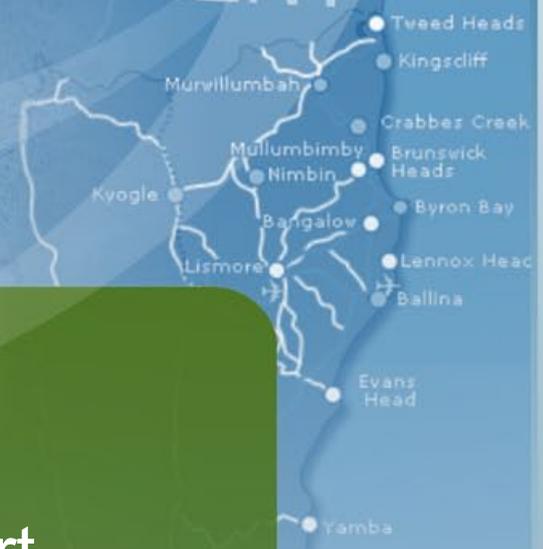


COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
OUR REGION BUSINESS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Annual Report 2011/2012

Councils working together in the Northern Rivers
Region to achieve sustainable waste and resource
management.



Published
AUGUST 2012



The North East Waste Forum acknowledges the funding contribution it receives from the NSW Environmental Protection Agency.



Executive Summary

This report outlines the activities and outcomes of the North East Waste Forum for the 2011-12 financial year. The North East Waste Forum is a voluntary group of five councils on the far north coast of New South Wales working together towards cost effective waste management solutions. The NEWF Councils comprise of Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire. In 2012 Lismore City Council and Kyogle Shire Council will join the NEWF to incorporate a truly regional waste management forum.

This year the NEWF delivered a suite of projects involving and engaging the community, schools, businesses and government. Information, education and assistance to avoid, reduce and recycle has been disseminated through face to face project work, events and activities, media promotion and our website.

Through regional contracts and individual efforts NEWF Member Councils have recovered valuable resources such as organic waste, metal, tyres, electronic waste, plastics, glass, paper and cardboard. Problematic wastes including batteries, chemicals, used oil, compact fluorescent lamps and gas bottles have been diverted from landfills, consequently protecting our natural environment.

The NEWF's governance has been strengthened this year and a new Memorandum of Agreement has secured its position until 2016. Last years review of resource sharing opportunities resulted in a renewed commitment to collaboration among regional Councils with Lismore and Kyogle Council rejoining the Forum. Tweed Shire Council again fulfilled the role of Host Council and the NSW Environmental Protection Agency has continued in its support and financial commitment to NEWF's operational plan.

The NEWF will continue next year to deliver high quality projects to engage the region and support its member councils, while seeking opportunities to increase resource recovery and efficiencies in waste management.

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THE VISION AND PRINCIPLES OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM



The Vision is to achieve sustainable waste and resource management through:

strong positive regional partnerships

effective communication and promotion

integration of our work with other agencies

effective and focused projects

integrated sustainable resource management

adequate and equitable resourcing

ways to achieve maximum efficiency

Our Guiding Principles are:

ecological sustainability

collaboration and co-operation

active participation, commitment and resourcing

creating and maintaining positive relationships in a supportive network

benchmarking (monitoring and evaluation)

continuous improvement, leadership and innovation





Regional Projects And Engagement

The NEWF recognises the importance of working with the community and meeting their expectations in relation to providing information, services and resources to help them tackle waste avoidance and resource recovery issues in their homes, their workplaces and in their leisure time. We have endeavoured to create a suite of projects that are participatory, help build relationships and networks, share information and understanding and build the capacity within the community to create and implement change where needed.

1.1 NEWF Communication

Aim: Increase the awareness of waste reduction activities across the region and engage the community.

Informing the community and engaging them in waste related activities has been achieved in 2011-12 through a variety of mediums.

The website has continued to be an important tool in communicating resource recovery messages, outcomes of programs and other waste information across the region. The website aims to be a 'one-stop-shop' for waste related information. Its toolkits, fact sheets, case studies, reports and project information are updated regularly, allowing interested organisations and individuals to participate in our programs. The website has become increasingly interactive and a useful means to engage the community and gain feedback. In 2011-12 the website played host to over 15,692 unique visitors and had 24,863 hits.

An e-newsletter is also produced to let the community, local government, other organisations and business know what the NEWF is doing in their sector. It keeps over 100 other stakeholders informed of events, projects and waste related tips and articles. Monitoring of these newsletters has indicated a moderate level of uptake.

What we waste?							
Why do we waste?							
The Environmental Impacts of Wasting Food							
What can you do to reduce your food waste?							
	Make your Love Food Pledge Here If you really love your food, and want to make a difference make your pledge today to waste less food in the future.						
Name: <input type="text"/>	<table border="1"><tr><td>Sophie</td><td>Eat all our dinner and serve smaller portions.</td></tr><tr><td>Harry</td><td>I will freeze leftovers and use them later.</td></tr><tr><td>Sym</td><td>I will try to eat all my dinner.</td></tr></table>	Sophie	Eat all our dinner and serve smaller portions.	Harry	I will freeze leftovers and use them later.	Sym	I will try to eat all my dinner.
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Harry	I will freeze leftovers and use them later.						
Sym	I will try to eat all my dinner.						
E-mail: <input type="text"/>							



Participation from the community can be vital to the success of our projects and the NEWF has used a number of media opportunities and features regularly in local and regional media.

Through the delivery of the Business Waste Reduction Project, a significant marketing and education campaign was developed. The Waste Warrior campaign ran from January until mid June 2012. This involved multiple media

1.1 NEWF Communication

Continued...

channels, including print, radio and television. Successful regional coverage was achieved.

The television commercial was screened during targeted programming throughout the entire campaign period. Some 757 commercials went to air on two different channels, with an estimated viewing audience of 450,000 in the Northern Rivers region and Coffs Harbour.

Radio commercials ran for two months, with 1468 commercials being aired over this period. A newspaper print column was published in local papers and one council publication; including the Northern Star, Ballina Advocate, the Daily Examiner, the Richmond River Express Examiner and the Byron Echo and the Tweedlink. The column was published in the last week of each month, and utilised editorial style messaging about business waste. It was also used to promote the “Waste Warrior of the Month”, the call to action to become a Waste Warrior and the promotion of participating businesses.

The education projects developed 4 new advertisements in 9 publications with editorial and special features for National Recycling Week.



Other projects that featured prominently in the media were Second Hand Saturday, Love Food Hate Waste and the Ewaste collection service.

In addition, ABC radio interviews allowed the Forum to provide comment and raise awareness about recycling and resource recovery across the region.

1.2.1 The Green House Education Program

To encourage people to learn about how they can actively help their local environment through adopting simple waste-less practices, such as smart-shopping, avoidance, reuse, composting and recycling.

“Living Green with The Green House” is a mobile waste education program developed by the North East Waste Forum on behalf of its member Councils, which promotes sustainable waste practices to the North Coast community through the provision of information marquees, education resources, demonstrations and performance based education.

The educational objectives of the Green House program include:

- Increasing awareness of the impact of our continuing use and waste of resources;
- Building the capacity of community to adopt sustainable waste practices at home, school, work and play;
- Promoting local Council waste management services and keeping the community informed.

The NEWF Green House Waste Education Program was launched in December 2004 with a recycled timber mobile unit



Beef Week - pledge made by students

and performers to interact and engage people. This structure was redesigned and redeveloped in 2008, when a more robust and flexible unit was produced to meet council occupational health and safety requirements and broaden the programs future educational reach. The new ‘Living Green with the Green House’ mobile waste education program was launched at Alstonville Primary School in Ballina Shire in early 2009. The success and popularity of this regional waste education program has continued to strengthen with many events being the

1.2.1 The Green House Education Program

Continued...

result of direct requests from schools and community event organisers. Since the program began in 2004/5, approximately 20,000 people have had direct interaction with the Green House program, with more than 220 event days and over 100 school visits.

Teacher resources have also been developed to link in with Curriculum Outcomes, and are available on the NEWF's website.

The Green House visited more events than in any previous year. A summary of the 11-12 programs is outlined below:

- The Green House visited 17 community events, 25 schools and participated in 5 Landfill Open Days;
- Visits included 30 budgeted council events (6 per NEWF member council) plus 9 additional events.
- An estimated 4050 people had direct contact with the Green House during this period;



Display to encourage waste avoidance

- The unit reached 24 primary schools, 1 high school, 7 agricultural show days, 5 small schools and 5 council Landfill Open days;
- 2 performers were involved at 10 of the 39 event days, 1 performer attended 24 of the events and 5 events were attended by the Site Manager only;
- One event was postponed in 10-11 and rescheduled later in the program. No events were cancelled.

1.2.1 The Green House Education Program

Continued...

New additions to this year's program

In this year's program we have made the following improvements have been made to the program:

- Introduced a new character to the show GEN Z, a remote control recycled robot made from a remote control car and recycling;
- Improved and upgraded products on the Reuse/Recycle/Avoid display. New items included: a toothbrush bracelet, a toothbrush soap holder, recycled paper baskets, recycled plastic magazine rack, calculator made from recycled printer, garden stake made from recycling
- Updated the low waste lunch display to include a nude-food lunchbox;
- Printed Green House t-shirts and recycled plastic caps for Site Managers;
- Printed 2 Green House stickers for the side of the GH trailer;
- Development of new (recycled) costumes for the performers;
- Included a green bin for organics in the bin display.



The Green House at the Blues Festival



Reuse, Recycle & Avoid display items

The completed events for 2011-12 are summarised in the tables below:

1.2.1 The Green House Education Program

Continued...

Summary Report: The Green House Events 2011/2012

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL			
DATE	EVENT	ATTENDANCE	ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES
4/8/11	LOD: Lennox Public School	130	Trip to the Tip and GH show with Workbook provided. First for Ballina council.
20/10/11 - 21/10/11	Holy Family School	240	
25/10/11 - 26/10/11	Teven/Tintenbar PS	160	
8/2/12	Alstonville PS	85	
9/2/12	Alstonville PS	85	
TOTAL	7	670	

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL			
DATE	EVENT	ATTENDANCE	ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES
13/8/11	Launch Sustainable Streets Program: Brunswick Heads	28	Compost and worm farming demonstrations
11/10/11	St Johns Catholic School	90	
13/10/11	Byron Community School	90	
28/11/11 - 29/11/11	Shearwater Steiner School	160	
24/2/12	Cape Byron Steiner School	110	
5/4/12 - 9/4/12	Byron Blues Festival - 5 days	230	Soy milk wallet workshop
9/6/12	Old and Gold Festival	80	Soy milk wallet workshop
TOTAL	11	758	

TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL			
DATE	EVENT	ATTENDANCE	ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES
9/8/11	St James Primary School	130	
10/8/11	Sustainability and Lifestyle Expo: Kingscliff TAFE	80	Involved in Sustainability challenge and worm farming demonstrations.
11/8/11	Murwillumbah High School	100	
16/8/11	Stokers Siding PS and Crabbes Creek PS	95	Two small schools joined at Stokers Siding school for performances.
10/5/12	LOD: Carool PS and Sathya Sai School	120	Trip to the Tip Bus trip, Chinderah MRF and Green house performance. Include 1 small school
14/5/12	Kingscliff PS	120	
18/5/12	Bilambil PS	110	
TOTAL	7	755	

1.2.1 The Green House Education Program

Continued...

Summary Report: The Green House Events 2011/2012

RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL			
DATE	EVENT	ATTENDANCE	ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES
27/3/12	Evans River Community School	110	
28/3/12	LOD: Woodburn PS	120	Trip to the Tip and GH show with new Workbook provided
29/3/12	LOD: St Josephs Primary School	120	Trip to the Tip and GH show with new Workbook provided
6/5/12	Nth Rivers Garden Club Friendship Day	60	Worm farming and composting demonstrations
26/5/12	Beef Week: Saturday Parade	90	Worm farming demos and 1 marquee with new LFHW program and performer.
27/5/12	Beef Week: Market Day	50	Worm farming demos and 1 marquee with new LFHW program and performer.
14/6/12 - 16/6/12	Primex - 3 days	300	Worm farming demos and 1 marquee with new LFHW program and performer.
TOTAL	9	850	

CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL			
DATE	EVENT	ATTENDANCE	ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES
11/9/11	Gate to Plate Festival Market Day	80	Compost and worm farming demonstrations
19/9/11	Iluka Public School	120	
17/9/11	Living the Good Life Festival: Iluka	80	Compost and worm farming demonstrations
20/9/11	Glenreagh PS	120	
21/9/11	Gillwinga PS	120	
23/9/11	Tucabia and Wooli PS	95	2 small schools joined at Tucabia PS
16/11/11	LOD: Grafton Public School	120	Trip to the Tip Bus trip, MRF and Green house performance.
25/11/11	St Marys Grafton School	100	
24/6/12	New Organics Launch: Yamba Markets	100	Launch of new organics bins for CVC. Performers scheduled show on stage with Dirt Girl. Including LFHW marquee.
TOTAL	9	935	

1.2.2 Landfill Open Days

Aim: To educate students and/or the community about their local waste facility, through an experiential learning experience.

Landfill Open Days, otherwise known as the “Trip to the Tip”, have become a successful education program of the NEWF councils. Offered to the NEWF Councils since 2003, this fun and interactive school excursion offers students a first hand experience of what happens to their waste and recycling once their wheelie bin leaves the kerbside.

This year Ballina Council joined the program for the first time. In 2011-2012 a total of five Landfill Open Days were held across four NEWF councils involving 610 students and 6 schools.

Outcomes have included:

- Increased student’s awareness and understanding of waste issues and the impact that waste has on the local environment;
- Students were given the opportunity to experience what happens at their local landfill site and MRF (Materials Recycling Facility);



Richmond Valley students look at recycling



Recycled art activities at Murwillumbah on World Environment Day

1.2.2 Landfill Open Days

Continued...

- Increased skills and understanding of simple ways of living more sustainably by being 'waste wise' both at home and at school.

The tour is conducted by Waste Services staff from the local Council and assisted by the NEWF Green House performers 'Elley E-Waste & PET'.

Learning back in the classroom

Students receive a "Trip to the Tip Workbook" to take back to school including information, activities and games to reinforce the learning outcomes from the excursion. This year the booklet was revised and updated to cover a regional and modern perspective on waste and recycling. Teachers are also provided with a Resource Kit including lesson plans, classroom activities and posters to assist the continued learning on waste and recycling back in the classroom.



Lennox Head Public School Environment Day

1.2.3 Second Hand Saturday Program

The fourth Second Hand Saturday (SHS) event co-ordinated by the NEWF was held on Saturday 15th October 2011. The event has occurred on three previous occasions on Saturday 21st May 2005, Saturday 24th June 2006 and Saturday 24th November 2007.

The Second Hand Saturday event aims to promote and provide reuse options for the community. The objectives of the event are to:

- increase community awareness of reuse options and opportunities
- increase community participation in reuse activities
- increase awareness of waste as a resource
- increase diversion of waste to landfill
- promote the social, economic and ecological benefits of reuse activities.

In 2011, the Second Hand Saturday program was once again a highly successful promotional neighbourhood campaign. With all 5 NEWF member Councils participating, a \$50,000 + sponsorship deal with APN Media Group, a greater on-line presence than in previous years, more people than ever registered to hold garage sales on the day. Unfortunately, thunderstorms and bad weather prevented many people from holding them on the day in some areas.



1.2.3 Second Hand Saturday Program

Continued

In summary the following outcomes were achieved:

- Over 630 people registered across the region
- Website unique hits for this period: 2280 (double the average);
- Website visits: 4115 (double)
- 80 ads; 23 editorial pieces were published in 12 regional and local print publications; community announcements aired on local radio stations, and NEWF held 3 radio interviews, with some local Councils providing further media support
- Around 70% of evaluation respondents to the survey said they would definitely participate again, and a further 14% said they would consider.

The Second Hand Saturday program will be run once again in 2013.



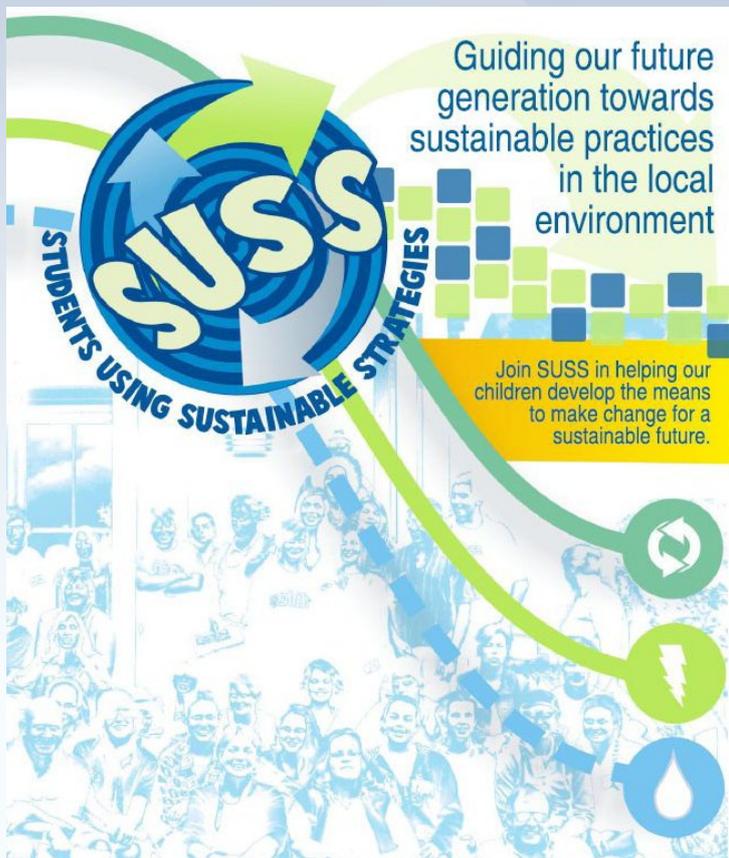
Mullumbimby Community Preschool registered to hold a garage sale on Second Hand Saturday



Evans Head Men's Shed had an array of hand-made and second hand items for sale

1.2.4 Students Using Sustainable Strategies Program

Aim: To educate students and/or the community about their local waste facility, through an experiential learning experience.



The Students Using Sustainable Strategies Program is a partnership project between the North East Waste Forum, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Rous Water, Richmond Landcare, Southern Cross University, Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre and Lismore, Byron, Ballina, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Tweed Shire councils. It involves coordination of a 2 night, 2 day Sustainability Forum targeting high schools across the region, training students to undertake the waste audit workshops at the Forum and AAA audit days with a number of these schools after the Forum. This year, NEWF actively participated in the Steering Committee for the program with the other partners to coordinate the Forum. NEWF also was involved in 2 AAA team audit days at Kyogle High School and Mullumbimby High School. 3 Students from Byron High School were trained to undertake the waste audit training to their peers at the SUSS Forum.

1.2.4 Students Using Sustainable Strategies Program

Continued...

The focus of the Forum is sustainability and the main aims include:

- Increase students and teachers awareness of best practice waste, water and energy use, resource recovery, conservation, measures that can be implemented in schools through the School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP);
- Develop support networks amongst students and teachers attending the SUSS Forum;
- Empower and skill students and teachers to take actions to increase sustainable practices in their lives, community and schools;
- Create links between schools, local councils and environmental agencies to support SEMP development & implementation of action plans.
- This year the Forum was held from the 13th – 15th June at St John's College Woodlawn. 13 schools and 50 students participated. NEWF conducted the waste audit workshops and the recycling relay. Evaluation of the program will be available in August.



Peer learning is a fundamental element in NEWF waste audit workshops at SUSS. Student leaders are trained to conduct the workshops, empowering them and their peers to generate change in their own schools.



Students do visual audits of bins to assess how much and what types of waste is generated in a typical school bin.

1.3 Business Waste Reduction Project

Aim: Achieve measurable waste reduction outcomes and reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill from businesses across the NEWF region.

The North East Waste Forum identified the Business Waste Reduction Project as one of the key deliverables to meet the Forum's waste reduction and avoidance objectives.

The project brief for 2011-12 was to continue to assist regional business while investigating the opportunity to implement new strategies and targets within the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Implementation Plan 2012-15.

A regional marketing and education strategy was approved for delivery to build upon the project's case management focus in previous years. The challenge was to develop a one size fits all regional campaign, which encompassed differing waste management service levels and a multitude of business industry types in a short time frame.

The strategy was underpinned by a selection of targeted campaigns that were developed to meet the core objectives. The individual campaigns were developed for specific waste reduction actions relevant to business and industry types.



Fruitos Fruit and Veg Wholesaler partnered with the Liberation Larder to divert organics from landfill through the Waste Warriors project.

1.3 Business Waste Reduction Project

Continued...

Two key objectives to be achieved by the project were:

1. Increase awareness about the benefits of best practice waste management for business
2. Encourage actions for reducing waste. Specifically:
 - Reducing organics going to landfill
 - Recycling more through beginning or increasing the use of a 2 bin (or more) recycling system

The BWRP project outcomes are listed in the tables below.

Marketing and Education Campaign Data	Regional Marketing and Education Strategy developed
	757 total (373 free) TV Commercials
	32 print columns across 5 newspapers
	11 media releases written and distributed
	1468 total (1318 free) Radio Commercials
	23 project information dissemination points established
	Development of campaign website
	Direct mail out of DL flyer to 1500 commercial property owners
	Direct Mail out of DL Flyer to 387 business operators

1.3 Business Waste Reduction Project

Continued...

Website Data

1142 hits on Waste Warriors website over 7 months

324 Waste Warrior registrations over 7 months

235 downloads of the online toolkit over 7 months

Presentation to Ballina Chamber of Commerce resulting in 160 registrations

4 days business liaison in Yamba CBD, Evans Head, Woodburn, Coraki and Casino (total of 88 businesses)

Direct Business Engagement Data

90 phone enquiries over 9 months

10 Case Studies on a range of industry and waste types

Facebook page established with over 60 businesses engaged in dialogue about business waste.

Survey instrument developed and sent to 360 businesses

10 electronic newsletters distributed to database of 600 over 7 months

Presentation to Alstonville High School Year 8 students and teachers

Business Resources Developed

The Prices and Service availability (specific to local council area) factsheet

3x Bin signage

The 6 steps to Business Waste Success factsheet

Contact Details for Food Relief Charities (specific to local government area) factsheet

Personalised Waste Warrior certificate and electronic decal

Killer Comebacks factsheet

Save Yourself Factsheet

1.3 Business Waste Reduction Project

Continued...

Project Resources Developed

DL Flyer developed for commercial property owners to increase the level of recycle bins available to business tenants

DL Flyer developed as call to action for business champions to register as Waste Warriors

Radio Commercial

30 and 15 second Television Commercials

E-blast developed

BWRP Database increased from 264 valid emails to 483

Stand alone BWRP website

Qualitative Data

50% of businesses engaged additional waste services

70.8% implemented a 2 (or more) bin system

52.1% reduced the amount of food and organic waste going to landfill

81.3% decreased amount of rubbish going in to mixed waste bin

89.6% of businesses reported an increased knowledge of business waste reduction practices

1.3 Business Waste Reduction Project

Continued...

The project has met the objectives as evidenced by project survey participants reporting that:

- Over 80% of businesses decreasing the amount of rubbish they are sending to landfill via their mixed waste bin service.
- 70% of business have implementing a 2 (or more) bin system for separating waste
- 50% of businesses have reduced the amount of food and organic waste going to landfill.

The project has directly assisted nearly 70% of surveyed businesses to implement a system for dealing with waste at the place of business. This could be as simple as a 2-bin system, or a full and comprehensive Waste Reduction Action Plan.

The 68.8% of businesses increasing the level of recycling done with existing services indicates that increased levels of recycling of the C&I waste stream is possible without additional resources. This data reinforces that the information provided to business throughout the project has directly influenced behaviour and decision making for business.

It has raised awareness of best practice waste management for business across the region, and increased business participation in the project, with the level of engagement continuing.



YamCom takes recycling E-Waste very seriously and offers a drop off service for printer and toner cartridges.

Key recommendations for the project's continuation include:

- Continued availability of Pricing and Services Factsheets
- Maintaining regular, short and interesting communication with business, that outlines the benefits to business of best practice waste management.
- Ensuring simplicity of information about business waste management.
- Continuing to develop and provide tools and resources to support businesses shift towards best practice waste management.

1.4 Emissions Project

Aim: To establish the position of member Councils landfills and facilities in regard to any new legislative and regulatory frameworks intended to reduce or place a price on Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Initially this project was intended to determine the impact of organics diversion on the production of greenhouse gas emissions. However, the passing of the Clean Energy Act 2012 and its implications for Councils managing landfill emissions necessitated a project to ensure Councils were prepared to meet any compliance requirements. The new Carbon pricing mechanism has a period of 3 years (2012-15) where the price will be fixed before a move is made to a market based mechanism. During this time landfill operators will be eligible to offset their liability to pay the tax with carbon credits under the Carbon Farming Initiative. This initiative and other opportunities to offset emissions also required investigation.

An external consultant was engaged to:

- collate baseline data and estimate current and future methane emissions from NEWF landfills using the NGERS methods.
- Identify specific obligations, and potential liabilities and opportunities for member councils under the Clean Energy Legislative Package
- Assess the viability of each site to capture and flare landfill gas and for energy production
- Identify and evaluate technologies to lower emissions.



Gas capture to generate energy at Stots Creek



Landfill lids are now used to cover the face at Stots Creek

1.5 Specific Wastes

Aim: To investigate and improve recycling or disposal opportunities for the recycling of specific wastes such as electronic wastes, compact fluorescent tubes and tyres

NEWF councils have regional contracts to deal with the recycling or disposal of a number of specific wastes and individual arrangements with contractors.

Electronic waste is collected and transported to a recycler in South East Queensland from 7 permanent collection points across the region. The NEWF Councils of Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire have set up permanent collection points at their facilities for collection of E-waste to allow the public to dispose of electronic wastes such as televisions and computers in an environmentally responsible manner. Since the permanent collection facilities have been in operation over 650 tonnes of E-waste has been diverted from landfill in the region.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps and Fluorescent Tubes disposal is also governed by a regional contract with Ballina Shire, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Tweed Shire having permanent collection facilities. Stillages have been used for the collection of tubes in 2010-11 with limited success due to their size. Investigation into a larger size container will be undertaken during the next contract period for 1500mm tubes.

In 2011-12 all Councils continued to share the regional tyre contract, with tyres sent to south east Queensland for reprocessing. Products made from recycled tyres include the matting for children's playgrounds and additives for the construction industry.



Diversion in 2011-12

Electronic Waste – 302 tonnes

Gas Bottles – 1,426 units

Tyres – 4,127 units

Scrap Metal - 4,300 tonnes

1.6 Household Hazardous Waste

Aim: Reduce hazardous waste to landfill.

The NEWF's household chemical collection program has been successful in recovering hazardous chemical waste through its collection days and permanent stores. Most waste collected has been cleaning agents, paints, batteries, fire extinguishers, gas bottles and pesticides.

The two permanent hazardous waste stores in Grafton and Lismore have provided a much needed service to the north coast community. An increase in the demand for household chemical disposal resulted in the decision to locate an additional permanent store in the north of the region,

at Tweed Shire Councils Stotts Creek Depot. This store is currently under construction.

In 2011-12 the Grafton store received 1,435 kg for appropriate disposal, 7377 kg from the Lismore store and 8101 kg from a clean up day held in the Tweed.



Grafton Hazardous Waste Store



drumMUSTER receival depot

1.7 Training

Aim: Provide training, professional development and networking opportunities for landfill and education staff in the region.

A Hazardous and Dangerous Goods Chemical Awareness course was conducted in March 2012 at Grafton for Council Staff.

This course provided the participants with general information related to the classification, transport and handling of dangerous goods. 12 staff attended the half-day training.





Partnerships

The NEWF also delivers its projects through partnerships and collaboration developed over many years.

We have worked collaboratively with a number of organisations across the region and see this as an important way of maintaining and promoting good practice waste avoidance and resource recovery in the region.

In 2011-12 these included: • NOROC • National Parks • Rous Water • Sustain Northern Rivers • Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators • Chambers of Commerce • Lismore and Kyogle Councils • NSW Environmental Trust • RENEW NSW



2.1 The Regional Waste Management Group

Aim: To set the strategic direction of waste management in the region through a coordinated and collaborative approach that optimises resource sharing opportunities.

In June 2011 the Regional Waste Managers Group (RWMG) was formed to facilitate the development of resource sharing opportunities between all NOROC Councils, including the non-NEWF member Councils of Lismore and Kyogle. This partnership was encouraged by the NOROC Review of Resource Sharing Opportunities - Waste Management, a regional study and report produced by Hyder Consulting in February 2011.

The Hyder Report determined that while there were existing arrangements in place between councils to deliver efficiencies in waste management, there was potential for further resource sharing opportunities, especially as several member councils were undertaking new waste infrastructure development projects. The escalating costs of landfill disposal due to an increasing landfill levy and population growth was determined to be the key driver for action and collaboration.

In 2011-12 this collaboration flourished and a Regional Waste Management Strategy was developed. The Group reviewed the

recommendations and short term goals of the Hyder Report and State and National Policies and identified five key strategic directions to be addressed by the Strategy;

- Managing Residual Waste
- Increasing Resource Recovery
- Improving Kerbside Collection
- Community Engagement and Education and
- Reducing Emissions.

It was determined that the Strategy be a working document that would be progressively developed and incorporate a clear statement of objectives on the key issues highlighted by the Report. Managing Residual Waste and Reducing Emissions were the primary focus of 2011-12, with independent studies undertaken in both areas. The analysis and reporting for both are currently in their final stages.

2.2 RENEW NSW

Aim: Provide training, professional development and networking opportunities for landfill and education staff in the region.

The North East Waste Forum is one of eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs) which operate in rural and regional areas of NSW. All VRWGs are members of RENEW NSW and encompass over 95 regional Councils. The groups work together to improve resource recovery and waste management in regional NSW.

RENEW is supported by the NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its primary goal is to highlight the differing waste management issues and priorities within regional areas and implement better waste and sustainable recycling systems. It also serves as an advisory body on matters of regional concern such as landfill rationalization, infrastructure sharing, resource recovery systems, drop-off centres and other related sustainability activities.

NEWF has fostered active and reciprocal relationships with and within RENEW NSW and the information exchange and support has been very beneficial. The NEWF Coordinator attends regional meetings and collaborates on projects regularly throughout the year. The Forum also provided a number of opportunities throughout 2011-12 for groups to be involved in consultation and provide submissions to State and Federal governments. A submission was made on the review of the Waste Levy and consultation was undertaken regarding Product Stewardship for electronic waste.



Renew meetings offer a forum for discussion and an opportunity to visit local facilities.

2.3 Love Food Hate Waste

Aim: Raise awareness about the impact of food waste in NSW and reduce how much 'good' food we waste.

The NEWF was successful in receiving funding from the EPA's Love Food Hate Waste Program for the development of an education program in the NEWF region.

The principle 2 objectives of the NEWF's Love Food Hate Waste program are:

1. providing the north coast community with education about food waste avoidance and
2. promotion to the north coast community about sustainable food waste reduction i.e. how to practice better food buying, cooking, using leftovers and storing behaviours through an existing regional education resource (The Green House education program) and development of new LFHW resources.

In summary, the North Coast Love Food Hate Waste Program has been integrated into the existing NEWF Education Program infrastructure. Three new marquee walls have been designed and developed, 7 double-sided pull up displays (1 to each member Council plus 2 for the NEWF display), 2 new performer characters and



The launch of the Love Food Hate Waste program.





2.3 Love Food Hate Waste

Continued...

scripts/activities for engaging people have been developed, a 'pledge/recipe tree' and other display/ interactive elements for the marquee have been made, training of site managers (2) and performers on the principle LFHW messages has been provided, a LFHW website page with on-line pledge system has also been developed and refined further.

The education marquee was launched in April, and since then has visited 17 shopping centres, farmers markets and agricultural shows throughout the NEWF region. It has also achieved significant local and regional media attention through the launch of the program and its presence at these events throughout the north coast. More than 200 pledges have been made from people visiting the marquee. The program will continue to grow over the coming financial year, with financial commitment from NEWF member Councils.



2.4 Illegal Dumping

Aim: To reduce illegal dumping across the NEWF region and improve the council's capacity to respond to illegal dumping.

The NEWF was successful in receiving Environmental Trust Funding for a project titled "Raising Illegal Dumping Awareness in the Northern Rivers" in February 2012. The project will run over an 18 month period from April 2012 to September 2013.

This project aims to educate businesses and householders on the North Coast of NSW about the social, environmental and economic impacts of illegal dumping. The project will also strengthen the capacity of local councils to enforce illegal dumping prevention strategies. Priority actions have been identified by the NEWF Councils and the WARR Progress Report 2010 and Implementation Strategy 2011-2015. These include a media campaign involving TV, radio, newspaper advertisements, editorials; training of council staff in strategically managing Illegal Dumping; printing of resources including signage, tape and brochures to promote the illegal dumping of materials on public land.

Project aims include:

1. Reduce illegal dumping across the NEWF region by raising awareness of businesses and householders of the financial, human and environmental health impacts of illegal dumping on the community;
2. Improve the tools and skills of NEWF member Councils to better manage and respond to illegal dumping.



Illegally dumped materials in Tweed Shire Council

Project progress April-June 2012:

- A project officer has been employed to implement the project one day per week over the 18 month period;
- Sponsorships are being sort from TV, radio and newspapers to extend the reach of the project;
- Illegal Dumping Training organised for October, to be run by ALERT and OEH in Ballina;
- Over 20 NEWF council employees expressed interest in ID training;
- Quote for design and printed materials sort;
- Partnership with regional manager at NPWS established.



Resource Recovery & New Initiatives

The recovery of resources across the region through shared contracts and individual Council effort continues to increase. This year over 31,661 tonnes of garden organics was diverted from landfill and composted or mulched for reuse across the region. 40,800 litres of used oil and 302 tonnes of E-waste were recycled. The NEWF continues to look for opportunities and initiatives to increase this diversion, removing problematic elements from our landfills and encouraging the reuse of our limited resources.

3.1 New Council Initiatives

During 2011-12 NEWF Councils implemented a range of new programs and services. Key achievements are outlined below.



Chinderah Materials Recovery Facility



Peter with new bins at Richmond Valley Council

Tweed Shire Council

Last year Tweed Council constructed a new Materials Recovery Facility at Chinderah, eliminating the need to transport comingled recycling from the region and providing other regional Councils with an accessible facility.

Richmond Valley Council

Council introduced its first kerb side recycling service, in February 2010 with a great response from the local community. Last year they also rolled out a green bin and are now achieving a best practice 3 bin service. In addition, Council installed a new weighbridge and office at the Casino Landfill.

Ballina Shire Council

Ballina Council introduced an organic green waste service in 2010, to complete a best practice 3 bin system. The diversion of organic waste significantly reducing by over 40% the waste disposed of to landfill. The Collection allows for food waste and is processed through a windrow composting system in Lismore. In 2011 the Council were successful in winning a 4.5 million dollar grant to part fund a bio-char facility to utilize the regions organic waste.

3.1 New Council Initiatives

Continued...

Clarence Valley Council

In 2011 Clarence Valley Council developed a new MRF and fully enclosed composting facility to support the introduction of their new solid waste service beginning in July 2012.

The new domestic waste service is based on a weekly 240 litre organics service which includes food waste, a fortnightly recycling service utilising 360 litre MGB's as the standard bin and a fortnightly 240 litre residual bin service. The role out of a 360 litre MGB's as the standard domestic recycling bin is a first for Australia.

A comprehensive commercial waste service based on the 3 waste streams is also available. This service is a fully user pays system based on the number & type of bins and the number of empties. Commercial bins are fitted with RFID's to record the type of service and number of empties. Clients are invoiced based on this data.

Prior to the adoption of the new waste collection service an extensive program to inform and consult the community on various service issues and potential changes was conducted over an 18 month period.



Ken, Richard and Suzanne with characters from Dirtgirlworld

Council developed a partnership with local international stars of children's television dirtgirl and scrapboy to be their waste ambassadors promoting and educating our community on the changes and benefits of the waste collection and processing system.

3.2 Resource Recovery/Waste Diversion Reporting from July 1st 2011 to 30th June 2012

Waste Type	Resource Recovery Rates / or Waste Diversion Rates	Measurement tonnes/kg/m ³	Recycled or Reused?
Garden Organics	31,661	Tonnes	Recycled
Scrap Metal	4,300	Tonnes	Recycled
drumMUSTER	12,144	Unit -Drums	Recycled
Hazardous/Chemical Waste	17,048	Kilograms	Hazardous disposal or treat then recycle
Used Oil	40,860	Litres	Recycled
Construction and Demolition	21,335	Tonnes	Recycled
Tyres	4,127	Units	Recycled
Sharps	200	Units	Hazardous disposal or treat then recycle
Batteries	4,072	Units	Recycled
Gas bottles	1,426	Units	Recycled
Comingled recycling	21,128	Tonnes	Recycled
Paper & Cardboard	5,393	Tonnes	Recycled
Illegal Dumping	367	No of Incidents (or)	Clean up
Glass	102	Tonnes	Recycled
E Waste (Computers etc)	302	Tonnes	Recycled
Landfill	150,012	Tonnes	Disposal



Management & Governance

The Forum provides tangible benefits to Member Councils, through programs aimed at delivering efficiencies and cost savings and promoting innovation and excellence in waste and resource management.

The Forum has the following objectives:

- Collectively discuss and investigate the future waste management needs of the region and of Member Council areas.
- Provide a co-ordinated approach to waste management and minimisation.
- Avoid duplication of effort between Member Councils.
- Confirm a commitment to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill.
- To exchange knowledge between member councils on waste management issues.
- To formulate draft policies, strategies and guidelines in relation to regional waste management and education needs.



4.1 Governance and Procedure

The role of host council is important in ensuring the effective operation of the NEWF and the implementation of its projects. In 2011-12 Tweed Shire Council will continue in this role.

In the past 2 years the NEWF's governance has been reviewed and a number of changes have been implemented. The formation of the Regional Waste Managers Group has led to closer collaboration between Councils and as a result Lismore and Kyogle Councils have accepted an invitation to join the Forum from June 2012. This increase in membership means the entire northern rivers region is collaborating on waste management and the recovery of resources.



4.1.1 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

The NEWF operates under an MOA outlining the objectives and the role of the NEWF; its membership, commitment, delegation of power; function, administration; council responsibilities and the policies and procedures that accompany the document. The MOA is signed by all member councils and recognises the right of councils to withdraw membership at any time. The MOA was revised in 2009/10, with a new MOA taking effect from 30 June 2010. This MOA was extended to encompass the 2011-2012 year.

The NEWF operates through a Working Group. All member councils are members of the working group and send a representative to the bi-monthly meetings of the NEWF.

Since 2009 the MOA has been reviewed and revised each year. In 2012 a new MOA was put in place to guide the NEWF until 2016.

Under the agreement each Member Council agrees to act in good faith, and to use its best endeavors to:

- meet the aims and objectives of the Forum set out in this Agreement; and
- adopt the Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan and Budget.
- co-operate and collaborate on matters

including, education, research and development, training, marketing, policy and procedures, where there are economic, social and environmental gains;

- share resources including information and facilities;
- act in a co-ordinated manner with full awareness of what others are doing;
- respect opportunities for others to act alone;
- create and maintain positive relationships in a supportive network;
- commit to continuous improvement, leadership and innovation
- review the performance of the Forum and its delivery of services in accordance with this Agreement.

4.1.2 Meeting and Reporting

The NEWF meets at least 6 times per year. Meetings are held bi-monthly and rotated to each member Council. During 2011/12, six NEWF meetings and four Regional Waste Management Group meetings were held.

The Co-ordinator notifies members, sends the agenda and forwards minutes of meetings to each Member Council. Each Council is entitled to a single vote at a meeting and a quorum at a meeting consists of a majority of members of the Working Group. Decisions are carried by majority vote. A tied vote shall be a motion lost. The Co-ordinator does not have any voting rights.

In addition a meeting of NEWF contractors is held on alternative months to allow updates to the Coordinator, resource sharing and support across NEWF projects.

The NEWF currently reports on a quarterly basis to Council. This report includes progress on projects, milestones reached, budget expenditure and regional resource recovery. The NEWF also provides progress reports to the NSW Environmental Protection Agency on a quarterly basis and submits a comprehensive Regional Waste Plan every 3 years. In addition, this Annual report is completed for all NEWF stakeholders.



NEWF Member Councils meet every second month.



4.1.3 Council Delegates in 2011-12

Ballina Shire Council	Rodney Dawson
Byron Shire Council	Warren Burgess
Clarence Valley Council	Ken Wilson Richard Roper
Richmond Valley Council	Peter Cotterill
Tweed Shire Council	Adam Faulkner



4.1.4 Environmental Performance

The NEWF aims to reduce our impact on the environment by:

- Offsetting air travel
- Carpooling when possible
- Reducing its paper use by using electronic documents as a first
- Purchasing locally or Australian made products
- Adopting reuse and repair as often as possible
- Recycling or refilling all toner / printer cartridges
- Using 'Green Power' electricity or solar power in most of the home offices
- Composting and recycling in all workplaces



4.2 Finances

Each Council that is a member of NEWF contributes between \$0.80 - \$1.00 per head of population (based on 2012 Census results) towards NEWF operations, project development and implementation. This is capped at maximum population of 50,000. This way each council shares choice in the ongoing operations of the Forum and contributes a proportionate share of running costs and project expenses.

The NSW EPA has provided sponsorship for assistance with project development and implementation. Regular progress reports and a final report, including project outcomes and resource recovery figures are delivered to the EPA each year.



4.2.1 Procurement & Contracts

The NEWF can authorise expenditure for works or services by resolution at a meeting of the Working Group. Unless otherwise directed by the Working Group, procurement shall be undertaken in accordance with the procedures of the Host Council. The Host Council is responsible for calling for, and awarding tenders and the working group assists the Host Council by preparing any technical specifications and tender documents; assessing any tenders received in response to the call for tender; and making a recommendation to the Host Council regarding the preferred tenderer.

The NEWF delivers its projects through the engagement of contractors and consultants. This engagement is conducted through a transparent and equitable process under the procurement policy and procedures of the Tweed Shire Council, the host Council for the NEWF.

In 2011-12 consultants managed projects in the role of:

- Coordinator
- Education Coordinator and
- Business Waste Reduction Coordinator

Tenders for specific works included:

- Website Management and Maintenance
- Electronic waste recycling
- Tyre recycling
- Household Hazardous waste collection and disposal
- CFL and Fluorescent tube collection and disposal

In addition preferred suppliers were engaged as:

- Green House site managers and performers
- Printers and designers

4.2.2 Financial Statement

Revenue 2011-12

EPA funding	\$198,000.00	
Member Council Contributions	\$198,000.00	
Sundry (HHW)	\$38,500.00	
LFHW	\$22,200.00	
Regional Strategy Contributions	\$11,000.00	
TOTALS	467,700.00	

Expenditure 2011-12

Budget Line	2011-12 Allocation	2011-12 Expenditure
A2543.1026 General Administration	20,000.00	23,485.03
A2543.1027 Coordinator Contract	68,790.00	71,165.04
A2543.1028 Coordinator Expenses	7,550.00	6,759.42
A2543.1030 Ed Coordinator Contract	48,319.92	49,068.90
A2543.1031 Ed Coordinator Expenses	7,500.00	4,504.13
A2543.1033 Business Waste Contract	100,000.00	97,447.19
A2543.1034 Business Project Expenses	9,500.00	5,516.36
A2543.1038 RENEW NSW	15,000.00	3,136.07
A2543.1039 Litter/Illegal dumping Project	20,000.00	2,458.75
A2543.1042 Organics/Emissions Project	35,000.00	23,041.70
A2543.1043 Household Hazardous Waste	85,000.00	35,826.08
A2543.1044 Regional Stores	10,000.00	7,535.77
A2543.1045 Specific Waste Project	10,000.00	-
A2543.1047 Training/skills Enhancement	10,000.00	2,008.64
A2543.1048 Waste Avoidance/Education	75,000.00	79,903.53
A2543.1056 Love Food Hate Waste	22,200.00	21,256.79
A2543.1058 Regional Waste Strategy	60,000.00	28,370.70
SUB TOTALS YEAR TO DATE	471,659.92	411,856.61