

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

PO Box 340 LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478

www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

NEWFW Enquires To:

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Reusable Bags

The NEWFW is taking a partnership approach to the development and distribution of reusable bags across the region. APN Newspapers will assist with funding, distribution and promotion of bags during August 2005.

Reuse Directory
www.reusedirectory.com

The NEWFW 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. Visits to the site have grown steadily, recording a high of over 360 during a single month in 2005.

The addition of a search engine and database, links to the NEWFW and Council websites and on-line business updates, will increase the value of this resource within the community and businesses involved. The directory is being promoted through local and regional newspapers and in conjunction with other NEWFW projects where applicable (such as Second Hand Saturday).

Hazardous Waste Stores

The NEWFW has two fully operational Hazardous Waste Stores, located at Grafton Regional Landfill (servicing the Clarence Valley community) and the Wyrallah Road Waste Management Facility in Lismore (servicing the Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley communities). An official opening of the Grafton store was held in February with the Lismore store beginning operations in April 2005.

The stores complement the annual household chemical collections held across the region, making the correct disposal of hazardous materials easier and safer for the community and the natural environment. Residents can call ahead to speak to staff or bring their hazardous materials to the store for disposal free of charge. The stores are restricted to household use with a 20litre limit per person.

Over 1,261 kgs of hazardous material has been collected from the Grafton store since inception. The stores have been promoted in the local newspapers and detailed information can be found on the NEWFW website under 'Hazardous Waste'.

The stores will accept a wide range of hazardous materials including paint and paint related products, pesticides, herbicides, poisons, solvents, household cleaners, pool chemicals, acids, alkalis and many more.

Who is the North East Waste Forum?

The North East Waste Forum (NEWFW) is a voluntary local government group that was formally established in 1996 to specifically address waste management issues on a regional level. The group's membership currently consists of five councils in the North East Region of New South Wales - Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Lismore City and Richmond Valley. The NEWFW also has strong ties to the neighbouring councils of Kyogle and Tweed Shire. The NEWFW member councils see significant benefits in belonging to the NEWFW, working collaboratively and co-operatively to achieve local and regionally based solutions to waste management.



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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.

Landfill Operator Training

In September 2005, 14 Landfill Operations staff participated in the fourth Landfill Operator Training course co-ordinated by the NEWF. The course was held over two days, with day one focused on landfill operations (including waste separation, noise, OH&S etc as well as a visit from the Northern Rivers Area Health Service) and day two including a practical session at the Wyrallah Road Waste Management Facility, visiting the Tryton Vermiculture Facility, the NEWF Hazardous Waste Store and various other sites of interest. In a change from previous years, Council Waste Management staff attended a session discussing Landfill Environmental Management Plans and Landfill Licenses. All staff received certificates of attendance.

Regional Organics Management Plan

The Organic Waste and Resource Inventory Report shows that over 96% of all the organic waste produced on the north coast is recycled or reused. The study surveyed over 1,800 businesses and organisations representing 38 different business sectors. The Council areas of Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore City, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire were included in the study.

The purpose of the study was driven by the need to reduce the amount of organic waste ending up in landfill and will assist councils to develop local and regional strategies for managing the beneficial reuse of organic waste. The study was conducted over a 10-month period, and focused on commercial and industrial producers (businesses generating large amounts of similar organic materials and businesses generating small quantities of mixed organic materials) and municipal organics (food and garden organics from households and biosolids). A number of waste audits for commercial and municipal organics were undertaken to assist with analysis of the survey data.

Accompanying the report is a set of databases including comprehensive information of all producers of organic waste. Council Waste and environmental staff have received training in the use of the database for their specific council area. Staff will use the information to target producers of organics for future waste reduction projects.

NEWF councils have participated in a ROMP workshop with other regional waste groups conducted by the NEWF Department of Environment and Conservation. Planning for stage 2 of the project has begun with a grant from the DEC to assist.

For more information on any of these projects please contact:

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