



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 87

March 2006

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CAN ANYONE SMELL SMOKE?



The Waste & Recycle 2006 Conference is titled "Crisis? What Crisis?" - *Are we fiddling while Rome burns?* This year's conference will focus on issues concerning the impact of our activities and consumption. In response to popular demand the Conference will once again be held at The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. The Conference runs from **Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd September 2006.**

For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au

WORKSHOPPED INTO SHAPE

On Monday 27th February the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) held a forum to discuss the two documents released by the Waste Management Board and the MWAC Submission on these documents. The Forum was well attended and the Municipal Waste Advisory Council would like to thank all those who contributed. Feedback from this forum was incorporated in the MWAC Submission to the Board.

The Submission is available from the WasteNet website www.wastenet.net.au

MINISTERING TO CDL

Following the resignation of Dr Judy Edwards as Minister for Environment, the Municipal Waste Advisory Council has written to the new Minister and is in the process of setting up a meeting to emphasise the importance of maintaining the good work that has begun on considering best practice Container Deposit Systems for WA.

CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's (SMRC) waste composting facility, a part of the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale, has been approved as a Greenhouse Friendly abatement project by the Federal Department of the Environment and Heritage. SMRC Chair Cr Doug Thompson said, "We are the first local government authority in Australia to have an approved Greenhouse Friendly abatement project and be able to offer carbon credits for sale. To date, the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council has been given approval for the sale of 11,238 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent [tCO₂-e] credits."

For more information contact SMRC on 9316 3988 or visit www.smrc.com.au



WHAT'S IN THE BLACK BOX

Some 550,000 tonnes of paper, equivalent to 3.3 million mature trees, was used for junk mail last year, making up 4% of all paper waste in the UK.



(Source: Edie News Centre, 7/2/2006)

As part of the Federal Government's *Product Stewardship Arrangements for Waste Oil, Local Government Used Oil Collection Infrastructure, Small Grants Program*, the Municipal Waste Advisory Council has recently supplied all Local Government and Regional Councils recipients of Used Oil Infrastructure with a comprehensive Promotional Package and an Oil Spill Response Kit.

The Promotional Package will assist with promotion of the facilities and community

education about used oil disposal.

The Spill Response Kit (pictured) contains absorbent for oil spills, heavy-duty gloves, eyewash, a pan and brush, disposal bags and instructions for use.

Signage has also been included to promote the used oil collection facilities on-site.

Spill Response Kits and signage have been supplied to a total of 85 sites throughout Western Australia.

The Promotional Package is also available to download from www.wastenet.net.au

For more information please contact Rebecca Brown on 9213 2063.



TRANSFER WORKS

The Augusta - Margaret River Shire began public consultation in 2004 with a view to staffing two of its four outlying Transfer Stations in Cowaramup and Kudardup.

These stations were open 24 hours and were unsupervised. This caused numerous difficulties, such as inappropriate materials being

disposed of and materials not being placed in bins.

The stations have been staffed since 11 December 2005 and a full schedule of fees now apply. The service has been positively received by the public.

The stations now offer a comprehensive range of recycling facilities and waste

disposal services which has dramatically reduced the volume of material going to landfill and increased the amount of recyclable items collected.

For more information contact Brendan Mohr, Shire of Augusta-Margaret River on 9780 5292.

NETTING SUCCESS

The Shire of Manjimup has been successfully stopping litter blowing from their landfill site for some time.

Their recipe for success:

- 1/3 of a 200L drum filled with concrete;
- 1 1/2 inch galvanised pole (with several bends); and
- prawn netting.

This, as shown in the photograph, provides the Shire with a way of managing litter.

The prawn netting has lasted five years. It is currently in the process of being replaced.

For more information contact Klaus Mueller on 9771 7743.



MIKE GETS ON HIS BIKE



Michael Reid, resident MWAC Policy Officer, is

departing Australia for the sunny climes of the United Kingdom, via Paris.

Mike will be leaving MWAC on the 31st of March.

All at MWAC would like to wish Mike the best for his latest adventure and we hope to see him when he returns.

SUMMARY STRIKES AGAIN

The MWAC Annual Summary The Summary contains months. To download the 2005 is now available from information on the activities Summary visit www.wastenet.net.au/about the WasteNet website. of the Council over the past 12

NO STOPPING THE MARCH OF THE SEMRC

The South East Metropolitan Regional Councils (SEMRC) brought up to date on the selection criteria by mid April, at which time the site feasibility study into the study so far. This has included conducting a selection criteria will then development of a resource community forum in Murray for go out for public recovery facility has Mandurah and Murray exhibition. expanded to include residents and we are now seeking additional members from those communities for the Community Reference Group (CRG). The SEMRC hope to expanded CRG by the end of March, and brief the new members on the site

To manage the expansion, some elements of the study have been delayed to enable the new study partners to be

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



INSIDE JOB

As of the 1st of April 2006, the City of Rockingham will assume in-house responsibility for the operation of the salvage area at their Millar Road landfill site. This trial will run for two years. The City is considering many changes to the existing operation including: an electromagnet at the tip face to ensure all scrap metal is collected; changes to the recycling drop off set up so more materials can be collected; and increased resale of products such as timber. In a financial analysis presented to Council it was anticipated that surplus income over expenditure would occur. This analysis did not include the significant financial benefits to be obtained from saving space in the landfill.

For more information contact Graham Rose 9524 2053.

CLEANAWAY THOSE BATTERIES

Cleanaway has recently started providing a battery recycling service for non-rechargeable and rechargeable batteries, the latter being those found in cordless phones, cordless drills, mobile phones, laptops, PCs, shavers and video cameras. Cleanaway provides, by post, a pre-paid recycling box. The cost is \$55 (inc GST) and includes delivery return postage of the full box, recycling of the batteries and reporting on the volume of batteries you have recycled.

When the full box is received by Cleanaway, the batteries are shipped overseas to a

licensed recycling facility in France where the Cadmium is recovered and used to manufacture new batteries. For more information contact Helene Macready, Project Co-ordinator, on (02) 4920 0230 or visit www.cleanaway.com.au

AWARDS SEASON IS UPON US

Banksia Awards

The Banksia Awards Program 2006 is now open. The Banksia Awards recognise and reward individuals, community groups, businesses and government organisations for leadership and excellence in protecting

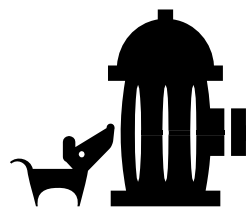
Australia's environment. Entries close on **Wednesday 10th May 2006**. For more information visit www.banksiafdn.com

Eureka

Entries for the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes 2006

are now open. The Eureka consist of 20 awards worth over \$200,000. Entries close on **Friday 4th May 2006**.

For more information visit www.amonline.net.au/eureka



(Source : www.physorg.com/news11050.html)

San Francisco in the US is considering turning dog poo into methane. This material makes up nearly 4% of San Francisco's residential waste. The City is currently experimenting by collecting dog droppings from a park.

AFGC WINDS UP BIEC

The Australian Food and Environment Council (BIEC)'s Commonwealth Games Litter Grocery Council (AFGC)'s Don't Waste Australia Campaign, public place Packaging Stewardship Forum campaign, will be taking over operation of recycling programs, and the Beverage Industry partnerships, such as the

For more information visit www.biec.com.au/

BEDDED IN MELBOURNE

For a long time mattresses have caused problems when illegally dumped or sent to landfills. The service suits hotels, aged care facilities, hostels, hospitals and student accommodation facilities. for re-use are dissected into their various components and recycled.

Now, Melbourne company Dreamsafe provide a solution to re-use mattresses where possible and recycle those that are good for nothing else. The mattresses are segregated into grades, with the best quality being treated and sanitised for use by welfare organisations. Those not suited

For further information contact KS Environmental on (03) 9551 7833.

(Source: <http://www.litter.vic.gov.au>)

KEEPING AUSTRALIA CLEAN

Motorists are the Worst
According to a survey recently released, Motorists are Australia's worst litterbugs.

The survey showed that 48% (by volume) of Australia's litter was found on highways, roads and in car parks. The Keep Australia Beautiful Council surveyed 825 sites across Australia with the top 5 types of litter being cigarette butts, miscellaneous paper, miscellaneous plastic, snack bags and confectionary wrappers and metal bottle tops and ring pulls.

Clean Up Australia 2006
This year's Clean Up Australia Day was very successful, with a record breaking 7,527 sites involved. In Western Australia, 491 sites were part of the Clean Up, with 589 tonnes of rubbish collected.

For more information visit www.kab.org.au



(Source: Tony Smith, Online Opinion)



IT HAS A RING(PULL) TO IT

Ring-pulls are not just artificial limbs for land mine victims in Thailand. legs, including a foot for a 44 year old female elephant!

In 1991 the Prosthesis Foundation at Chiang Mai University's Faculty of Medicine set up a Mobile Artificial Legs Production Unit and have since produced in excess of 4,650

For more information you can call Jim Burnside on (03) 5795 2461.

(Source: The Euroa Gazette, 14/2/2006)

THE GREAT PAPER CHASE

Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell claims Australia is a world leader in newspaper recycling. The Minister's comments accompanied the release of the new five-year National Environmental Sustainability Plan for the newspaper industry, developed by the Newsprint Producer/Publisher Group. The plan commits Australia's domestic newsprint manufacturer and newsprint publishers to recycling 76% of newspapers by 2010. The Plan replaces the previous Industry Waste Reduction Agreement model, incorporating a wider range of environmental management concerns. For more information visit www.pneb.com.au/press.html

(Source: EMN 10/2/06)

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE...

The surging global consumption of bottled water, which has more than doubled in the last six years, is a business that is heavily taxing the world's ecosystem.

The Australian Beverage Council reported that in 2004-05 about 550 million

litres of bottled water were consumed with 65 per cent of the plastic drink bottles ending up in landfill.



A recent report by the Washington-based Earth Policy Institute found that bottled water worldwide required 2.7 million tonnes of plastic each year for its packaging.

(Source: Sydney Morning Herald 26/2/06)

HOTELS GET WISE ABOUT WASTE

In Melbourne a total of 15 hotels will be participating in the *Savings in the City* program aimed at cutting the amount of waste sent from their premises to landfill by 20-40% this coming year.

All 15 hotels have now become Waste Wise certificated, with their waste reduction benchmarked against international environmental standards.

For more information visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

(Source: EMN 16/2/06)

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

The City of Oakland in California is planning to impose fees on takeaway food outlets to compensate for the cost of cleaning up the discarded packaging.

If approved, Oakland would be the first American city to force food and beverage outlets to contribute to the cost of cleaning up their rubbish.

state transport department for failing to clean up and prevent dumping along freeways.

Last year, Oakland sued the

(Source: ALGA News 10 February 2006)

UK GLASS AND CHARGES

Shift more Solid

In the UK, a trial of Recycled Glass Filtration Media has shown it can remove up to 70% more solids from wastewater than sand.

The glass was also superior to sand in that it "showed no tendency to clog up, when faced with high loadings of suspended material," said Andrew Calvert, Yorkshire Water R&D manager.

For more information visit www.wrap.org.uk/materials/glass/

(Source: WME, Vol. 17, No. 1 2006)

Charge for Contamination

In the UK, more than 10 Councils have introduced penalties for those who put recycling matter into general waste or contaminate recycling boxes with other rubbish.

The London Borough of Barnet was the first council to introduce compulsory recycling backed by fines a year ago. They have seen an increased recycling rate from nearly 17% to 29% of waste.

For more information visit www.barnet.gov.uk/

(Source: www.guardian.co.uk)

BELGIUM TYRES

A Belgian take-back organisation for tyres (Recyctyre) has been up and running for nearly a year.

This organisation is funded through a levy on new tyres.

This has helped to capture 81.5% of tyres marketed. The main treatments of the tyres recovered were energy recovered (36.9%), granulation (30.7%), exported for treatment (15.2%).

(Source : RRF 08-2006-February 24, 2006)



Police and the bomb squad were called out after workers at a Canadian recycling depot discovered an 18-inch long mortar shell as they were sifting through the recycling bins. The shell still had a pin in it!

N e a r b y businesses were immediately evacuated while the military disposed of it safely.



(Source: www.cbc.ca/calgary/story/ca_mortar2006131.html)

MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

Date: 17 May 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

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2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 29–31 March 2006 **Globe 2006—Leading the War on Waste**
Vancouver, Canada
For more information visit www.globe2006.com
- 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
- 29–31 May 2006 **Bureau of International Recycling World Recycling Convention 2006**
China World Hotel, Beijing China
For more information visit www.bir.org
- 31 May–2 June 2006 **Towards Zero Waste: Achieving Practical Solutions**
Stamford Grand Glenelg, South Australia
For more information visit www.wmaa.asn.au
- 13–15 September 2006 **ORBIT 2006 Conference**
Weimar, Germany
For more information visit www.orbit2006.de/cms/
- 15–17 September 2006 **Clean Up the World**
Everywhere, Earth
For more information visit www.cleanup.com.au
- 19–22 September 2006 **Waste & Recycle 2006: "Crisis? What Crisis?" - Are we fiddling while Rome burns?**
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
For more information visit www.wasteandrecycle.com.au
- 2–4 October 2006 **ISWA Annual Congress**
Copenhagen, Denmark
For more information visit www.iswa2006.org/home.htm
- 15–17 November 2006 **National Recycling Week**
For more information visit www.planetark.com
- 31 March 2006 **Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines: Siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Landfills**
For more information visit www.wastenet.net.au
- 4 May 2006 **Eureka Awards**
For more information visit www.amonline.net.au/eureka
- 10 May 2006 **Banksia Awards**
For more information visit www.banksiafdn.com

2006 CALENDAR OF SUBMISSIONS



MUNICIPAL WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
"Getting the Environment Right"

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.

