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Business Waste Reduction Project Toolkit

Step 6: Improve Waste Practices on an ongoing basis

Improving waste practices on an ongoing basis

Your waste reduction program will evolve over time as the efficiency of your waste reduction systems improve, and staff become more familiar with and supportive of the program.

Waste reduction and reuse options that may not have been obvious when the WRAP was first developed, or new options created by upgrades in technology may lead you to look at new waste management options and to set new targets as part of your WRAP.

You may also find that you are consistently meeting your waste reduction target for certain actions and now have the capacity to revise targets in a way that increases waste avoidance and recovery. Alternatively, your initial targets may not have been realistic; in which case, you will need to reassess your targets based on your improved understanding of your capacity.

Step 6 is about monitoring your progress at regular intervals and feeding the information back into the development of your WRAP.

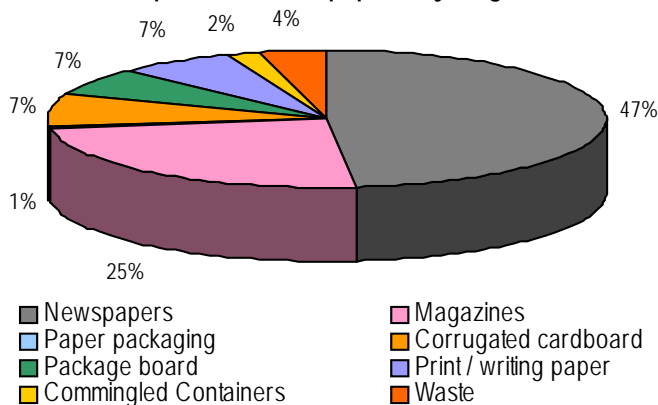


Monitoring your progress

So far you have undertaken two assessments of your waste, with the results of the second assessment used for gauging initial success. It is unlikely that your company will have been successful in meeting all its targets in the first iteration of WRAP implementation. Do not be discouraged by this, regular review of your progress will eventually help you meet these targets.

In terms of the frequency of monitoring for reviewing progress, annually is probably the minimum frequency for providing meaningful reviewing of progress. In the first year or so of WRAP implementation you may wish to increase the frequency of monitoring for reviewing progress in order to quickly iron out teething problems. Using this approach will help you meet timelines for meeting targets and provide greater opportunities for obtaining cost savings early in the WRAP implementation. You can always reduce the frequency of monitoring for review once your targets are being met regularly. However, as long as you continue to modify your targets, you should maintain the same frequency of monitoring for review.

Composition of the paper recycling bin

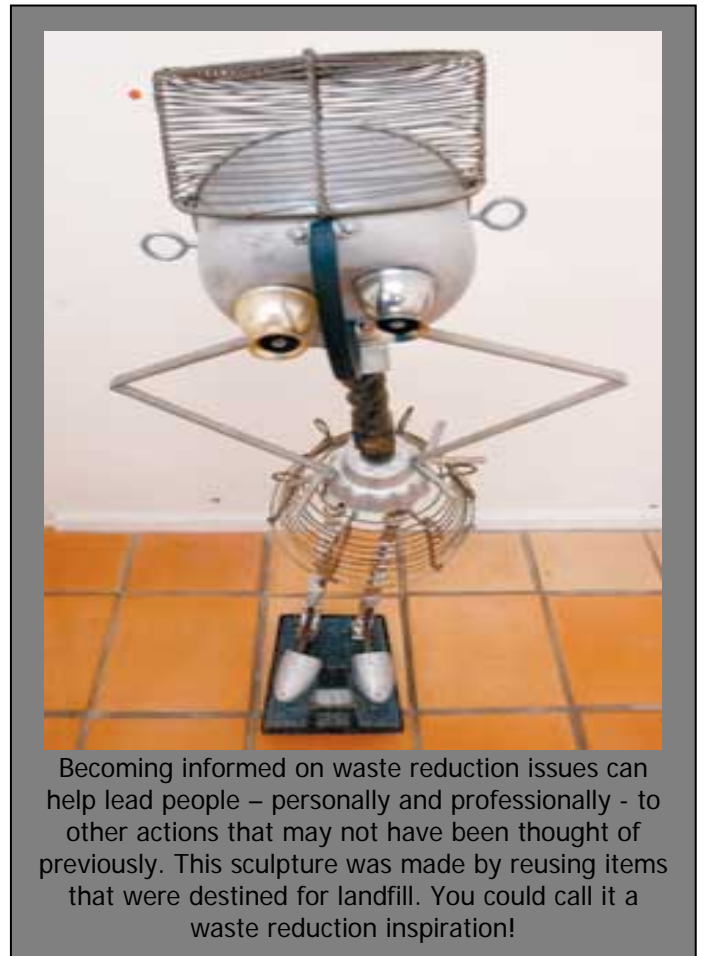


Continued communication

It is important to keep management and general staff up to date with progress reports on the success of WRAP implementation to ensure the focus, continuity and positive evolution of targets and actions.

It is also important to continue communicating with waste contractors and other businesses as this may help you identify new reuse options for your waste materials, which could be financially beneficial to your company. Suppliers of goods may also be able to reduce their packaging.

You may also wish to communicate the success of your approach to other companies working in similar areas to your business in order to promote this aspect of environmental sustainable development whilst providing leadership in your field.



Becoming informed on waste reduction issues can help lead people – personally and professionally - to other actions that may not have been thought of previously. This sculpture was made by reusing items that were destined for landfill. You could call it a waste reduction inspiration!



North East Waste Forum:
Business Waste Reduction Project

Waste-Smart Business

The North East Waste Forum would like to congratulate

Smith's Bakery

for the successful development and implementation of their Waste Reduction Action Plan as part of the Business Waste Reduction Project.

In recognition of your efforts and commitment to sustainable waste management in Northern NSW, the North East Waste Forum has awarded your business the status of

'Waste-Smart Business, 2006'

Project Coordinator
North East Waste Forum

Waste Management
Richmond Valley Council

Longer term goals

If you find that your company is successful in implementing their WRAP and that you are using your success in this area as an effective marketing tool, you may wish to include duties outlined in your WRAP as part of staff position descriptions, or making the objectives of your WRAP part of company policy or mission statements. This will provide a clear waste reduction focus for the business as well as help you market your business even more effectively and to attract and retain staff working for the business.

Completed the 6 Toolkit steps?

Once you have completed the 6 steps of the North East Waste Forum Business Waste Reduction Project, contact the North East Waste forum for media assistance to promote your business' efforts and to receive a certificate confirming your status as a 'Waste-Smart Business'.

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