

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

PO Box 148 **SUFFOLK PARK NSW 2481**
 education@northeastwasteforum.org.au
www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

NEWF Education Enquires To:

Linda Tohver
 Education Co-ordinator
 phone: 6685 3651
 mob: 0427 770 198

NEWF Education Projects

November 2005

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The North East Waste Forum provides a range of waste education projects & resources for the community, schools and businesses of the north coast. These projects aim to promote simple and practical ways of adopting waste-less lifestyles.

Reuse Directory
www.reusedirectory.com

The NEWF developed the Reuse Directory to promote and encourage reuse of materials across the region. The directory hosts the business details of approximately 120 businesses involved in reuse, repair, recycling and/or hire of goods free of charge. It provides a central point for the community to locate businesses to satisfy their purchasing needs.

The Green House

The Green House is a mobile waste avoidance education trailer and unit, made from reused and recycled materials, which promotes sustainable waste practices to the community. The aim of The Green House is to encourage people to learn about how they can actively help their local environment through adopting simple waste-less practices, such as smart-shopping, reuse, composting and recycling.

The Green House is travelling to specific events, schools and markets across the North Coast providing an innovative, interactive and fun learning experience for all ages.

The Green House uses a variety of fun educational tools to promote the waste avoidance message including: performances from two 'Waste Experts' whose home is The Green House; games, quizzes, and activities for kids; the opportunity to make a pledge to the environment; information about your local Council garbage, recycling and organics services; an educational DVD showcasing local waste facilities; demonstrations including smart-shopping, chemical-free cleaning, composting and low-waste gardening. The Green House shows how you can do simple everyday things to create less waste, and contribute to a healthier sustainable environment through:

- avoiding making waste by being careful consumers
- Considering the environmental and waste disposal impact of each item we purchase
- How to reuse waste materials
- How to be a smart shopper
- Closing the loop by buying recycled
- Composting and worm farming
- Litter Reduction

What to do if you want The Green House to visit your school?
 Send us the Schools Booking Form and we'll help arrange a visit.

Eco-friendly Youth Project

The North Coast Eco-Friendly Youth Project is working with regional youth, youth organisations, youth workers and local and regional government authorities to develop and deliver a holistic integrated education project which aims to incorporate positive environmental practices into the operations and project of youth centres.

A steering committee of project partners is providing project guidance and support where appropriate. A regional advisory group is providing assistance to ensure regional appropriateness of the project. The Project Co-ordinator is working with and within local youth organisations, facilitating the process, harnessing the support of staff and management and building their capacity to participate in the design and implementation of eco-friendly youth centres.

The project will occur over a 2 year period (from May 2005) with piloting, design, evaluation and training in one youth centre (Byron Youth Services) in Year 1, followed by regional delivery of the project. It is anticipated there will be application in other regions and across the state.

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The A – Z of Waste

The A – Z of Waste is a series of web-based information sheets containing outlines of waste related issues ranging from A – Z. The sheets include topics such as Disposable Items, Kitchen Waste, Nappies and all the way to Zero Waste. Each information sheet defines the topic or issue, provides advice on what you can do as a responsible citizen, and lists further web-based resources. The information sheets aim to improve awareness and understanding of waste issues in the community; provide a valuable resource for use by NEWF councils; and promote waste reduction activities within the community.

There are now over 80 Waste information sheets available on the NEWF website, available for use by schools, environment groups, council staff, TAFE, University students and the general community.

Second Hand Saturday (SHS)

SHS is an annual north coast event involving the co-ordination of neighbourhood garage sales across the region, for the sale of second hand goods between residents in selected streets. SHS has helped to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, enables residents to participate in the promotion of reuse and repair, and engage them in an environmentally, socially and economically rewarding activity.

What happened in 2005?

Approximately 60 tonnes of material changed hands on the day, keeping it out of Council landfills. About 30% of the people holding garage sales reported that their awareness of reuse had increased, with 65% indicating that their awareness was the same. The majority of participants highlighted social benefits from participation and others also highlighted environmental and economic benefits.

Youth Environment Forum

The NEWF targeted secondary school students and teachers for the Youth Environment Forum, with the aim of supporting schools in the design and delivery of waste avoidance strategies, in line with the requirements of the NSW Department of Education and Training's (DET) Environmental Education Policy. The NEWF teamed with the Sustainable Schools Program (DEC / DET), the Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre, and NEWF member Councils to design, deliver and fund a two-day workshop, with an emphasis on participation and capacity building.

Thirteen secondary schools (60 students and teachers) from across the region participated. The NEWF were fortunate in attracting participation from ROUS Water, North Coast Water, the Rainbow Power Company and schools from the Tweed Shire Council area.

Feedback from the participants has indicated an increase in awareness and skills relating to environmental issues, and a commitment to promoting the implementation of environmental measures within their schools such as composting and reuse. Additional feedback indicates 9 of the 13 schools participating have reported some progress in implementation of

Landfill Open Days

The Landfill Open Day provides the local community with an opportunity to learn more about the Waste Management Facilities in their local area – increasing awareness of the role of local waste facilities, providing an interactive and fun experiential learning day and increasing understanding of recovery and disposal options available locally

Groups will participate in a tour of the Landfill site, talks by waste operators and be entertained by The Green House waste experts. Open Days are planned for Richmond Valley Council and Byron Shire Council.

Litter Fun Book

Learn about litter with this fantastic resource for kids. The Litter Fun Book is packed full of puzzles and games to keep your children occupied for hours!

North Coast Environmental Education Group

A group of people working in the Environmental Education field meet bi-monthly to discuss issues, participate in training and networking.