

### Business Waste Reduction Project News

The Business Waste Reduction Project (BWRP), is a NEWF project that offers local businesses across 6 council areas the opportunity to implement sustainable practices and minimize the waste they send to landfill. A businesses waste is assessed; advice is given and on going support is available – all for free.

The project has just finished its second stage and is pleased to report that participating businesses have made a significant contribution to waste diversion and avoidance across the region. Many businesses started the project by making small adjustments to their waste management regimes before moving on to make more substantial changes. The Angourie Rainforest Resort at Yamba initially dealt with waste reduction by halving the toiletries disposed of from daily room servicing, by simply offering servicing on alternative days. Next they diverted their organic waste to a large worm farm and recently have implemented a comingled recycling service. They have reduced their waste collection bill by half and have gained ecotourism accreditation as a result of their efforts.

Wollongbar TAFE started with paper reduction in their offices and composting from their restaurant before managing to dispose of 1.8 ton of electronic waste through the NEWF Ewaste collection. They have recently launched their recycling strategy which should further contribute to resource recovery in Ballina Shire. In total, four of the projects businesses diverted 43 ton of waste from regional landfills – well done to all involved.

Other businesses who have sought advice to reduce their waste in the region include Ballina Beach Resort, Elders Real Estate at Lennox Head, Grafton District Services Club and Ocean Shores Country Club.

#### Sustainable Business Tip

Many suppliers are now willing to take back packaging from deliveries made to your business. Boxes are often reused or recycled and this can save you the cost of disposal or driving to a recycling station yourself. It certainly doesn't hurt to ask and the more businesses that do the more producers will get the message of their own responsibility to resource recovery.

### Linnaeus Estate

Over the past year the Linnaeus Estate at Broken Head near Byron Bay has undergone significant change to their waste management practices. Initially, a waste station was constructed to house the new system.



*The waste station constructed at Linnaeus blends effectively with the natural environment*

Two bulk bins, one for cardboard and paper and one for mixed waste were installed. Three 240 litre wheelie bins were provided to capture co-mingled recycling.

Signage was attached to bins to raise awareness and promote the correct separation of recycling and waste.



*Organic and recycling bins inside the station*

To deal with the organic waste produced by residents and the kitchen two large compost bins were purchased. They are designed to allow for the removal of compost from the base and have a special ventilation system to assist decomposition.



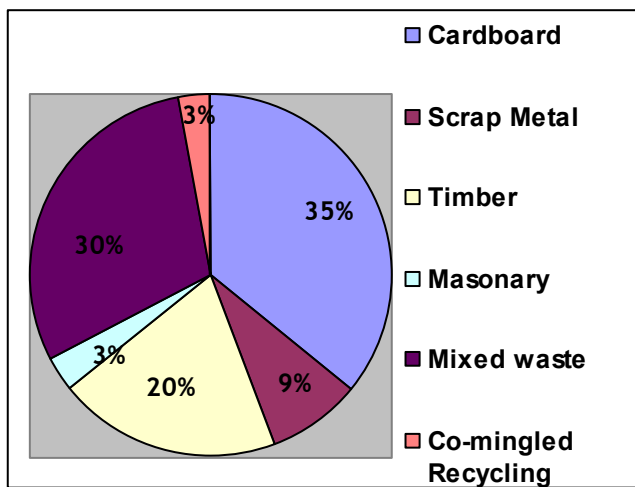
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## Image Design Homes

IDH also participated in the project this year. This company designs and pre-builds homes and cabins on site in the industrial estate at Murwillumbah in Tweed Shire. A waste audit indicated that cardboard represented 35% of the waste produced on site, with timber off cuts at 20% of the waste stream, with scrap metal following at 9%.

**Fig1. IDH Waste Categories**



Waste reduction actions taken by management included

- Organising a private contractor to collect cardboard
- Raising staff awareness regarding the separation of scrap metal from the waste stream and
- Making staff more aware of utilising smaller pieces of timber and minimising offcuts

## CAPACITY BUILDING and NETWORKS

Stage three of the project will focus increasingly on business networks and industry groups to build capacity in the region, which will result in waste minimisation and resource recovery. Existing business organizations act as a conduit to the commercial sector and information to assist business can be effectively transferred in this way. In the past the BWRP has worked with Ballina Chamber of Commerce to provide information to companies wishing to reduce their environmental footprint.

This year the Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce is assisting and a presentation on waste reduction was given at a recent Chamber breakfast. The Chamber is keen to encourage Lennox Head businesses to do the right thing and supported a survey this month of all businesses in the CBD about their waste management practices. This information is important to establish the specific needs of operators in the area and will help the project collaborate with council to provide waste solutions.



*Lennox has a wide variety of small businesses*

Engaging an entire CBD can be daunting but also offers opportunities for the sharing of services and co-operation between businesses.

## OUR WEBSITE

The Business Waste Reduction Project has many useful resources on the NEWF website. On average 150 visitors per month visit the site and download information on waste auditing, what other businesses are doing and our self help toolkit. These tools are to help businesses embark on waste reduction activities at their own pace and in a way that is appropriate to their resources. Any questions that arise from visiting the site can be discussed by contacting the project co-ordinator, Jeanie McKillop on 6687 4945 Mob: 0421888686 or email on [business@northeastwasteforum.org.au](mailto:business@northeastwasteforum.org.au). So visit our site at [www.northeastwasteforum.org.au](http://www.northeastwasteforum.org.au) under business, and improve your businesses operations