

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

PO Box 340 LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478

www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

NEWF Enquires To:

Bernadette Thomas
NEWF Co-ordinator
phone: 6687 7066
mob: 0427 150 422

July 2005

Green Waste Shredding

Ballina Shire, Byron Shire and Richmond Valley Councils will again contract green waste shredding services for 5 sites across the three Council areas. The collective tendering of services allows the Councils to gain a cost competitive price for services at different sites. Councils hope to increase the volume of green waste being reused / recycled in the community.

Second Hand Saturday

Second Hand Saturday involved the co-ordination of neighbourhood garage sales across the region for the sale of second hand goods between residents in selected streets. The event has helped to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, enabled residents to participate in the promotion of reuse and repair, and engaged them in an environmentally, socially and economically rewarding activity.

Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Lismore City and Richmond Valley Councils participated in the project, with Council staff taking on the role of registering participants, answering inquiries and distributing promotional information. More than 400 households registered a garage sale as part of SHS. However participation was many times greater, as the local community responded by attending garage sales.

National Recycling Week

National Recycling Week provides councils with an opportunity to promote best practice recycling to the community through advertising and promotion in local and regional media. The project is co-ordinated each year by Planet Ark. NEWF Councils aim to increase the commitment to reducing recycling contamination in the home; raise awareness of Council recycling operations and the type of products that can be recycled in each Council area.

Promotional material appeared in local printed media with advertising and editorial in 9 papers (totalling circulation to 100,000 households); a special recycling week supplement in 3 local papers; community announcements on local radio with specific coverage on ABC north coast. Feedback from Councils indicates that National Recycling Week provides an opportunity to send a co-ordinated message about recycling to the local and regional communities.

The NEWF was assisted with promotion of the project with a \$22,000 sponsorship package from APN Newspapers, allowing for extended promotion in APN Newspapers across the region. The NEWF co-ordinated the promotion in partnership with the Northern Star.

Evaluation was conducted by surveying registered garage sale participants (more than 1/4 of all registered garage sales responded), feedback from Councils and APN Newspapers. This showed that approximately 60 tonnes of material changed hands on the day, effectively keeping it out of Council landfills. Awareness of reuse had also increased by about 30%, whilst 65% indicated their awareness remained the same. The majority of participants highlighted social benefits from participation, whilst others highlighted environmental and economic benefits.

Who is the North East Waste Forum?

The North East Waste Forum (NEWF) 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 NEWF also has strong ties to the neighbouring councils of Kyogle and Tweed Shire. The NEWF member councils see significant benefits in belonging to the NEWF, working collaboratively and co-operatively to achieve local and regionally based solutions to waste management

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

PO Box 340 LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478
www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

NEWF Enquires To:

Bernadette Thomas
 NEWF Co-ordinator
 phone: 6687 7066
 mob: 0427 150 422

July 2005

Regional Waste Audits

In order to assess the potential reduction in Municipal Domestic Waste going to landfill, and the amount of waste being diverted through kerbside recycling programs and organics collections, the NEWF Councils conducted a source-based audit of the domestic, kerbside and drop off, Council collections in each of the 5 member Council areas and Tweed Shire Council from February to April 2005. The last region wide audit was held in 1999, and NEWF councils were interested to obtain current data on waste generation and resource recovery.

By conducting the audit Councils hoped to:

Assess the Municipal Domestic Waste characteristics for each of the 6 Council areas within the NEWF Region;

Assess the Municipal Domestic Waste characteristics for the NEWF Region as a whole;

Obtain an indication of the success of current recycling and organics collection schemes throughout the region;

Analyse and compare the results from the 1999 NEWF Region Domestic Waste Audits.

Eco-friendly Youth Project

The NEWF, in partnership with the Byron Youth Service, ROUS Water and North Coast Water, has been successful in obtaining a grant of almost \$50,000 from the NSW Environmental Trust for an 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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

NEWF Councils once again hosted Household Hazardous Waste Collection days across the region. The collection days continue as a service to the community and as a co-ordinated solution to the issue of responsible and environmentally friendly hazardous waste disposal. In a break from former years, no collection day was held in the Clarence Valley, with the emphasis instead focused on the Grafton Hazardous Waste Store. Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Lismore City, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire Councils combined to take advantage of the opportunity to build on the response from the community in previous years. The DEC assisted by providing dollar for dollar funding of \$44,300. A total of 8,400 kgs of hazardous material was collected for proper disposal, reuse / recycling.

An extensive advertising campaign accompanied the collection days:

- advertising appeared in all local and regional papers;
- community services announcements and paid advertising on 8 radio stations;
- information kits sent to over 240 community groups;
- posters and brochures displayed in 50 Post Offices, Libraries and council buildings.

For more information on any of these projects please contact:

Bernadette Thomas, NEWF Co-ordinator, 02 6687 7066
coordinator@northeastwasteforum.org.au

Linda Tohver, Education Co-ordinator, 02 6685 3651
education@northeastwasteforum.org.au

Samala Hogg, Business Waste Reduction Co-ordinator, 02 6685 8016
business@northeastwasteforum.org.au