

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

May 2003



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Landfill Operator Training

The next Landfill Operator Training Course will be held on July 15 & 16 at Casino RSM. Murray Cullen from Southern Cross University will again run the training. The cost for the NEWF member councils is \$250/person and non-member councils and other organisations is \$300/person.

Day 1 covers such issues as solid waste management, site appearance, waste separation, Northern Rivers Area Health Service, directing traffic and Occupational Health and Safety before dividing into two streams in the afternoon in preparation for the second day's activities.

Day 2 covers Landfill issues and Transfer Station issues, with a field trip (gatehouse, recycling/reuse areas/leachate treatment etc).

All councils wishing to send staff will need to RSVP to Heather Cook before June 10. Payment should be made before June 30. All councils are encouraged to send staff.

2003/2004 Milestones

At a special meeting held in Ballina on May 30, NEWF member councils discussed proposed milestones for the 2003/2004 financial year. These milestones, once finalised, will be sent to Resource NSW as part of the sponsorship submission for the coming 12 months. A wide range of projects have been selected including a full review of the NEWF, Landfill Operator Training, Commercial & Industrial and Construction & Demolition Data Gathering, Transfer Station & Landfill Open Days, Recycling Contamination, A-Z of Waste and an Avoidance Education Mobile Display Unit. The milestones will be finalised at the next NEWF meeting on Friday 13 June at Ballina Shire Council.

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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Environmental Education Network

The first meeting to form a North Coast Environmental Education Network will be held on Thursday June 12 from 10.00am – 11.30am at the Geolink office in Lennox Head. Environmental Education providers across the region (including council Waste Education Officers) have been invited to participate. The network will provide a forum for discussion, information sharing, resource sharing, forming project partnerships and much more.

Landfill Open Day Lismore City Council

Lismore City Council opened the doors to its Wyrallah Road Waste Facility on May 3, inviting residents to take a look at what really happens at 'the tip'. Over 300 people attended to participate in tours of the landfill site and the Tryton Worm Farm. Residents were entertained with music, puppet shows, and street performers. The NEWF attended with an information display about the NEWF and information about natural cleaning and correct disposal of medicines. Staff were on hand to provide printed material and answer questions. The NEWF also provided an opportunity for residents to browse the website for information. Congratulations to LCC staff for organising such a wonderful event.

A – Z of Waste

The A – Z of Waste is currently being prepared in the form of 26 information sheets containing up to date information about a range of waste related subjects. Subjects from A – J will shortly be finalised, with others to follow. Once complete the information sheets will be available from the NEWF website. Councils will also be able to print copies for interested community members. The subjects listed for inclusion to date include Asbestos, Waste Avoidance, Low Waste Events, Greenhouse Gases, Illegal Dumping, Household Hazardous Waste, Building materials, Disposable Items, Food Waste, and many others.

Sustainable Schools Program

Sue Burton, Senior Project Officer with Resource NSW, will attend the June meeting of the NEWF to talk about the Sustainable Schools Program currently being run by RNSW and the Department of Education. Sue will give us an overview of the program and suggest ways that councils can help support schools in their area.

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