



Newsletter Enquiries to:
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January/February/March 2009

Project updates

A few major projects are well advanced.

- Tenders have been called for collection and processing of; E Waste; CFLs and FTs; and Household Chemicals
- The newly revitalised the Green House unit will be launched within the next several weeks
- The Regional Waste Plan 2009-2012 has been adopted with minor layout changes still to be finalised

NEWF continues involvement in a broad range of "supportive projects" such as

- the Youth Environment Society Forum to be held on 16th March.
- A regional project aimed at retuning organic waste to agricultural production

For more info or just a chat about NEWF and our projects call Coordinator, Gordon Fraser-Quick on 02 6622 4221 or Mobile 0414 644 893 anytime, or visit the South Lismore office at 25 Charles Street.

Upcoming Events

16th March, YES Convergence, Lismore Workers Club

21-22nd March: Brunswick Heads Bikes & Kites Festival goes Waste Wise

31st March, RENEW Meeting @ Coffs Harbour

1st and 2nd April, Waste Conference 2009 @ Coffs Harbour

17th April, NEWF meeting @ Ballina

12th June, NEWF meeting @ Murwillumbah

2009 at a glance, breathe deep, phew!

What a massive year of regional cooperation and projects we have in front of us. Throughout 2009 the following projects will be advanced and delivered to NEWF member Councils

- Regional Waste Audits
- Launch of the revitalised Green House Mobile Education Unit
- E waste collection
- Compact fluorescent globes (CFLs) and fluorescent tube (FTs) collection
- Household chemical collection
- Renewal of the NEWF website
- Review and update of the NEWF Communication Plan
- Landfill and Transfer Station Operator Training
- Review of all "Collection" and "Resource Recovery" service models
- Review of the regional approach to Waste Minimisation in Development Control Plans/ Local Environment Plans
- Review of all procedures and operations of our two Regional Hazardous Waste Facilities
- Green waste processing contract renewal
- Ongoing work in RENEW NSW

NEWF exists to serve our member Councils and looks forward to the many challenges ahead.

Business Waste Reduction Project News

Several new businesses have made a commitment to the environment by joining the Business Waste Reduction Project in the last quarter.

Westlawn Investment and Finance in Grafton was audited in January and will now look at ways to reduce or recycle the waste they are currently producing. As with many office based businesses the main component of their waste stream is paper – one of the easiest resources to reduce and recycle. The action plan developed for Westlawn at Grafton can be passed on to the other branches across the Northern Rivers, potentially improving the Company's environmental profile.

The Ballina RSL, who already recycle much of the glass and packaging generated at the Club, have also been audited and are investigating ways to improve their performance and examine areas where their purchasing can be more sustainable. Also in Ballina, the new Gallery Café is intending to begin its operations with a waste plan in place and a plan to purchase environmentally sound products from the local area where possible. The opportunity to do so is increasing for businesses as more and more products become available in the region.



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Education Projects News

- ❖ **NEWF Regional Education Plan 09-12:** The NEWF has recently reviewed and updated the former Regional Education Plan, to plan for the next 3 years of regional education services. The Plan has been circulated in to NEWF Councils and the DECC and was approved by the NEWF Committee at the February meeting. The Plan reflects current environmental education policy (including the NSW Government's Learning for Sustainability Plan 2007-2010) as well as the latest NEWF Regional Waste Plan.
- ❖ The Environmental Trust contacted the NEWF in late 2008 to propose further funding the **Eco-friendly Youth Project** to promote the toolkit and the project outcomes through conducting three workshops and a conference and mentoring five centres across the state. Feedback from the Trust was that the project was considered to have 'outstanding' outcomes which should be promoted not just in the NEWF region, but statewide as well. The Trust is providing the NEWF with \$30,000 in funding to facilitate this.
- ❖ **The Green House** overhaul team is very excited about the new unit which will feature freshly designed walls displaying how people can live green at home, outdoors and at work. An interactive smart shopping display and green products display will further enhance the learning outcomes of this regional resource. The launch of the new unit is planned to occur during International Compost Awareness Week (May 3 – May 9) at a school at one of the NEWF Council areas (watch out for your invitation by email!).
- ❖ The **Students Using Sustainable Strategies Program** steering committee met on the 19th February to discuss what will occur with the SUSS program this year, as full funding is currently unavailable. The results of the SUSS Program are indicative of its success as a high school education program which builds the capacity of students and teachers to implement sustainable strategies within their schools. Many of the schools who participated in last year's forum now have a draft SEMP in place and waste action plans underway. Recently a group of former SUSS students have formed their own Youth Environment Society (YES) to network with other students in the region. SUSS look forward to an eventful year in supporting students in YES, further assisting high schools throughout the region, and working towards the 2010 Forum.

Early Childhood Project News

Four more Preschools have expressed interest in the Early Childhood project and initial visits to these Services will happen late February and early March. These Preschools are "Wallum" and "Bilambil" from Tweed Shire, Bangalow Preschool in Byron Shire and Kyogle Community Preschool. Preschool staff and teachers are becoming more aware that waste wise activities and education needs to become a core part of educating young children. When approached by NEWF they are very interested (and even excited!) about the support that we can offer. NEWF will also be co-presenting with Rous Water a waste and water wise workshop to early childhood staff at the upcoming Early Childhood Conference at SALT, Kingscliff in March.

A sneak preview of one of the walls to feature as part of the new Green House marquee...



Next NEWF Meeting

Friday 17th April @ Ballina Shire Council

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE



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Waste Wise Events (WWE) Project Update

The latest regular event to become Waste Wise is the Lennox Head Community Market, pictured below. An audit in December highlighted the opportunity to capture organics and recycling from the market and the first Waste Wise Market using the new bins was held on Sunday the 8th of February. Results are pending.



The event management team at SALT in Kingscliff, took the step to again run the 'Carols Under the Stars' event in Dec 08, as a 'waste wise' event based on the success and experiences of the previous year's event. Recommendations made in the 2007 Waste Wise Report provided by the NEWF were taken into consideration and resulted in a small but significant improvement in the volume of waste disposed to landfill (from 36% to 30%) and a reduction in the contamination of the recycling stream. The waste audit revealed that the use of split bins should be avoided at future events to encourage greater separation of recyclables from the waste stream. The completed case study can be located on the NEWF website under WWE.

An initial meeting has been held with the organisers of the Repco Rally Australia (RRA) to discuss how the NEWF could assist them to make this international racing event 'waste wise'. Draft Waste Wise Management Plans (WWMP), which incorporate recycle & waste avoidance objectives into each stage of the event planning, set achievable targets and assign roles & responsibilities, have been developed and provided to RRA for their consideration. In the event that the RRA's Development Applications are approved by Kyogle and Tweed Shire Councils, the NEWF will work with the organisers to implement the WWMP and make it a more sustainable event. The proposed dates for the rally are 3rd – 6th Sept 09. More information will be provided in future newsletters.

Council Waste Reduction & Sustainable Purchasing (CWRSP) Project

Progress in CWRSP continues across the region with Clarence Valley, Byron and Ballina Shire Councils all progressing the development of Sustainable Purchasing Policies and participating in staff training workshops in sustainable procurement, provided by the Sustainable Choice Program (SCP).

A project proposal to further assist NEWF council purchasing staff to identify and assess environmentally preferable product alternatives, has been drafted and circulated to the NEWF councils for further discussion and approval. If approved 'Sustainable Purchasing Info Days' will be held across the region in May/June 09. The 2008 'Data & Evaluation Report' prepared by Sustainable Choice will be available on their website shortly. It provides a snapshot of the level of procurement activity and the range of sustainable products and services being purchased by SCP member councils.

NEWF Contacts

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