

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE



Newsletter Enquires To:
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NEWF News

Linda Tohver, Education Co-ordinator, is taking leave from August to November. For enquiries about The Green House, contact Karen Rudkin (phone 6687 4090 or email at greenhouse@northeastwasteform.org.au).

For enquiries regarding other Education Projects, contact Bernadette Thomas.

Business Waste Reduction Project



Peter Crane, Hub Manager for Maranoa Retirement Village with the Alstonville centre's recycling bins. Prior to involvement with the project, the Alstonville and Lismore centres had no recycling in place.

Events

September – October 2006

8th September
Working Group
Regional Waste Disposal
Ballina Shire Council

21st and 22nd September
Voluntary Regional Waste
Groups Meeting
Wagga Wagga

13th October
NEWF Meeting
Clarence Valley Council

Business Waste Reduction Project

The Business Waste Reduction Project will once again target a new larger waste-producing business per council area.

Concurrently, experiences and practical solutions learnt with Stage 1 participants will be used to encourage both interest and waste reduction actions from similar businesses, using committee memberships or allegiances where possible.

Ballina Shire Council is targeting Alstonville High School and Ballina Fair; Byron Shire is targeting caravan parks and accommodation businesses; Clarence Valley is targeting Maclean Hospital and Oyster Cove and Dougherty Villas; and Richmond Valley is targeting Casino's clubs and pubs for recycling cooperative possibilities, as well as Cedar's and St Mary's Nursing Homes.

Case studies of Stage 1 businesses and a business waste reduction toolkit will be used to assist the NEWF in transferring valuable information already collected. These resources are in their final stage of completion and are looking clear, concise and fantastic! They are due for release in August so watch the NEWF website for their upload at www.northeastwasteforum.org.au.

For further information on the Business Waste Reduction Project, please contact Samala Hogg on (02) 6685 8016

Project Updates

Waste Management Project Updates:

- The NEWF will begin two new projects this year – the Waste Wise Events Project and the Council Sustainable Purchasing and Waste Reduction Project. Applications have been received for both projects with anticipated start dates of October/November. More detailed updates will be available in the coming months.
- The Hazardous Waste Collection days held in Byron and Tweed Shire Councils in June/July collected over 3.5 tonnes of material for safe and environmentally friendly disposal.

Waste Education Project Updates:

- The Green House is gearing up for another year of attending local and regional events and schools. So far it has been at more than 11 primary schools and 30 events. More than 2500 members of North Coast communities and schools have visited the unit and many have made a pledge to reduce their waste. Contact Karen Rudkin for more information.
- Another landfill open day will soon be held within the region. Details are yet to be finalised but the day will be similar to the successful event recently held by NEWF and Richmond Valley Council at Casino, where 4 RVC Primary Schools were taken on a guided tour of the landfill site and attended a performance of the Green House. For further information about upcoming events contact Karen Rudkin. Information will be posted on the NEWF website once confirmed.
- Students Undertaking Sustainable Strategies (SUSS) is the title of a regional youth environment forum being coordinated as a partnership project between NEWF and member Councils, National Parks, Rous Water, DET, DEEC, Ballina Marine Discovery Centre, North Coast Water and students and teachers from Alstonville High School. It is anticipated the Forum will be held in March 2007 to assist schools and students in undertaking environmental actions.

NEWF Reporting

All councils in the NEWF region are used to preparing a range of reports to satisfy the data collection needs of the State Government, and have been collecting data on a quarterly and annual basis for many years. In an effort to maintain accountability this year the DEC has asked Voluntary Regional Waste Groups to report specifically on the resource recovery efforts on a range of specific waste types, including tyre waste, organic waste and hazardous waste. This will allow the DEC to develop a picture of how the councils in regional / rural NSW are progressing towards waste avoidance and resource recovery.

In 2003/2004 the NEWF released its first Annual Report, as a way of communicating the achievements of the forum in an easy to read format, including photos and images from the many successful programs implemented each year. This year the Annual Report will be available in September for all council waste management and education staff and councillors and NEWF stakeholders.

The Green House



The Green House and performer 'PET' at the Billy Cart Derby, Bangalow with a 'waste wise' local.

NEWF Meetings BOX

Friday 13th October, 9.30am
Clarence Valley Council
Maclean Office, River Street, Maclean
Friday 8th December, 9.30am
Ballina Shire Council