

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

PO Box 340 LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478

www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

NEWF Enquires To:

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Local Government Buy Recycled Alliance

The NEWF has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the LGBRA as a first step in moving towards greater purchasing of products containing recycled content.

Business Waste Reduction Project continued...

The Project Co-ordinator is working with each business, building relationships with businesses owners, managers and staff; rallying support for the project; developing and providing tailored information kits for each participating business. Businesses will be guided through waste assessments and audits, and the development and implementation of individual waste reduction plans. Promotion of the project achievements will take place during the course of the project implementation.

Businesses participating in the project include: Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village - Ballina Shire; Byron Central Apartments - Byron Shire; Grafton Correctional Centre and Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre – Clarence Valley Council; Lismore Shopping Square – Lismore City; Casino RSM Club – Richmond Valley Council. Council staff have been involved in the selection of participating businesses and will have ongoing involvement in building relationships with the businesses, making decisions and providing advice in relation to appropriate waste reduction measures.

Business Waste Reduction Project

The aim of this project is to achieve measurable waste reduction outcomes and reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill for a select number of major waste producing businesses or businesses types in the NEWF region.

The project has the following objectives:

- a. assist businesses across the NEWF region to implement waste reduction activities;
- b. reduce the amount of commercial and industrial waste to landfill across the region;
- c. make use of knowledge collected from previous similar projects;
- d. share information about business waste reduction across the NEWF region;
- e. focus on actions for reducing waste.

The project is based on the Rainbow Region Business Waste Project developed and implemented by Lismore City Council. It uses the concept of cleaner production, in particular:

- a. managing the environmental impact of the whole production process;
- b. minimising the potential for environmental impact;
- c. reducing reliance on natural resources;
- d. cost savings due to reduced waste production;
- e. an improved corporate image;
- f. a better environment now and in the future;
- g. less risks to humans and the environment.

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



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The Green House

In order to move towards a greater focus on education about waste avoidance and reduction the NEWF has developed the Green House – a mobile waste avoidance education unit and trailer - which promotes sustainable waste practices across the community. The Green House travels to specific events, schools and markets across the region providing an innovative, interactive and fun learning experience for all ages. It encourages 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 made from reused and recycled materials and uses interactive learning techniques. Two performance artists (PET and Second Hand Rose) travel with the Green House providing information in a relaxed and entertaining setting. In addition, a series of interactive learning activities (such as the 'ideas line' and the 'pledge book') are there to keep people thinking and learning. Council staff are encouraged to attend to provide current information on specific Council waste and resource recovery services. The Green House has attended 6 community events to date (the Channon Markets, Byron Community Market, Bangalow Billycart Derby, Casino Beef Week, Lismore World Environment Day) with more than 400 people actively taking the opportunity to learn more about waste avoidance and reduction.

The Green House was launched at St Xavier's School in Ballina and has attracted wide media coverage from newspaper, radio and television.

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 (a total of 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 these environmental practices.

Regional Sustainability Seminars

The NEWF Co-ordinator and Education Co-ordinator participated in the Regional Sustainability Seminar held in Lismore in August 2004. Over 50 participants from the regional business community, regional organisations and regional service providers attended the one-day event. The NEWF was included in the State Government forum with the DEC, DIPNR, DEUS, the Department of Primary Industries, and the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. The topic for discussion was "How are we working towards sustainability", with the NEWF outlining the contributions made by councils in relation to waste management as a part of working towards greater sustainability on the north coast.

For more information on any of these projects please contact:

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