



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 79

July 2005

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WELL TRAINED AT WASTE & RECYCLE 2005

Registration is open for the *Waste and Recycle 2005 Conference: (Re)Defining Roles and Responsibilities to Achieve Viable Outcomes*.

An exciting new opportunity is available for local government Officers and Elected Members, with professional development and tailored workshop opportunities being conducted.

There are three, full-day courses for local government Officers, scheduled to occur on Monday 22nd August.

These courses are:

1. Introduction to Local Government Finance;
2. Managing Employee Performance; and
3. Introduction to the Local Government Act.

For Elected Members, a provocative half-day workshop focussing on key issues such as regional cooperation, will be held on Wednesday 24th August.

Please note that separate registration is required for both of these events and you do not need to be a conference delegate to attend.

Both will be conducted at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle.

More information will be emailed to Local Governments shortly. Alternatively visit the Waste and Recycle 2005 website for registration forms www.wasteandrecycle.com.au



TARGET—65% OFF

At the meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC), it was agreed to extend the National Packaging Covenant (NPC) for a further five years. The extension is based on achieving the target of 65% packaging

recycling by 2010. Currently the recycling rate is 48%.

Another important commitment was not to increase the volume of packaging material to landfill. The National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM)

for Used Packaging Material has also been altered to ensure that the NPC is backed up by legislation.

For more information visit www.ephc.gov.au/news.html

HALF RRRS'D

The Minister for Environment; Science has approved the Waste Management Board's recommendations for the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (RRRS).

This will see the funds allocated to the RRRS halved

as of the 1st of January 2006 and scrapped entirely by the 1st of July 2006.

A workshop to discuss a replacement Scheme will be held on the 29th of July 2005.

To register for the workshop and for more information please contact Clare Middleton on 9278 0971 or email clare.middleton@environment.wa.gov.au

PERIOD 14 DUE—29TH JULY 2005

Applications for Period 14 of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme have been distributed to all Local Governments and Regional Councils in Western Australia.

The closing date for these applications is **4pm Friday the 29th of July**.

If you have any questions regarding the applications

please contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063 or email rrrs@walga.asn.au

An environmental lobby group in Italy has reported that the Mafia are circumventing strict legislation governing the disposal of waste.



(Source: www.edie.net/news)

E IS FOR EDUCATION



The EMRC (Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council) has launched the community consultation phase of its Resource Recovery Project.

The community is being asked to participate in *Our Waste Challenge* – a collaborative process to identify better ways to manage waste in Perth's Eastern Region.

Member Councils, businesses and local residents were notified of the commencement of this process.

The first Local Information and Feedback session was well attended by approximately forty residents.

Another five sessions will be held over the coming months. Responses from these workshops will feed into two

Regional Workshops, planned for October 2005 and February 2006.

The EMRC also intends to engage in a Community Partnership Agreement Process which will occur in 2006.

For more information visit www.rgang.org.au

POWERFUL CRITTER

Litter Critter

To minimise the windblown litter within and adjacent to Tamala Park, the Mindarie Regional Council (MRC) has invested in a 'litter critter'. The Critter is a huge vacuum cleaner with a long hose, mounted on a purpose-built trailer.

More Power from your MRC

The MRC is producing more 'green' energy from its Tamala Park Landfill Plant. This is a joint venture between the MRC and Landfill Gas and Power Pty Ltd.

The generation capacity of the power plant has increased from three to five Megawatts of electricity.

A fifth generator will become operational this month, further increasing the generation capacity to seven Megawatts. That is enough to power 7,000 households for 24 hours.

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

VERY CANNY

The South East Metropolitan Regional Council (SEMRC) has set itself the challenge of increasing its steel can recycling rate to 50% by February 2006.

SEMRC Chair, Cr Kevin Trent said, "In our 2003 waste audit we found that barely 30% of

steel was being recycled. Over 530 tonnes of steel is thrown away each year."

The SEMRC will achieve this through its comprehensive waste education programme. One part of this programme is a series of shopping centre

displays designed to highlight steel can recycling.

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



KOJONUP GOES ALL THE WAY

The Shire of Kojonup has recently expanded the types of plastic they are collecting from types 1, 2, and 3; to all plastics from 1 to 7.

The Shires plastic processor, Visy, has recently started taking a fuller range of plastics.



For more information contact Melissa Wilson on 9831 1066.

(Source: Kojonup News, 10/6/05)

ARMADALE IS WHEELIE GOOD

The City of Armadale has found a great use for the 400 mobile garbage bins (MGB's) they replace annually—worm farms.

Several high schools have been provided with clean MGB's, plastic welding equipment and worm

colonies. This has allowed the students to not only reuse the MGB's but also reduce the volume of organic household waste to landfill.

Bob Sutton Armadale's Waste Services Coordinator said, "It is such a worthwhile project and it really educates

the kids." The Project aims to introduce waste management into high schools.

For more information contact Bob Sutton on 9399 0111.

(Source: Comment News, 26/4/05)

VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT TO EPR

The Department of Environment has released its *Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Policy Statement*.

The Policy Statement outlines the Government's

commitment to EPR and how it will apply in Western Australia.

The Government's preferred approach is for EPR to be based on voluntary partnerships between

Government, industry and the community, with the State Government playing a strategic facilitation role.

To view the Policy Statement visit www.wastewa.com

NEW FILLING CLASSIFICATIONS

An updated version of the Department of Environment's *Landfill Waste Classification and Waste Definitions 1996 (as amended)* will take effect from the 1st of July 2005.

Changes include the combination of the *Guidelines for Acceptance of Solid Waste to Landfill* and the *Landfill Waste Classification and Waste Definitions 1996 (as amended)* into the latter

document and a decrease in the putrescible allowance for inert waste from 5% to 0.5% (by weight).

To access the document visit www.environment.wa.gov.au

PREVENT LITTER BY FORCE

The Litter Prevention Taskforce is developing a Litter Prevention Strategy for the State.

A key objective of the Taskforce is to raise awareness and the profile of litter, and set a strategic

direction for litter prevention and management in WA. The Taskforce, which was appointed in February, consists of 13 members representing State and Local Government, the community, education, public parks and gardens, waterways, waste

management services and the building and beverage industries.

For more information contact Susan Waller on 9278 0683 or email susan.waller@environment.wa.gov.au

A TADWA OF RECYCLING

Technology Assisting Disability WA (TADWA) is a not for profit organisation which, amongst other things, provides a Computer Loan Service (CLS) to people with disabilities and carers in Western Australia.

TADWA gratefully accept and refurbish IT equipment which meets certain specifications.

TADWA are also participating

in an e-waste recycling pilot project with Simms Metal. No waste generated by their refurbishing operation is sent to the tip for landfill.

TADWA's current premises are in Eden Hill, however, due to site redevelopment TADWA is looking for new premises or a site to build on.

If any Councils are able to help, either through the

provision of IT equipment (which meets TADWA's specifications) or with possible new premises, please contact the TADWA CEO Mr Bob Whitaker 9379 3733 or email tadwaceo@westnet.com.au

For more information visit www.tadwa.org.au

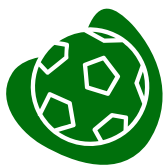


Japanese communication firm NEC has teamed up with a textile maker to produce mobile phone bodies constructed of plastics derived from corn.



(Environmental Management News, 17 June 2005)

The Organising Committee of the 2006 FIFA Football World Cup, to be held in Germany, has developed "Green Goal" the first environmental action plan for a world or European football championship.



(Source: Resource Recovery Forum, 6 June 2005)

LONGER EXHIBITIONISTS

In Core Consultative Committee (3C) news, the timeline for the exhibition period of the site selection process has been extended. This was necessary because of the greater than expected number of site nominations received. The endorsement of the hazardous/industrial waste treatment precinct sites will occur six months later than originally expected. A copy of 3C's advice to State Government and the response are available from the 3C website. 3C are recommending the adoption of the European Union classification of hazardous waste. For more information visit www.3c.org.au

STAMP OF APPROVAL

The State Government will be providing \$85,000 to the Motor Trades Association to extend the Green Stamp Program. \$65,000 has been allocated to support the implementation of the Management and Recycling Program in the cleaning and printing industries. The Program is aimed at small and medium sized business and is funded through the Waste Management and Recycling Fund. For more information visit www.ministers.wa.gov.au/edwards/index.cfm

BUTT, WHERE'S THE MONEY?

The Butt Littering Trust (BLT) is calling for submissions from government, consortiums and the private sector to implement projects to improve cigarette butt disposal behaviour. Grants of between \$10,000 and \$40,000 are available. Submissions close on the 22nd of July 2005. To download an application form and for more information please visit www.buttlitteringtrust.org



NZ TRACKS WA INITIATIVE

The New Zealand Ministry for the Environment is trialing WA's *Controlled Waste Tracking System* (CWTS). The Tracking System, development by the Department of Environment, is an internet based system providing data on waste movements in real time. The system has been repackaged for the non-regulatory New Zealand conditions. For more information on the CWTS visit www.environment.wa.gov.au

GUIDE HITS NEW HIGH

An initiative of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) called the *National Chemical Reference Guide* has recently been launched. The Guide provides a central website where you can find environmental standards or guidelines for over 600 chemicals. To access the guide visit www.deh.gov.au/chemicals-guide



TYRED YET?

A tyre take back scheme is gaining speed with the appointment of URS Australia Pty Ltd to undertake an economic study. and adjusted by industry, will be discussed at the tyre industry meeting in late July. The Environment Protection and Heritage Council Ministers released an analysis of the discussion paper *Co-Regulatory Framework for Product Stewardship*. This indicated strong industry support for co-regulation of tyres. For more information visit www.ephc.gov.au (Source: WME Weekly, 23 June)

THROW-AWAY REPORT

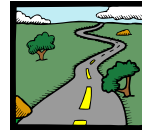
The *Don't Waste Our Roadside Report* has been released by EcoRecycle Victoria.

The Report examines the effect of a campaign in the Barwon Region which achieved a 67% reduction in roadside

littering in four locations.

The key elements of the campaign were mobile au billboards at certain locations, permanent roadside signage, promotion of a litter reporter line and free car litter bags.

For the full report please contact Pam Craven pcraven@ecorecycle.vic.gov.



FUZZY LOGIC C(RAM)'S LANDFILL

A report by Environment Victoria highlights the extent of the problem posed by computers which are stockpiled or put into landfill.

The Report, *Environmental Report Card on Computers - Computer Waste in Australia the Case for Producer Responsibility*, found that of the 500,000 computers that are made redundant in

Victoria annually, approximately three quarters end up in landfill.

For more information visit www.envict.org.au

COMET FUNDS PLANET

Several recycling companies have recently received funding from AusIndustry.

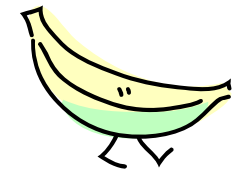
Under the *Commercial Ready Program*, Industrial Convergence received funding for the development of a containerised automated

waste processing and recycling plant.

Planet Paint were given assistance via the *Commercialising Emerging Technology (COMET) Program*. This company recycle automotive paint by-produce

into a quality industrial paint, incorporating 85% recycled material.

For more information about both Programs visit www.ausindustry.gov.au



METAL ALLIES

Sims Group has merged with the US firm Hugo Neu to form Sims Hugo Neu. This company will be one of the United States largest

recyclers and exporters of scrap steel. Shareholders in Sims will have a 74% controlling interest in the company.

For more information visit www.simsmetal.com.au (Source: Environmental Management News 23 June 2005)

FISHING NOT A WASTE OF TIME

Fishing boats in Scotland will soon be trawling for a new catch.

Following the introduction of the *Fishing for Waste Initiative*, boats will collect

litter and bring it back to shore in massive tarpaulin bags.

The litter will then be studied to determine its origin.

For more information visit www.savethenorthsea.com

(Source: WME Weekly, 2 June 2005)



WEEE IRISH

Irish manufacturers of electric goods will have to pay for the collection and disposal of their products under new regulations.

Manufactures who do not comply, will face 15 million Euro fines or 10 years in prison.

(Source: Ireland Online 6/7/05)



In a world first, the researchers at the University of Queensland are reducing the number of bananas going to landfill— instead these bananas will be use to create biodiesel.

(Source: Environmental Management News, 29 June 2005)

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting (Ordinary)

Date: 23 September, 2005

Time: 3.30 pm

Venue: Council Chambers, City of Albany

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 Project Coordinator

Ms Danielle Witham

Tel: 08 9213 2062

Email: dwitham@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

2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 29 July 2005 **Waste Management Board Workshop**
For more information and to register please contact
Clare Middleton on 9278 0971 or email
clare.middleton@environment.wa.gov.au
- 4th August 2005 **Bunbury ecoHome 'Clean Site' Demonstration**
Bunbury, Western Australia
For more information contact Sandii on 0439 977 906 or email
rogesa@bunbury.training.wa.gov.au
- 23–26 August 2005 **Waste & Recycle 2005**
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au
- 30 August–3
September 2005 **Work Aware, Sustainable School, Environmental Care at Home,
Green Play and Travel Clean Days**
For more information visit www.keepaustraliabeautiful.com.au
- 1–3 September
2005 **9th Conference on Environmental Science and Technology**
Rhodes Island, Greece
For more information visit www.gnest.org/cest/
- 7–9 September
2005 **Waste Q 2005: Creating Our Future; and
Landfill 2005**
Rydges Southbank, Brisbane
For more information visit www.wmaa.asn.au
- 3–7 October 2005 **Sardinia 2005 : 10th International Waste Management & Landfill
Symposium**
Cagliari, Italy
For more information visit www.sardiniasymposium.it
- 10–12 October 2005 **Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and
Production**
Melbourne, Australia
For more information visit www.6aprspc.com
- 17–21 October 2005 **14th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition**
Paris, France
For more information visit www.conference-biomass.com
- 1–3 November 2005 **WasteMinz Conference 2005**
Rotorua, New Zealand
For more information visit www.wasteminz.org.nz

2005 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS

- 29 July 2005 **RRRS Application Form Period 14**
Return to address given on forms.
For more information contact Rebecca Brown 9213 2063
- 31 August 2005 **'The Challenge' Steel Can Recycling Council**
For more information visit www.cansmart.org



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Working for the Environment's Sights

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.

