

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

PO Box 340 LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478

coordinator@northeastwasteforum.org.au

education@northeastwasteforum.org.au

www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

Newsletter Enquires To:

Linda Tohver
Education Co-ordinator
phone: 6685 3651 mob:
0427770198

October/November 2005

NEWF news

Bernadette Thomas, Samala Hogg and Linda Tohver will be attending the Regional Waste Group Forum, coordinated by the DEC on 25th November in Parramatta. Samala will be delivering a presentation of the Business Waste Reduction Project outcomes to date and Linda will be facilitating a workshop to develop Regional Education Plans.



Samala Hogg and Nicky Walker conducting a waste audit for the Business Waste Reduction Project

Events
October - December 2005

17th - 24th October

Water week – Remember that by reducing waste, we can reduce water too and vice versa!

20th, 21st and 22nd October

The Green House at North Coast National

22nd October

**Reusable Bag Campaign:
Plastic-Bag Free Shopping Day!**

28th and 29th October

The Green House at Alstonville Show

7th November - 13th November

Recycling Week

8th and 9th November

The Green House @ Clarence Valley Council, Grafton Office

25th November

**Regional Waste Groups Meeting
Parramatta**

30th November and 1st December

**Landfill Operator Training
Clarence Valley Council and
Grafton Regional Landfill**

Business Waste Reduction Project

Audit and survey results have been presented to Grafton Correction Centre, Casino RSM Club, Lismore Shopping Square, Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre and Byron Central Apartments. Options for improving waste reduction were also communicated as part of reporting.

The businesses themselves are involved in planning for their waste reduction through collaboration with the Project Coordinator to create clear and achievable prioritised action plans. Some action plans are now being implemented, for example cardboard recycling and clearer signage at Byron Central Apartments; a 'contamination-free compactor campaign' at Lismore Shopping Square and the creation of a central recycling station at Grafton Correction Centre in conjunction with a new separating bin system throughout the gaol.

Audits and surveys at Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village have now been completed and the results and recommendations will be communicated to them in the coming weeks.

Please contact Samala on 6685 8016 for further details.

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Waste Management Projects Update

NEWF Councils will be meeting in October to discuss the development of two new projects –

1. **Commercial and Industrial Facilities** – Councils hope to develop and improve C&D facilities at existing landfill and / or transfer station sites across the region and improve the management of this valuable resource.
2. **Electronic Waste Management** – at this stage Councils aim to conduct research into the options for managing electronic waste in a regional setting.

Waste Education Update

1. **Plastic Bag-Free Shopping Day** – October 22nd as part of a joint partnership between member Councils, NEWF, The Northern Star and The Grafton Daily Examiner, over 22,000 reusable bags will be distributed to the community on Saturday October 22nd to people purchasing the weekend papers. The aim of the campaign is to go for one whole day without a plastic bag.
2. **Education Workshop with the Department of Environment and Conservation** – the NEWF are coordinating an Education Workshop with the DEC to build the capacity of waste and environmental educators in using social research and conducting evaluation. It is anticipated that members of the North East Environmental Educators Working Group will participate, along with neighbouring regional waste groups.

Regional Organics Management Plan – Stage 2!

The NEWF Councils have been steadily working towards greater management of the organics waste stream, with the Regional Organics Management Plan project. Last year the Organics Waste and Resource Inventory was developed, and Councils will now use this information to further define how to best manage the organic waste that comes under their control. Work will soon begin on stage 2 of the project and will:

1. Determine the likely sources and quantities of organic residues and by-products that will be collected, processed and reused within the NEWF region,
2. Map existing and potential future locations for processing facilities and their technology requirements, and
3. Determine the required processing capacities and technologies.

To assist Councils to improve the process for producing compost at existing landfill sites a manual will be developed to assist with processing organic material via a windrow composting process, to meet the Australian Standard for composts.

As a spin off from Stage 1, a series of Industry Fact Sheets is being developed to assist industry to understand their place in the overall organics waste stream across the region.

Annual Report for 2004/2005

The NEWF Annual Report for 2004/2005 has been sent to all Councils – look out for a copy coming your way soon!

DEC to present at NEWF meeting

Danyelle Carter and Ann Trofa from the DEC will attend the October NEWF meeting to discuss the Tools and Resources available to Local Government to assist them with waste management issues.

NEWF assists SCU Students

NEWF staff have been assisting Waste Technology students from Southern Cross University with assignment work and will attend an information workshop in October to take part in a panel discussion with Council staff and industry representatives about waste management across the North Coast

Next NEWF meetings:

9.30am, Friday 9th December
 Ballina Shire Council
 Xmas lunch to be included! Celebrate another year of the NEWF!