

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 84

December 2005

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hurry! Hurry! National Packaging Covenant	2
CDL—I'll Drink to that CDL in WA	2
Tanks for the Memories Last Phase of Used Oil Program	2
A Battery of Help EMRC Battery Collection Program	2
Bouldly Recycling Kalgoorlie-Boulder Recycling	3
Tough New Guidelines? Landfill Waste Sites	3
A Stirling Effort Mixed Plastics Recycling	3
Recycling's in the Bag Brookton & Pingelly's Recycling	3
Lions Roar in Boyup Boyup Brook Recycling	4
And the Winner is Collie... Again Collie wins State Tidy Town Award	4
CCC Feedback Hazardous/Industrial Waste Precincts	4
Clean Up Australia 2006 How to Get Involved	4
Sour Milk Closure of Recycling Plant	4
Don't Get Wasted at Xmas How to Save on Waste this Xmas	5
Paper Chase Exporting Recycled Paper	5
Island Hopping into Recycling Kangaroo Island Recycling Plans	5
Herdling Your Mobile Recycling of Mobile Phones	6
Smart Computers HP & Dell Recycle their Computers	6
Tyred and True Recycling of Used Tyres	6
Look Out Litter Bugs Litter Auditors Hit the Streets	6
Glass—An Eye on the Future New Glass Recycling Technology	6
Recycling Retailers Planet Ark Survey	7
From Trash to Treasure Sustainable Art	7
Turn a Blind Eye and Pay Up BIG New UK Regulations	7
Recycled Jobs Jobs Growth in Recycling	7
Don't Worry-Recycle-Be Happy Recycling Increases Social Wellbeing	7

WARR DECLARED !!

On Monday 12 December Cabinet approved drafting instructions for a Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bill 2006 (WARR). In doing so Cabinet also identified that the drafting of the Bill would be a high priority.

Parliamentary Counsel will now work with the instructing officer in the Department of Environment to progress a draft of the Bill.

Cabinet has required that a draft of the Bill is placed before it again prior to any public consultation.

Importantly, Cabinet has decreed that there will be at least a 14 week consultation period on the Bill.

The main elements of the Bill are based on the Waste Management Bill 2002 with some notable changes. The Bill is likely to cover:

- ◆ EDPH to be consulted on public health issues;
- ◆ A Waste Authority to be established with approximately 7 members
- ◆ Defining the functions and powers of the Waste Authority;
- ◆ KABC to report to the Minister through the Waste Authority (separate Litter Act remains);
- ◆ Sections regarding the provision of waste management services and the role of the Director General of the Department
- ◆ Fee and charges provisions;

- ◆ The development and implementation of waste strategies;
- ◆ Extended Producer Responsibility head powers;
- ◆ The provision for Waste Management Plans;
- ◆ Incorporating the Landfill Levy Act into the Bill; and
- ◆ Provisions for offences and penalties and enforcement.

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council will be providing advice to Local Governments as the drafting progresses in 2006 with a draft Bill likely to be released around mid 2006.



LEVY—TATION....

Cabinet also approved consultation on an increase to the Landfill Levy at its meeting on 12 December.

The basis for consultation is understood to be similar to that undertaken last year

when the Minister released a report on the Landfill Levy and the Waste Management Board released a discussion paper on a proposed increase from the existing \$1 and \$3 per tonne at inert and putrescible sites respectively

to \$3 and \$6 at inert and putrescible sites respectively as of 1 July 2006. MWAC has advised that any decision would need to be announced prior to 1 March for budgeting purposes.

RRRS—PERIOD 15— OUT AND ABOUT

Application forms for Period 15 of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (RRRS) have been distributed to all Local Governments and Regional Councils in Western Australia.

Please submit your applications by **Monday the 30th of January 2006.**

Period 14 Report of the RRRS has been submitted to the Waste Management Board.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email rhrs@walga.asn.au

Biodegradable socks will soon be available in Japan. The socks are made from corn-derived fibre and will be manufactured by a US hosiery maker.



(Source: Environmental Newsletter 8/11/05)

HURRY! HURRY!

The National Packaging Covenant (NPC) Jurisdictional Projects Group (WA) meeting was held Wednesday 14 December 2005. The interim Local Government representatives are Alan Mortimer, Stuart McAll and

Bernard Ryan. Formal calls for representatives on the Group will be made early in the New Year.

Local Governments seeking funding for projects must submit an Expression of Interest

prior to **1 February 2006**.

For more information please contact Mr Edward Cordner, NPC Council ecordner@packagingcovenant.org.au or visit www.wastenet.net.au/programs/npc/index.htm

CDL—I'LL DRINK TO THAT

Rate rises as a consequence of increasing demands on Council recycling collection services could be avoided under a proposed new plan from the State Government to provide refunds on containers.

WA Local Government Association President, Cr Bill Mitchell, said the anticipated

cost savings from users returning containers rather than being collected by Councils, would enable many Non-Metropolitan Regional Councils to start recycling schemes – creating an estimated 300 jobs across Western Australia.

Cr Mitchell said, "A survey of 110 Local Governments in WA

had found 80% support for the introduction of a container deposit scheme – with support by country Councils higher than those in the metropolitan area."

For more information visit www.walga.asn.au/news/media

TANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

The Municipal Waste Advisory Council has been assisting Local Governments across Western Australia by providing used oil recycling infrastructure.

Delivery of Phase Four of the Program has commenced for the Shire's of Ashburton, Boyup Brook, Broome, Capel, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Gingin, Katanning, Kojonup, Ravensthorpe, the Cities of

Bunbury, Geraldton, Rockingham and the Geraldton-Greenough Regional Council. The cost of this infrastructure exceeds \$190,000.

Over the life of the Program more than 100 infrastructure units will have been provided to Local Governments.

The Used Oil Program is nearing completion and to ensure its success a promotional package

has been developed. This package will be supplied to all Local Governments that received infrastructure.

The promotional package includes signage, sample advertisements, a sample media release and flyer, as well as an Oil Spill Kit for placement on-site and will be distributed early in the New Year.

A BATTERY OF HELP

The aim of the EMRC's (Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council) Dry-cell Battery Collection Program is to capture dry-cell batteries from the household waste stream and ensure that they are disposed of appropriately.

The EMRC's Program has expanded to a total of fifteen schools in Perth's Eastern Region.

Participating schools engage their entire school community

by promoting the battery collection program through school newsletters, posters, skits and a range of other creative methods.

The schools regularly weigh their collections and are provided with a range of rewards for the participating students.

In 2005 the program has managed to divert in excess of 1.5 tonnes of dry-cell batteries

from the household waste stream. The collected batteries are put into a container and then concrete encapsulated. Once the concrete has set, the "encapsulated" batteries are put into a Class IV landfill at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility, preventing an environmental hazard.

For more information visit www.emrc.org.au

BOULDLY RECYCLING

Recycling services will soon be restored to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. A recently established company, Kalgoorlie Boulder Recycling (KBR), has purchased the existing recycling facility, previously operated by St Mary's Industry. It is anticipated the facility will provide a number of job opportunities. Following the closure of the recycling facility earlier this year, recyclables have had to be

transported to Esperance for processing.

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Mayor Ron Yuryevich, said, "It's exceptionally good news for the City because we will have our recycling program established here in the City and, as soon as they are ready to accept the recyclables, we will be basically switching the tap off to Esperance and directing it to them." The City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

is also following through with their commitment to provide recycling crates to householders for storage of recyclables. This will help to ensure there is plenty of recyclables for processing at the reopened facility.

For more information, please contact Keith Boase at the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder on 9021 9600 or visit www.kbrecycling.com.au

TOUGH NEW GUIDELINES?

The State Government is strengthening guidelines for landfill waste sites to minimise environmental impacts. Environment Minister Judy Edwards said the new guidelines covered issues such as location, design, operation and

rehabilitation of landfills. Some of the key elements include recommended buffer distances, flora and fauna protection, odour, noise, dust control and rehabilitation.

The Draft Guidelines are open for comment until the **31st of March 2006**.

To view the document visit the website below and click on Land/Waste Management/Publications/guidelines.

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

A STIRLING EFFORT

To minimise the amount of discarded household appliances, furniture and other material going to landfill, the City of Stirling is investigating a number of new initiatives.

materials collected separately for recycling.

Residents can now place mixed plastics separate on the verge, just as they do with scrap metal.

including broken plastic furniture, toys, plastic wrap and liquid chlorine/chemical containers.

For more information, contact Viet Nysen, Waste Minimisation at the City of Stirling on 9345 8685.

The City has stepped up its ongoing campaign to recover scrap metals and has added mixed plastics to the list of

In the first 4 weeks of the verge collection, the City has recovered 30m³ (2-3 tonnes) of loose mixed plastic a week



Engineering graduate Simon Mitchinson has developed a paper backpack. The bags are made from recycled, recyclable and biodegradable material – BUT they are not waterproof!

(Source:RRF-#44 7/11/05)

RECYCLING'S IN THE BAG

The Shires of Brookton and Pingelly (approximately 140km south-east of Perth) have joined a number of non-metropolitan Local Governments in implementing a kerbside recycling service for residents. The service is a fortnightly bag collection.

contractors (only two tenders were submitted) which may have to do with the transport costs to deliver recyclables to market. The Contractor's available storage space limits the types of recyclables that may be collected through the kerbside service.

This represents a yield of approximately 0.7kg of recyclables per household a week. The kerbside service does not cover outlying areas, however drop-off facilities are available in the townsites for residents of rural properties.

The Shires have encountered the usual problems that non-metropolitan Local Governments experience such as a lack of available

In the first 6 months of 2005, approximately 15 tonnes was collected from a total of 688 households that are located within the towns of Brookton and Pingelly.

For more information, please contact Michelle Stewart by email hbp@brookton.wa.gov.au.

An architect in Germany is recycling material from demolished state-built apartments in East Berlin to construct spacious two-storey villas.



(source: RRF-WINS #46 19/11/2005)

LIONS ROAR IN BOYUP

In the Shire of Boyup Brook ensuring material is recycled requires a joint effort from the Shire and the Boyup Brook Lions Club.

Although the Shire administration have an employee for general overseeing of the Recycling Depot, the staff hours necessary for processing the

recyclables needs to be carried out by volunteers. Volunteers from the Lions Club sort the materials and use the money generated from recycling to fund community services such as school projects for the underprivileged.

A free kerbside pick-up for recyclables, provided by the

Shire on the first Thursday of each month, has so far encouraged more than 25% of residents to make the effort to pack their recyclables for collection.

For more information, please contact Keith Jones at the Shire of Boyup Brook on 9765 1200.

AND THE WINNER IS COLLIE...AGAIN

The south-west town of Collie has won the State-wide award of this year's Tidy Town Awards.

Initiatives included school programs such as tree planting and composting, participation in Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day.

Collie will go on to represent WA in the national Tidy Towns titles in Brisbane in April 2006.

While Collie was the overall State winner, regional winners included Kambalda in the Goldfields, Tom Price in the Pilbara, Exmouth in the Gascoyne, Cuballing in Peel,

Dandaragan in the Mid West, Bidyadanga in the Kimberley, Goomalling in the Wheatbelt and Albany in the Great Southern.

For more information visit www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/media/media.nsf

CCC FEEDBACK

Since the announcement of the eight potential sites for hazardous/industrial waste treatment precincts, over 650 people have participated in Core Consultative Committee (3C) meetings and briefings in the regional areas where the

sites are proposed. A list of questions raised will soon be available and will be progressively updated.

3C have also announced that the exhibition period for the hazardous/industrial waste

treatment precincts will be extended. The final date for submission is the **17th of March 2006**.

For more information visit www.3c.org.au or contact the 3C on 9278 0931.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA 2006

The next Clean Up Australia Day will be on **March 5 2006**.

In 2005, more than 8,450 tonnes of rubbish was collected from over 7,000 sites nationwide.

Of this, approximately 470 tonnes was collected in WA.

Continued Local Government involvement is required to organise Clean Up sites within their areas.

For more information, visit www.cleanup.com.au or phone 1800 282 329



SOUR MILK

Environmental groups say the closure of Australia's only drinks carton recycling plant would be a major setback for recycling in Australia.

But the managers of the plant in Shoalhaven, NSW say their recycled paper cannot compete with cheaper foreign imports flooding the market and that's forced them to consider closing the facility.

This could mean that thousands of tonnes of milk cartons which are being recycled will soon end up in landfill or sent offshore.

(Source: www.abc.net.au/worldtoday)

DON'T GET WASTED AT XMAS

With the festive season almost upon us, our thoughts turn to the amount of waste generated.

Xmas Present for the Environment from the SEMRC

Here are some useful waste-less Christmas gift ideas courtesy of South East Metropolitan Regional Council:

- ◆ Give gifts of experience rather than things, e.g. movie tickets;
- ◆ Give the gift of time with coupons for baby-sitting or house cleaning;
- ◆ Buy practical gifts that will reduce waste and pollution, e.g. energy-efficient compact fluorescent globes or battery charger and rechargeable batteries;
- ◆ Consider purchasing from op-shops or give new life to old goods;
- ◆ Be creative with gift wrapping—use cloth nappies, handkerchiefs,

old maps, newspaper or decorate shopping bags; and

- ◆ Look for durability in a product and look for recyclable packaging and products that can be recycled.

For more information, please email Sarah Muirhead smuirhead@semrc.wa.gov.au



Sustainable Collaboration

The WA Collaboration has put together some tips on how to have a more sustainable Christmas:

- ◆ Give memberships to community organisations;
- ◆ Give a local or Australian plant;
- ◆ Animal sponsorship at Perth Zoo; or
- ◆ A Multi-Rider ticket.

Many more sustainable gift ideas are available at www.wacollaboration.org.au



Reduce Waste to Landfill and Your Budget—What Not to Buy

Choice magazine has compiled a list of 'useless' presents routinely bought, the list is based on a survey of nearly 12,000 people. The number one item was an electric ice shaver, followed closely by ice-cream makers and foot spas.

Also on the list of 40 plus items were aromatherapy diffusers, hot dog maker and waffle iron.

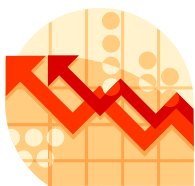
(Reuters Oddly Enough Report , 9/12/05)

Homemade bongos that are thrown into domestic recycling bins are causing contamination of material that could otherwise be reused.



(Source: RRF#45 12/11/2005)

PAPER CHASE



Statistics from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics show recycled paper is a growing export

industry, with Australian recovered paper export earnings increasing by 84% to \$97 million in 2004-2005.

A recent report showed that between 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, Australian exports of recovered paper

almost doubled from 343,000 to 650,000 tonnes.

For more information, visit www.abareconomics.com

(Source: Environmental Management News, 16/11/05)

ISLAND HOPPING INTO RECYCLING

Kangaroo Island has moved to the forefront of sustainable waste management with the recent decision to close all the Island's landfill sites and instead compact the rubbish in a specially designed semi-trailer that travels on the SeaLink ferry.

In order to reduce the cost of transporting the rubbish to the mainland (in excess of \$1 million this year) the Council has launched a campaign asking residents to recycle and reuse.

The Council is now seeking expressions of interest for a business to start up at the

Island's waste depot to handle recyclable and compostable material for resale.

For more information, visit www.cansmart.org

(Source: The Islander, 20 October 2005)

HERDING YOUR MOBILE

The Australian Mobile Telecommunication Association (AMTA) has introduced the MobileMuster Program which is the official recycling program for the mobile phones industry. They estimate that more than 12 million unused mobile phones are lying around homes and offices around Australia.

For more information, visit www.mobilemuster.com.au

Changes to UK packaging laws will mean all businesses that handle over 50 tonnes of packaging a year and with a turnover in excess of 2 million pounds a year will have to meet recycling targets for their packaging waste recycling.



(Source: WME 1/12/2005)

SMART COMPUTERS

HapPy Helpers

A computer take back program will be developed in NSW under an agreement between the State Government and Hewlett Packard (HP).

As part of the three-year agreement, the company will:

- ◆ Develop a community computer take back program for all HP computers;
- ◆ Help develop guidelines for green IT purchasing;
- ◆ Work with the Government to evaluate international take back and recycling

schemes; and

- ◆ Reduce waste generation at HP facilities.

For more information, visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au/education/sustainbusinessresources.htm

(Source: WME 23/11/05)

Ding Dong Dell

From December, Dell will pilot a free recycling service for all brands of PCs. Customers in Sydney and Melbourne can take advantage of the service when they buy a new Dell Dimension or Inspiron Notebook. Since introducing its paid recycling

service in December last year, Dell has helped customers to recycle almost 60 tonnes of computer equipment.

Around the world Dell has also helped to keep more than 2,250 tonnes of unwanted computer equipment out of landfills over the last two years through more than 50 community computer recycling events.

For more information visit www.dell.com.au/recycling

TYRED AND TRUE

Technology to recycle used tyres has been named Invention of the Year on ABC's *The New Inventors*.

The technology aims to recycle 100 per cent of a tyre cleanly

and efficiently without waste, residue or emissions.

By this time next year the inventor, John Dobozy, plans to have a factory set-up in Sydney with the capacity to recycle up

to two million used tyres a year.

For more information, visit www.abc.net.au/newinventors

LOOK OUT LITTER BUGS

Teams of litter auditors have hit the streets thanks to a \$130,000 grant from the Federal Government. The litter auditors will catalogue the rubbish Australians

discard in parks, beaches and along highways.

This is part of Keep Australia Beautiful's National Litter Index for 2005-2008 which has been

relaunched for the first time in 10 years due to the funding.

For more information, visit www.kab.org.au/nat/default.asp

GLASS—AN EYE ON THE FUTURE

Australian Glass Technologies (AGT) has a new fine glass recycling facility that processes 300 tonnes of broken glass a week.

going to landfill. The plant is fully automated and sorts the recycled glass into classes from fine powders to coarse pieces.

makes it good for use in coastal areas or landscaping around swimming pools.

In the past, broken glass was too small for most glass recyclers to accept and was

The recycled glass can be incorporated into bricks and pavers to stop salt water from breaking down the clay which

For more information, please contact Peter Collins, EPA Queensland (07)3227 7966.

(Source: The Compass, Issue 13)

RECYCLING RETAILERS

Australia's manufacturers and retailers are being urged to adopt more environmentally friendly packaging. In a recent nationwide survey, commissioned by Planet Ark, almost 90% of consumers surveyed said they wanted product wrappings to be

acceptable in their recycling bins.



John Dee, Founder of Planet Ark, said, "While consumers have bought more than 10 million reusable green shopping bags in Australia, businesses are not delivering the goods."

(Source: www.abc.net.au/news)

FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

'Reverse Garbage' is a not-for-profit business in Sydney that pioneered the selling of industrial off-cuts and unwanted materials. After realising that 90% of their customers were putting the

materials to creative use, they opened a sustainable art and design center called "mad" – make a difference.

The centre supports fresh local art and showcases many

different ways to reuse unwanted materials. For more information, visit www.reversegarbage.org.au

(Source: WME Vol. 16 No. 9 Oct 2005)

TURN A BLIND EYE AND PAY UP BIG

Under new regulations, UK households have had a legal duty of care imposed to ensure rubbish is collected by authorised carriers.

Whilst Council contractors deal with most household waste, residents occasionally

hire independent companies to collect bulky items.

Failing to take reasonable measures to ensure the carriers are authorised could now see individuals face fines of up to \$12,000.

For more information visit www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2005/waste-1114.htm

(Source: WME Weekly, 23/11/05)



RECYCLED JOBS

A recent survey in North Carolina shows the impact of recycling as an economic development tool in the State.

The recycling industry is expected to continue its growth with expansion of

existing firms and the entry of new companies resulting in a rising level of employment in this sector.

The two main obstacles to growth are access to materials that are currently going to

landfills and access to capital. Recycling employs about 14,000 people across the State. This represents a 60% increase in 10 years.

(Source: BioCycle, October 2005)



DON'T WORRY-RECYCLE-BE HAPPY



UK Environment Minister, Jeff Rooker recently told delegates at a Waste and Resources

Action Programme (WRAP) conference in Belfast that increased recycling also increases social wellbeing.

He said, "Waste management is fast becoming one of the most limiting factors to our social wellbeing and economic

development, because waste production has such an impact on our natural resources, environment and quality of life."

For more information, visit www.cansmart.org/news

Some of the 150,000 cars that were ruined by Hurricane Katrina are being crushed, melted and recycled as construction materials.

The steel that is produced can be put back into buildings or fabricated for machinery or roofing.

(Source: EMN 1/12/2005)

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

Date : 22 March 2006

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

MWAC Executive Officer

Mr Bernard Ryan

Tel: 08 9213 2037

Email: bryan@walga.asn.au

MWAC Waste Management Officer

Ms Rebecca Brown

Tel: 08 9213 2063

Email: rbrown@walga.asn.au

MWAC Waste Policy Officer

Mr Mike Reid

Tel: 08 9213 2086

Email: mreid@walga.asn.au

Office:

Local Government House

15 Altona Street,

WEST PERTH WA 6005

Postal Address:

PO Box 1544,

WEST PERTH WA 6872

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 14–15 February 2006 **Plastics Recycling 2006-Orlando, Florida**
For more information visit www.plasticsrecycling.com
- 28 February 2006 **Business Clean Up Day**
For more information visit www.cleanup.com.au
- 3 March 2006 **Schools Clean Up Day**
For more information visit www.cleanup.com.au
- 5 March 2006 **Clean Up Australia Day**
For more information visit www.cleanup.com.au
- 9–11 May 2006 **Enviro 06 Conference & Exhibition**
Melbourne Exhibition & Conference Centre
For more information visit www.enviroaust.net
- 25–26 May 2006 **2006 Buying Green –Perth, Western Australia**
For more information contact: Peter Hoare, WALGA (08) 9321 5055
or email buygreen06@walga.asn.au
- 21–23 June 2006 **Waste Management 2006–Malta**
For more information visit www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences
- 25–27 June 2006 **Paper Recycling Conference & Trade Show**
Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Chicago
For more information visit www.paperrecyclingconference.com
- 18–22 September 2006 **Waste & Recycle 2006**
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

2006 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 30 January 2006 **RRRS Period 15 Applications Due**
Return address given on forms.
For more information contact Rebecca Brown 9213 2063
- 1 February 2006 **The National Packaging Covenant**
Round 1 Expressions of Interest for Funding
- 17 March 2006 **3C Exhibition Period for Hazardous/Industrial Waste Precincts**
For more information visit www.3c.org.au
- 31 March 2006 **Submissions on Draft Siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Landfills**
For more information visit www.environment.wa.gov.au
- 16 June 2006 **The National Packaging Covenant**
Round 2 Expressions of Interest for Funding



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Working for the Environment Together

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.

