitan).

The top 5 wastes identified as needing an Extended Producer

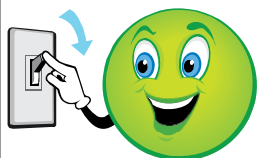
Responsibility Scheme were:

1. Tyres;
2. E-waste;
3. Used Motor Oil;
4. Glass Containers;
5. Batteries.

WasteNet Website [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au) or contact Judy Scott 9213 2086 or [jscott@walga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walga.asn.au)



To view the full results of the survey, visit the



CitySwitch Green Office is a project that was established by three Sydney Councils to improve the energy ratings of their office buildings. It has expanded to Perth, Melbourne and Adelaide and aims to sign up 700 businesses by 2012.

For more information visit [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cityswitch/](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cityswitch/)

(Source: WME Magazine, June 2008, p10)

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council would like to thank those Local Governments who commented on the draft Consultation, Communication and Waste Education Policy Statement.

To facilitate further input into this Policy Statement a few short questions have been

developed to gain input on areas of concern.

These questions cover appropriate methods of consultation and communication between WALGA and Local Government (on waste management issues) and the key roles of Local and State/Federal Government in regard to Waste Education.

These questions are available from the WasteNet Website. The closing date for the questions is **Friday 15 August 2008**.

For more information visit [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au) or contact Judy Scott 9213 2086 [jscott@walga.asn.au](mailto:jscott@walga.asn.au)

## OPINIONATED?

## MORE PILOTS FLYING

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program is progressing well. Three pilot collection days are planned. These collection days will be hosted by the City of Stirling, City of South Perth and Southern Metropolitan Regional Council.

If your local government is disposing of HHW and you

would like to be part of the Program, the following is required:

- ◆ Local Government invoices sent to the WALGA;
- ◆ All invoices must be accompanied by a manifest (detailing material disposed of);
- ◆ All manifests supplied in electronic form to [kfield@walga.asn.au](mailto:kfield@walga.asn.au); and

◆ A copy of the original invoice from the contractor.

For more information on the Program and pilot days visit the WasteNet website or contact Kellie Field on 9213 2062 or [kfield@walga.asn.au](mailto:kfield@walga.asn.au).



## FUTURE BRIGHT FOR CFL'S?

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) recycling has been prominent in the media this month.

### In WA...

Francis Logan, Minister for Energy; Resources; Industry and Enterprise released a media statement on Thursday 3 July on a pilot recycling program launched by Synergy.

The program aims to encourage householders to use CFL's by providing

recycling bins around the metropolitan area. The bins are located at:

- ◆ City of Stirling
- ◆ City of Gosnells
- ◆ Town of Vincent
- ◆ City of Wanerloo
- ◆ City of Mandurah
- ◆ City of Fremantle
- ◆ Synergy's Head Office



CMA Recycling will recycle the mercury, glass, aluminum and phosphor from the globes into marketable by-products.

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

### In Australia...

CFL's hit the big time when they were featured on the ABC's, 7.30 Report on Tuesday 1 July 2008.

To read the transcript or see the video, visit [www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2008/s2291366.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2008/s2291366.htm)

## NEW FACES ON DEC

### Long Term Recruitment

MWAC would like to congratulate the DEC on their long term approach to recruitment, with several recent arrivals deserving special note.

Congratulations to Reuben Gregor on the birth of his daughter, Madeleine Rose.

We'd also like to extend our congratulations to Mike Reid on the birth of his son Jonah (Mike used to work at WALGA and is pictured left—the one not in a blanket).

### LG Infiltration

Another new face at DEC is Geraldine Busby. Geraldine, formerly of EMRC, is now working hard for the State Government on e-waste and organics. You can contact Geraldine on [geraldine.busby@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:geraldine.busby@dec.wa.gov.au)



## SUSTAIN CITIES—SCORE POINTS

### Keep Australia Beautiful Week

During Monday 25 - Sunday 31 August, you can help the war against climate change and protect our natural resources by participating in the *Score Points for the Environment challenge*.

Visit [www.keepeaustraliabeautiful.org.au](http://www.keepeaustraliabeautiful.org.au) and record your actions against the list of activities on the website. You can see how your workplace,



household and the rest of Australia are positively contributing to the environment.

### Sustainable Cities Winners

The Sustainable Cities Program, sponsored by the Packaging Stewardship Forum and Grundfos, has announced the State winner for 2008.

City of Gosnells was announced as the State winner, at an awards

ceremony held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on 25 June 2008. City of Gosnells have shown a strong commitment to sustainability entering into four categories, including Sustainable Community Partnerships, Environmental Education and winning the Water and Energy Conservation and Youth Environment categories. For further information contact Anna McGlynn on 6467 5547.

### What The?

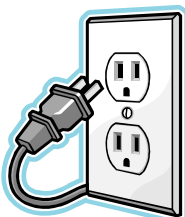
In Japan, manufacturers are making handbags from scrap seatbelts, leather seats and airbags.



(Source: [japanfs.org/db/2134-e](http://japanfs.org/db/2134-e))

## WE'VE GOT THE POWER

In *The West Australian* (9 July) an article featured titled 'Landfill gives Perth power boost as gas marketing scheme lowers threshold'.



The article explains how Perth's rubbish is helping address the State's power squeeze, with electricity generated from landfill.

Belmont-based Landfill Gas and Power is supplying excess electricity to the Perth grid

from its six waste-to-energy power stations.

For further information visit the Landfill Gas & Power website [www.landfillgas.com.au](http://www.landfillgas.com.au) or contact them on 9475 0144.

## RELEASE GAS

The National Greenhouse Report was released at the end of June 2008.

The Waste Sector has received an excellent report card- reducing emissions by 11.4% between 1990 and 2006. This is a significant result, considering consumption and waste generation has increased.

This is whilst the energy sector increased its emissions by 40%.



The report recommends further reductions could be achieved if a National Waste Minimisation Strategy was implemented, in conjunction with the Emissions Trading

Scheme and banning organics from landfill.

To access the Report visit [www.climatechange.gov.au/inventory/](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/inventory/)

(Source: [www.environmentalmanagement.net.au/StoryView.aspx?StoryID=242617](http://www.environmentalmanagement.net.au/StoryView.aspx?StoryID=242617))



## ARE YOUR OFFSETS LEGIT?

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has launched guidance material on carbon offset claims.

As there is a growing trend to market claims about the ability

to 'neutralise' carbon footprint. Consumers concerns about the veracity of claims on carbon offsets have led the ACCC to develop guidance for consumers and industry on the Trade Practices Act implications of carbon offset claims.

The *Carbon Claims and the Trade Practices Act* is available from the ACCC Website, for more information visit [www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

## SA VS VIC

### 1% Green Levy

The Adelaide City Council has approved a 1 per cent levy for ratepayers to assist in 'green projects'.



environmental projects. This includes providing a bench top bio bin for household food scraps.

cents per plastic bag may run for 4 weeks in August, it is still waiting on approval by the ACCC. If it gets the green light, the trial will be run in Fountain Gate, Warnambool and Wangaratta. The trial outcomes will be considered at the next EPHC meeting.

### Plastic Bag Levy Trial

In its 2008/2009 Annual Business Plan and Budget over \$17 million has been allocated for sustainability, climate change and

A trial supported by the Victorian Government and the Australian National Retailers Association (ANRA) for customers to be charged 10

(Source: environmental managementnews.net newsletter, 1 July 2008)

Food wastage costs UK households \$20 billion a year. The food scraps release 18 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually, according to WRAP.

(Source: WME Magazine, June 2008, p 17)



## HOW MUCH GAS DO YOU PRODUCE?

Hyder Consulting has updated its landfill greenhouse emission estimation tool (excel-based) to take into account the changes to the estimation method given in the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting ( m e a s u r e m e n t ) Determination.

In the waste profile, textiles, nappies, sludge, rubber and leather are now included. The effect is to increase default methane generation estimates for municipal and commercial/ industrial waste.

flow rates to estimate emissions.

The estimation tool is available at [www.insidewaste.com.au](http://www.insidewaste.com.au)

(Source: Environmental ManagementNews.net 9 July 2008)

The Determination also includes an option for reporters to use measurements of gas

## NEW CHAIR



The National Packaging Covenant has appointed a new chair, Cr Dick Gross. Cr Gross is currently a

councilor at the City of Port Phillip in Melbourne and has been the president of the Municipal Association of Victoria for two years. One of his major priorities is to increase recycling rates in the

industrial and commercial sector. For example, pubs only recycle about 10 per cent of glass bottles consumed on their premises.

(Source: EnvironmentalManagementNews.net)

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We want to hear your Local Government news and events!



Council Information Bulletin is the **1st Wednesday of every month.**

The deadline for contributing to the monthly publication of the Municipal Waste Advisory

Contributions should be in some way waste related, be approximately 50 to 100 words in length, include a contact

name, number and email. Any contribution should be submitted to Bienne Argent by email [bargent@walga.asn.au](mailto:bargent@walga.asn.au) For more information please contact Bienne on 9213 2069.

## ALTERNATE COLLECTIONS

In Renton, Washington a project titled *Sustainable Curbside Collection Pilot* was undertaken. The pilot program tested customer responses, public health impacts and potential waste diversion of every other week rubbish, recycling, yard debris, and food scrap collection.

The pilot's aim was for a more sustainable collection system, by reducing transportation costs and emissions.

The pilot was judged a success, based on:

- ◆ high level customer acceptability/satisfaction;
- ◆ increased recycling and

organics diversion; and  
◆ negligible or positive public health impacts.

The report is available at [www.metrokc.gov/dnpr/swd/garbage-recycling](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnpr/swd/garbage-recycling)

(Source: RRF, 29 June 2008)

## PLASTIC BAG WAR



### In Bulgaria...

The Ministry of Environment and Water Affairs (MOEW) in Bulgaria is preparing legislation that aims to limit usage of plastic bags.

source of pollution. MOEW experts are currently looking at practices used in other countries, to limit the usage of plastic bags.

### In India...

A non-government organisation (NGO) is working with womens groups to provide an innovative

approach dealing with waste. It is exchanging ginger and garlic to housewives for scrap polythene. They are aiming to create a sense of responsibility among people and a better way of handling plastic wastes.

(Source: RRF, 20 June 2008)

Thin bags plastic bags are not being recycled and are a huge

## RECYCLING IN THE BANK

RecycleBank is a rewards program that motivates people to recycle. In Omaha, Nebraska, it has increased recycling from 10kg to 21kg per household in one month.

be redeemed with more than 400 national reward partners, such as Kraft Foods and Coca-Cola as well as local reward partners like gyms, pizza stores and grocery stores.



The program motivates households to recycle by measuring the amount of recyclables from each household and converting the weight into RecycleBank Reward Points. The points can

The household recycling bins are fitted with an RFID (Radio-Frequency Identification) tag that allows RecycleBank to track the weight of recycling and participation of households.

RecycleBank is being used in 75 local government areas and has diverted more than 36 million tonnes of recyclables from landfills, saved 90 million litres of oil and more than 360,000 trees.

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

(Source: [solidwastemag.com/issues](http://solidwastemag.com/issues))

## LONDON STILL



The Order to create the Waste and Recycling Board was laid before Parliament and is set to be

approved in the House of Lords 8 July 2008.

The goal of the Board is to allocate £84 million over three

years to new waste management projects.

(Source: [recycle.co.uk/news/70200.html](http://recycle.co.uk/news/70200.html))

## STUDENTS DRINK BEER FOR PHD

A university PhD student in Wales sourced beer bottles from campus bars to create glass kitchen and bathroom tiles.



Tara Oseng was commissioned to decorate a ecofriendly show home. She said that her sustainable method of production was greener than traditional glass tiles, due to

using old beer bottles and using less energy than in hot glass production. Tara hopes that it will develop into a commercial operation.

(Source: [news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk))

In the US, grease rustlers are stealing up to 100,000 L of used from restaurant deep fryers every month. It is then being sold to underground biofuel brewers.

(Source: WME Magazine, June 2008, p 50)



## MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Next Meeting

Date: 20 August 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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WEST PERTH WA 6005

Postal Address:

PO Box 1544,  
WEST PERTH WA 6872

## 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 30 July-1 August 2008 **A Climate For Change**  
Adelaide, South Australia  
For more information phone 02 8746 5066 or email [katrina@wmaa.asn.au](mailto:katrina@wmaa.asn.au)
- 25-31 August 2008 **Keep Australia Beautiful Week**  
For more information visit [www.kabc.org.au](http://www.kabc.org.au)
- 9 September 2008 **Forum—Landfill Levy**  
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle  
More information will be available from [www.zerowastewa.com.au](http://www.zerowastewa.com.au)
- 9-12 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)
- 16-18 September 2008 **NSW Waste Management Conference and Expo**  
Sydney, New South Wales  
For more information visit [nswwasteconference.com.au](http://nswwasteconference.com.au) or contact Veronica Dullens on 02 8746 5055 or email [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)
- 23-25 September 2008 **IFAT 3rd International Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Refuse, Recycling and Natural Energy Sources**  
Shanghai, China  
For more information visit [www.ifat-china.com](http://www.ifat-china.com)
- 1-3 October 2008 **1st International Conference: Hazardous Waste Management**  
Chania-Crete, Greece  
For more information visit [hwm1.tuc.gr](http://hwm1.tuc.gr)
- 10-16 November **National Recycling Week**  
For more information visit [www.planetark.com](http://www.planetark.com)
- 19-20 November 2008 **Sustainable Waste Management—A Long Term View**  
Melbourne, Victoria  
For more information visit [wmaa.asn.au](http://wmaa.asn.au)

## 2008 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 15 August 2008 **Questions on—Consultation, Communication and Waste Education Policy Statement**  
For more information visit [www.wastenet.net.au](http://www.wastenet.net.au)
- 9 September 2008 **A Natural Resource Management Plan for Western Australia**  
For more information visit [www.nrm.wa.gov.au/draftNRMPlan.htm](http://www.nrm.wa.gov.au/draftNRMPlan.htm)
- 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



City of Geraldton-Greenough  
Climate of Opportunity



Reducing. Reusing. Recycling.



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL



South East  
METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL