



Issue 1
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Introduction to the Business Waste Reduction Project

The North East Waste Forum (NEWF) is a voluntary and cooperative approach by local councils in north-east NSW to achieve better practice waste minimisation and management across the region. The NEWF member councils are Ballina Shire, Lismore City, Byron Shire, Clarence Valley and Richmond Valley.

Due to increased waste to landfill, the NEWF has decided to help address this problem by focussing its attention on commercial waste generators by introducing the Business Waste Reduction Project. The aims of this project are:

- To reduce the amount of business waste to landfill across the region;
- Assist businesses to develop and implement waste reduction plans and activities with the assistance of the NEWF Business Waste Reduction Project Coordinator;
- Share information about business waste reduction across the NEWF region;
- Focus on actions for businesses to reduce waste.

The project has initially focussed on a number of larger business waste producers across the region. Businesses nominated by their associated NEWF member councils are:

- Ballina Shire Council** - Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village
- Byron Shire Council** - Byron Central Apartments
- Clarence Valley Council** - Grafton Correction Centre and Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre
- Lismore City Council** – Lismore Shopping Square
- Richmond Valley Council** – Casino RSM Club

In this issue:

This newsletter will look at the project's progress with the participating businesses to date.

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Business audits: during the auditing process, all items were separated into different bins for recycling where possible. In the background of the photo, staff are recording material weights.



LISMORE SHOPPING SQUARE (LSS)

LSS is the largest shopping centre in the Northern Rivers and has recently re-opened, doubling in size. It now consists of 80 specialty shops, Kmart, Coles, Woolworths and Big W. At the time of the waste audit, 55 specialty shops were operating along with Kmart and Coles. The figures mentioned below are based on LSS before its expansion. They currently use two 3m³ trade waste bins and one 26m³ compactor (Kmart and Coles are not a part of the project due to their separate recycling programmes as dictated by Coles Myer Pty Ltd corporate policy).

LSS: contamination in the compactor



LSS has operated a cardboard recycling compactor for 14 years. The material put into the compactor has never been recycled due to the constant high level of contamination. This is reflected in the audit results, showing only 54% of the total compactor waste was classed as cardboard/paper. Major contaminants are non recyclable plastics (19%), food (11%) and plastic bags/film (9%). McConaghy Management, who manage LSS, are currently awaiting a second compactor for their expanded centre and are keen to have them working successfully. Reducing contamination and successfully recycling their compactor contents is deemed a high priority for waste reduction and steps discussed to achieve this are: placing bars on the compactor window so bags of landfill waste are unable to be placed inside; a strategic and clear education campaign for retail operators and staff within LSS; a sporadic 'compactor police' exercise to see how staff actions are going. If LSS compactors were being used appropriately, LSS have the potential to reduce their trade waste by approximately 500 kg/week.

Top 3 trade waste bin waste sources are food waste (750 kg/week), cardboard/paper (612 kg/week) and non recyclable plastics (193 kg/week). Most recyclable waste appeared to be from the food court area, however due to their recent upgrade, public place recycling in the food court is perceived by management as a longer term and therefore lower priority at this point in time.

CONGRATULATIONS to Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village (AARV)

AARV is the newcomer to the project, being on board since Mid-August. The village consists of a 50 bed hostel and 82 (soon to be 84) independent living units.

Waste auditing was performed at AARV for the trade waste bins at the hostel and the residential wheelie bins for the units, church and community hall. The audit results are currently being collated, however we wish to offer congratulations to AARV's unit residents for their exceptional recycling.

Well done!

Waste auditor Anthony Muxt checks out the great recycling at the AARV units



Grafton Correctional Centre (GCC)

There are 270 inmates and 150 staff members at GCC. The top 3 highest waste types are food (46%), cardboard/paper (14%) and non-recyclable plastics (9%). Fortunately, GCC is located in close proximity to Grafton's waste transfer station and are able to fill a large metal cage with cardboard and transport it themselves to the transfer station when full. By implementing a 'central recycling station' with separate and clearly labelled bins around the centre, the rest of the cardboard and paper could be recycled. A comprehensive recycling station is the top priority of their action plan.

Due to this system working so well, management at GCC has decided to use another large metal cage for recycling aluminium. For example, aluminium food trays are used for each inmate's evening meal. At around 43 kg/week, it was identified GCC could recycle these aluminium trays and receive approximately \$120/month for their troubles. This money could then be used on inmate 'luxury' items such as televisions or kettles as an incentive for prisoners.

Food and compostable waste is extremely high and GCC's largest waste source at around 925 kg/week. Through staff contacts, it was identified that a local composting company is willing to take a proportion of this waste for composting.

GCC is currently working on the logistics of better bin placement around the centre whilst awaiting the delivery of their new bins. In the meantime, they have already implemented a more thorough system of cardboard recycling.

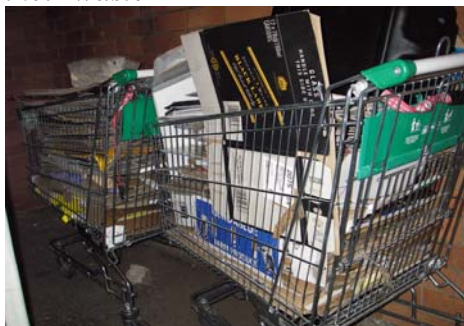
GCC: cardboard cage currently in use



Casino RSM Club

Casino RSM Club provides a social focus for Casino with its premises comprising 2 bowling greens, a nightclub, bars, bistros and kitchen, and Bi-Lo, Target and 3 specialty shops in a small shopping centre. They employ 65 staff.

Casino RSM Club: large quantities of cardboard dominate their waste



The RSM Club produces around 950kg of waste each week. Its top 3 waste types are food (43%), glass (18%) and cardboard/paper (15%).

Cardboard and paper, at approximately 140 kg/week, could potentially be collected by a contractor on site. An appropriate space to store cardboard, as well as finding a contractor that suits the club's needs are being investigated.

Glass and metals in Casino could be taken to Richmond Valley Council's Nammoona landfill for recycling, however they would have to be transported to the landfill by the RSM Club. At 175 kg/week for glass, the logistics of glass recycling at the RSM Club is currently being looked into.

The RSM Club has implemented paper waste reduction by double-siding paper, creating notepads and recycling TAB sheets where possible.

Byron Central Apartments (BCA)

BCA is a complex in the heart of Byron Bay consisting of 27 self-contained holiday apartments, 1 on-site managers' apartment, a reception and 6 retail premises.

Audit results show that BCA's largest waste source is glass (approximately 97 kg/week), however around 90% of the glass is recycled responsibly - all holidaymakers are given the option to recycle. Their leading waste material is food (around 85 kg/week), while a large number of soaps and unfinished toilet rolls were recorded in the audit. The main waste material in the trade waste bin is cardboard/paper (7 kg), which comes from the retail shops.

Management are placing a cardboard recycling trade waste bin in the complex's waste depot and has placed better signage to assist customers in recycling more effectively. They are currently researching appropriate soap dispensers (instead of using small wrapped soaps, bulk liquid soap can be bought) and toilet roll covers to display a look of professionalism within the apartments but without the cleaners discarding unfinished toilet rolls. Waste reduction initiatives have also been included in the staff induction manual.

BCA: Typical waste bag from apartment cleaning. Note the toilet roll and travel soaps compose the majority of waste in the bag.



Waste Reduction Tip!

The creation of a waste reduction purchasing policy is an effective way for your business to continue its commitment to waste reduction. This includes purchasing recycled/reusable products where possible, for example:

- Recycled paper (post consumer content where possible)
- Purchasing recycled office furniture or furniture made out of recycled material
- Reusable toners and cartridges
- Biodegradable cleaning products
- Non-bleached recycled toilet paper
- Refillable pens

Clean up Australia produces a great fact sheet on reducing waste at work, available at http://www.cleanup.com.au/attachments/CU_Office.pdf

Sincere thanks to our business partners:

- ❖ Mike Cossio, Paul Lancaster and Wayne Ringland (GCC);
- ❖ Darren Schipp (RSM Club);
- ❖ Rob Walker and Geoff Gooch (LSS);
- ❖ Scott Wanchap, Dee Shen, Megan Cass and Oliver McElligott (BCA);
- ❖ Kaye Mann, Stephen Hillery, Janine Wegener, Francis Holmes (AARV)
- ❖ Tracey Ware, Ian Streader, Carolyn Dowling, Bruce Clark, Martin McGrath, Alan Peardon (AJJC);
- ❖ ALL staff and/or inmates who completed our survey