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north east waste

# Annual Report 2012-13

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

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



# FOREWORD

working together towards regional solutions to effective waste management. It's member Councils are Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Kyogle Shire, Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire.

It was a year of significant change for North East Waste, with the new member councils of Lismore and Kyogle joining the group and several staff changes. Waste managers, Adam Faulkner of Tweed Shire Council and Peter Cotterill from Richmond Valley, both left their positions to pursue opportunities elsewhere and we would like to acknowledge their immense contribution and thank them for their support.

As usual, this year we delivered a suite of projects involving and engaging the community, schools, businesses and government. We overhauled our communications systems, rebranded and have a new website and dissemination approach. Our core education and business projects have been augmented and continue to inform and educate our community.

The revision and update of our Strategic Plan in February confirmed that we have met several key objectives of Managing Residual Waste and Quantifying Emissions. The Member Councils continue to collaboratively explore options to increase resource sharing opportunities and fulfill the directions of our Strategic Plan.

We have worked in partnership with the Environment Trust and the EPA to strengthen our efforts around Illegal dumping and hazardous waste.

The diversion of 717 tonnes of e-waste, 20,978 tonnes of hazardous waste and over 41,000 tonnes of organic waste from our landfills has recovered valuable resources and helped protect our natural environment.

NE Waste's governance and scope has been strengthened this year by the support of 2 new Member Councils, with Lismore assuming the role of Host Council. The NSW Environmental Protection Agency has continued in its support and financial contribution to our operational plan and has demonstrated its commitment to improving regional waste management with the implementation of the Waste Less Recycle More funding initiative this year.

With the lessons learned from 2012-13 and the increased opportunity under the new initiative, NE Waste aims to continue to deliver high quality projects and support our member Councils in seeking opportunities to increase resource recovery and efficiencies in waste management.

*Jeanie Mckillop*  
Coordinator

**INTERACTIVE  
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## THE VISION AND PRINCIPLES OF NORTH EAST WASTE

Our vision is to achieve more sustainable waste management and better resource recovery through a proactive and collaborative approach with our member Councils and community.

### We aim to:

Deliver targeted and effective projects that engage and build capacity in our communities to achieve improved waste minimisation and management outcomes

Create strong partnerships that allow collaboration and optimise resource sharing opportunities

Communicate and share our knowledge while striving for leadership and innovation in waste

Adhere to the principles of sustainability, equity and continuous improvement



Landfill and Transfer Station



## Regional Projects And Engagement

NE Waste 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 NE Waste Communication

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

In 2012 North East Waste Forum became North East Waste to reflect a change in membership and a new era of regional cooperation. This resulted in a new logo and allowed for a long needed upgrade and revamp of our website.

The new website went online in June 2013 and provides a more streamlined, accessible and convenient platform to communicate our message. It continues to be a well utilized and important tool that allows the community, other industry stakeholders and agencies to access information about waste services and programs in the region. Its archives contain useful toolkits, reports, case studies and project information.

Linked to the new site are the stand alone project domains for Waste Warriors and Illegal Dumping. These individual websites allow for a direct call to action for the individual NEW projects. For example, the illegal dumping website [www.illegaldumping.com.au](http://www.illegaldumping.com.au) promotes regional waste services to avoid dumping, highlights the issues of dumping and offers an online reporting form to report dumping in the northern rivers.

The new websites home page replaces the bimonthly newsletter with a regularly updated news and events section. The e-newsletter will



still be produced but on a bi-annual basis, to let the community, local government and business know what we are doing in their sector.

Participation from the community can be vital to the success of our projects so an increased number of features and advertisements were featured in the media this year.

The Business Waste Reduction Project continued to promote the Waste Warrior media campaign from the months of February through June.

# 1.1 NE Waste Communication

Continued...

This involved print and television. Successful regional coverage was achieved via a targeted media strategy.

The television commercial was screened during targeted programming times throughout the entire region.

A newspaper print advertisement 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 Waste Warriors campaign was also featured in the Northern Rivers Business Magazines Green Edition

During 2012-13 NE Waste ran a 9 month education campaign, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, to raise awareness on illegal dumping. This included printed newspaper ads across 6 APN community newspapers and the Tweed Link. A sponsorship with NBN Prime TV included 720 thirty second TV commercials. Radio advertising included 42 ads aired on ZZZFM and 2LM regional radio. Feedback on the program was collected through an online survey that was promoted through council e-newsletters, editorials in APN newspapers and a radio interview with ZZZFM.



In June a household chemical cleanout day was supported by a radio and print media campaign in four Council areas over 4 weeks.

NE Waste contributed to the online Coastal Teens Magazine to help raise awareness of littering and recycling among regional teenagers. In addition we provided Councils with information to support their own media releases and contributed several general articles on waste to local papers and magazines.

# 1.1 NE Waste Communication

Continued...

All Councils participated in the media campaign National Recycling Week 2012, which was centrally coordinated by NE Waste. Placement of National Recycling Week special features, advertisements and editorial was coordinated for all 7 Councils, producing 9 publications across the region reaching approximately 80,000 people. Four new advertisements were designed for 4 of the Councils, and editorial written for these 4 Councils. Community announcements were also aired across the region to promote correct recycling practices and to reinforce the environmental benefits of recycling.

Other NE Waste Education Programs including The Green House, Trip to the Tip and Love Food Hate Waste also continued to attract media attention in a number of the local papers including The Talking Turkey (in Kyogle), Richmond River Express (for Richmond Valley), Byron Echo, Tweed Link, The Northern Star, Daily Examiner and Clarence Valley Review.

NE Waste continues to be an active partner in regional education communication through the Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators, cross regionally through RENEW and statewide through the e-networks of Waste Education and Sustainability Educators. These represent an avenue for sharing resources, partnering in programs and promoting successes for behavioural change programs.



## 1.2 Regional Waste Strategy

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 a Regional Waste Managers Group was formed to facilitate the development of resource sharing opportunities between all Northern Rivers Councils, including the then non-NE Waste Councils of Lismore and Kyogle. This group developed the Regional Waste Management Strategy and when Lismore and Kyogle joined the other Councils this Strategy became the Regional Waste Management Strategy for North East Waste.

The key objectives of the Strategy are;

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

Managing Residual Waste and Reducing Emissions were the primary focus of 2011-12, with independent studies undertaken by consultants in both areas. In 2012-13 the results of these studies guided individual and collaborative decision-making and informed the General Managers of all Councils. The Waste Disposal Strategy (Hyder Consulting) provided options for the most expedient disposal of residual waste for the region and planning to investigate a regional landfill is underway. The GHG Assessment of landfills completed by MR Ritchie allowed councils to identify their obligations under the Carbon Pricing Mechanism and develop strategies for gas capture or abatement.

The Strategy, a working document, was also reviewed and updated. This year it will provide the basis for project development under the new Waste Less Recycle More Initiative 2013-17.

## 1.3.1 The Green House and Love Food Hate Waste Education Program

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

“Living Green with The Green House” is a mobile waste education program developed by North East Waste on behalf of its member Councils. The Green House has a comprehensive education program for primary and high schools, as well as attending community events, promoting sustainable waste practices to the North Coast community through the provision of information marquees, education resources, demonstrations and performance based education. The Love Food Hate Waste Program which promotes ways of reducing food waste continues to be featured in the community events with the marquee wall designs, pledges and performers.

The success and popularity of this regional waste education program has continued to strengthen. Since the program began in 2004/5, approximately 25,000 people have had direct interaction with the Green House program, with more than 250 event days and over 135 school visits.

During 2012/13, The Green House:

- Attended 18 community event days (7 of which were Love Food Hate Waste Program focussed) including North Coast National, PRIMEX, and Blues Fest.
- Some 1,500 people had direct interaction with The Green House at these events.



- The Green House reached 35 schools across the region, through direct school visits and through our Trip to the Tip Program. Over 155 school shows were run by the performers reaching over 4,500 students across the region.
- The Love Food Hate Waste Program has been integrated into The Green House program, and the performers characters of Cowgirl Chef and French Chef Pierre have been further refined.

# 1.3.1 The Green House and Love Food Hate Waste Education Program

Continued...

The table below summarises the Green House appearances across the region.

EVENTS 2012/13					
Council	Community Event Days	School reached	No. School shows	Landfill Open Day	No. of students/people
CVC	1	5	24	1	900
Byron	7	4	20	1	1,450
RVC	5	4	14	1	1,100
Ballina	0	4	33	0	930
Lismore	4	2	16	0	950
Kyogle	0	10	26	3	420
Tweed	1	9	23	1	860
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6610</b>

## Other School Programs

Along with the Green House and Trip to the Tip Education Programs, the NE Waste has been involved with the following additional regional activities:

- 2 x Tree Planting Days featuring a talk about waste and recycling relay activity held, reaching approx. 340 students and 14 teachers.
- An accredited teacher training workshop, hosted by Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre. NE Waste ran 2 x waste workshops with more than 35 teachers attending and highly positive evaluation.



## 1.3.2 Trip to the Tip Schools Program

**Aim:** To educate students and teachers about their local waste facility, through an experiential learning experience.

The North East Waste's Trip to the Tip Program is a highly successful experiential learning program for teachers and students alike. Offered to the NE Waste Councils since 2003, this fun and interactive school excursion offers students and teachers a first-hand experience of what happens to their waste, organics and recycling once their wheelie bin leaves the kerbside.

“This was the best school excursion ever. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and were able to experience first-hand the amount of waste that goes to the tip, as well as some of the fantastic recycling facilities available. Thank you!”  
teacher from Byron Community Primary School.

In 2012-2013 a total of eight Trip to the Tip Days were held across five NE Waste councils. In Kyogle Council, we targeted the smaller school, to ensure they had access to our NE Waste Education Programs, and to coordinate schools to come on-site to Kyogle landfill together.

### 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 we also developed a K- 2 Workbook for the younger students. To further develop our learning resources, NE Waste has filmed a number of the Trip to the Tip events this year, and will be producing short films in 2013/14 which will feature on our websites.



## 1.4 Business Waste Reduction Project

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

Business Waste Reduction Project is one of the key deliverables to meet NE Wastes reduction and avoidance objectives.

The project brief for 2012-2013 was to continue to assist regional business through a personalised case management approach supported by a marketing and education media campaign. (Detailed in section 1.1)

Initially, a focus was placed on contacting each individual business that had joined the program in the previous 12 month to establish base line data on recycling behaviour. This provided the following:

- 297 businesses contacted.
- 72% are utilising a two-bin system (mixed waste and co-mingled recycling)
- 15% have implemented a three-bin system (plus organics)
- 78% are keen to further reduce waste levels and increase recycling



## 1.4 Business Waste Reduction Project

Continued...

To further meet the project objectives for 2013, the case management process was reviewed. This resulted in an updated action plan, providing a visually appealing, personalized and succinct easily understood plan. The BINTRIM program developed by the EPA was also used as a tool to assist the auditing process and then was dropped into the action plan developed for business.

The case management approach is being readily accepted by business, with each participating Council identifying either a list of business they would like to see approached or agreeing on an industry type, such as pubs and clubs.

The BWRP is also currently facilitating a potential partnership between Byron Shire Council and a not-for-profit organisation for the collection of soft plastics from Byron commercial business.



This is for the purpose of developing a community social enterprise. This is in early stages, however in principle agreement has been reached, with the NFP organisation developing a business plan to accompany a formal submission to Council.

The full 2012-2013 BWRP project outcomes are listed in the tables below.

### Business Engagement

297 businesses contacted to establish a benchmark of recycling levels and to identify further opportunities for support.

- Contacted 15 cafe/ food outlets in Ballina CBD on behalf of Ballina Shire Council to gauge interest in an organics service.
- Provided case management assistance to 12 businesses
- 78 new business registrations through Waste Warrior program
- Supported the regional schools recycled scarecrow competition
- Partnered with Cabarita business waste program

# 1.4 Business Waste Reduction Project

Continued...

## Resource/ Project Development

- Updated e-toolkits with new pricing, services and landfill centre recycling options.
- Inclusion of new fact sheets from the EPA's Bintrim program into e-toolkit to business, based on waste type and industry type.
- Bintrim program to be utilised in business consultations.
- Reviewed Waste Warrior website information.
- Developed new toolkit for business integrating Bintrim program.
- Attendance at RENEW meeting.

## Communications and Marketing

- 1 full page editorial/ advertisement in the NR Business Magazine's Green Edition
- 18 Waste Warrior print advertisements across 6 regional papers
- 120 TVC's
- 4 electronic newsletters distributed to database of 600

## Stakeholder Engagement

- Development of a partnership strategy with Rous Water for project information dissemination
- Project information disseminated to regional Chamber of Commerce groups

## Current Diversion Figures

(Note: Not all figures are available at this time for case managed business)

- Yamba Golf Club diversion figures are 2160L per week
- Alstonville Main St Pharmacy 360L per week
- Maclean TAFE 360 L per week

## 1.5 Emissions Project

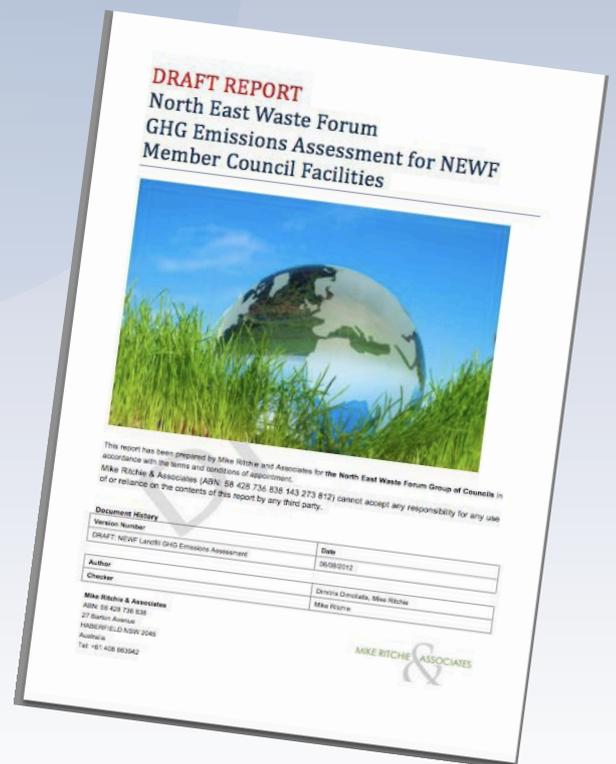
**Aim:** To establish the position of member Councils landfills in regard to any new legislative and regulatory frameworks intended to reduce or place a price on Greenhouse Gas emissions

In 2012 the passing of the Clean Energy Act had implications for Councils managing landfill emissions. The brief for this project involved:

- Collating baseline data and estimating current and future methane emissions
- Identifying obligations and potential liabilities and opportunities for member councils under the Clean Energy Legislative Package
- Assessing the viability of each site to capture and flare LG
- Identifying and evaluating technologies to lower emissions.

The draft report was released in August 2012 with modeling using past and current waste data and assuming a business as usual scenario for future waste inputs. Overall emissions were low and no Council exceeded the 25,000t CO<sub>2</sub>-e threshold in 2011/12.

Stotts Creek (Tweed Shire) emissions were projected to approach but not cross the threshold in 2012/13 and 2013/14. Grafton Regional landfill (Clarence Valley) was unlikely to be captured in 2012/13 but it was predicted that it would exceed the threshold in future years if action was not taken.



## 1.5 Emissions Project

Continued ...

Myocum landfill at Byron Council was well below the threshold and the combination of the existence of a landfill gas management system and the impermeable rock formations on which it is located rendered the risk of methane gas movement offsite very small.

It was recommended for those Councils with landfill emissions approaching the CPM threshold, gas capture was the fastest and most cost effective method for reducing or eliminating their liability. In addition, even for those not approaching the threshold consideration should be given to capturing gas in order to generate ACCUs under the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI).

In 2012-13 a number of councils responded to these recommendations.

Clarence Valley Council is currently reviewing tenders for gas capture system and Byron Shire has been successful in becoming a registered offset entity under the carbon farming initiative.



## 1.6 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.

In July 2012 NE Waste returned to the market place to secure regional contracts for e-waste, tyres, household hazardous wastes, CFL's and web support. Tender evaluations resulted in the selection of new contractors for each area.

During the year 2 Councils, Lismore and Tweed, entered into an arrangement with the Product Stewardship Scheme for Televisions and Computers, and were no longer required to supply these products under the existing contract. In recent months all other NE waste Councils have been in negotiations with the Schemes arrangers to also take the opportunity to dispose of this waste stream for recycling at no cost to Council.

To date NE Waste Councils have diverted 666 ton of electronic waste.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps and Fluorescent Tubes disposal is also governed by a regional contract and in 2012 the contractor installed new larger stillages at landfills, alleviating many of the previous years issues with inadequate collection.

In 2012-13 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.



## 1.7 Contamination Management Project

**Aim:** To target areas of contamination in recycling or green waste bins and raise awareness of correct practice.

The Contamination Management Project was run again in 2013 from March to early June. It involved data collection, through visual inspections, on the levels and type of contamination, % volume of waste in bins and bin conditions. A total of 6573 bins across the NE Waste region, including 5385 recycling and 1188 green waste bins, were inspected for contamination and tagged for good or poor recycling practices.

The primary aim of the project was to identify or target areas where contamination was occurring and provide an opportunity to raise awareness and inform residents of correct or incorrect recycling practices. Data collection and analysis were limited due to the constraints of a visual inspection methodology but general trends and correlations were observed.

Each Council determined its own educational intervention approach with information packages containing brochures, stickers and tags. The report found that regionally 84% of recycling bins had no contamination, 12.3 % had low levels of contamination, 3.2% had high levels and 0.5% had extreme levels of contamination. The main contaminate in recycling bins was plastic bags.

Your bin was checked today as part of a random contamination survey across the Tweed.

**Congratulations  
You are doing a great job!**

A letter and brochure has been placed in your mail box for further information. Thank you for recycling right.

Stick on your bin if you wish ...

**We do a  
great job at  
RECYCLING!!**

TWEED  
SHIRE COUNCIL



# 1.7 Contamination Management Project

Green organic waste bin inspections were completed across four NE Waste member Council areas including Ballina Shire, Lismore City, Clarence Valley and Tweed Shire. The combined regional results indicated that 95.9% of green organic waste bins had no contamination, 3.7% had low contamination and 0.4% had high levels of contamination.

These figures indicate a significant improvement on the levels of contamination that were identified at the regional level during the previous CMP inspections in 2011 (Table 11).



Table 11: Comparison of Regional Levels of Contamination in Domestic Kerbside Recycling

CMP	None	Low	High	Extreme
2013 Inspections	84%	12.3%	3.2%	0.5%
2011 Inspections	58%	23.4%	13.8%	5%

Green organic bins were not included in the 2011 CMP inspections so a comparison cannot be made here.

## 1.8 Training

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

Several training events occurred across the region this year.

- In October 2012 Illegal Dumping training, facilitated by the EPA, was held in Ballina. 27 officers from 7 councils, two NE Waste contractors and the coordinator from Midwaste attended the training.
- In November The NEW Coordinator and Illegal Dumping coordinator ran training in Tweed for waste wise events. This was to assist organisers and volunteers of the Murwillumbah Food Festival.
- NE Waste also provided a training session and resources on waste reduction in early childhood centres at Wollongbar TAFE to students studying Childcare
- The education coordinator organised training with a LGSA Master class Workshops and this was held in Lismore for Council staff and environmental educators across the region. 28 participants attended and evaluation was highly positive.
- The coordinator attended the NSW's EPA grant writing training at Ballina to improve our opportunities in future grant applications



## 1.9 Compositional Waste Audits

AIM: To provide information on the composition of the domestic waste stream

Six Councils undertook compositional waste audits of the domestic waste stream in 2012-13. The last regional waste audits were conducted in 2009 and were required by the EPA under the Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment Program (WaSIP). Even though this requirement is no longer in place the audits allow Councils to understand their waste stream and the data helps guide waste management decisions. Ballina and Lismore Councils completed in-house audits and reporting in 2011, with Byron following suit in October 2012. Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Tweed Councils conducted their audits in 2013, also in-house, but with reporting assistance from NE Waste.

All Councils conducted their audits utilising the Guidelines for Conducting Household Kerbside Residual Waste, Recycling and Garden Organics Audits in NSW Local Government Areas (2008) and the Addendum (2010).

The purpose of the audit is to provide information to Council on the



composition of the household residual waste stream (plus recycling and organic stream if desired) and householder management practices, with a view to improve resource recovery. The primary objectives is usually to provide data on domestic waste generation and composition and quantify the materials that could be recovered. It was also to determine the impact of new services and note any improvements from previous years.



## Partnerships

NE Waste also delivers its projects through partnerships and collaboration developed over many years.

We have worked 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 2012-13 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

## 2.2 RENEW

Aim: Provide training, professional development and networking opportunities for regional waste groups and personnel.

The North East Waste 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. We 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 regarding waste management.

This past year the NE Waste coordinator has attended RENEW meetings in Sydney, Wagga Wagga, Albury and Queanbeyan. The Education and Business coordinator have also attended Sydney meetings.

Collaboration between groups both at and between meetings has been regular. We have worked with Midwaste on developing litter projects and the LFHW program and provided and received information and assistance to and from other groups throughout the year.

The Forum also provided a number of opportunities for groups to be involved in consultations and to provide submissions to the State governments. A submission was made by NE Waste on the NSW Energy from Waste – Daft Policy Statement in February this year.



There have also been several consultations this year between the VRWG's and the EPA on the Waste Less Recycle More initiative. These meetings have provided information about the new funding package released in July 2013 and have been open to input on the way it will be implemented. The consultations have been instrumental in keeping groups up to date and aware of opportunities under the package to access funding for regional infrastructure and projects.

## 2.2 Illegal Dumping

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

Environmental Trust Funding for "Raising Illegal Dumping Awareness in the Northern Rivers" was secured in February 2012 and the project commenced in April 2012. Funding was allocated until September 2013. This year funding from NE Waste will allow the project to build on gains already made and introduce new strategies until September 2014.

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.

The project deliverables to date have included:

- Project logo and identity branding developed and publicised across all media
- 19 participants attended 2 days of training in October 2012 run by EPA on ID enforcement and ID avoidance strategies.
- 6 APN newspapers: 36 ads and 4 editorials/paper Tweed Link: 6 ads and 4 editorials.
- 42 ads on ZZZ2LM over 6 months 3 days per week at 8am.
- 720 ID commercials were screened on NBN Prime TV. There are 3 different 30 sec versions of the ads. One focusing on dumping of garden waste, one on household waste in town bins and one on household waste in bushland.
- [www.illegaldumping.com](http://www.illegaldumping.com) developed including resources developed for the program: posters, TV ads, radio ad, brochure.



- Online survey included on the ID website to collect feedback on the project. Completed by 130 to date.
- 450 posters 35 metal road signs 7000 brochures 3000 enforcement stickers 1500m of enforcement tape supplied to Councils.
- The ability to report Illegally dumped materials online was added to the ID website in August 2013. Including automated emailing to local councils of ID reporting.

## 2.3 Hazardous Waste Stores and Chemical Cleanout days

Aim: To reduce hazardous waste to landfill

The household chemical collection program has been successful in recovering hazardous chemical waste through its collection days and permanent stores.

There are now 3 permanent hazardous waste stores servicing the region at Grafton, Lismore and Stotts Creek (Tweed Shire).

This year Byron, Richmond Valley and Kyogle Shires are considering installing chemical cabinets or pursuing a problem waste drop of centre under the Waste Less Recycle More funding.

In June 5 chemical clean out days were held at Byron Bay, Casino, Kyogle, Ballina and Evan Head. From these five days the following quantities were collected:



Household Chemical Clean out	Quantity	Comments
Ballina	1,973 Kg	The majority of the material presented was paint 80% of respondents were first time users of the service
Byron	1,230 Kg	The majority of the material presented was paint 69% of respondents were first time users of the service
Casino	269 Kg	The majority of the material presented was paint 100% of respondents were first time users of the service
Evans Head	510 Kg	The majority of the material presented was paint 64% of respondents were first time users of the service
Kyogle	662 Kg	The majority of the material presented was paint 65% of respondents were first time users of the service
<b>Store Cleanouts:</b>		
Clarence valley	5,813 Kg	
Lismore	3,865 Kg	
Tweed	6,100 Kg	



## Resource Recovery & New Initiatives

The recovery of resources across the region through shared contracts and individual Council effort continues to increase. This year over 35,000 tonnes of organics in the form of garden and food waste was diverted from landfill. 74,420 litres of used oil and 666 tonnes of E-waste were recycled. We continue 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 2012-13 NE Waste Councils implemented a range of new programs and services. Key achievements are outlined below.



### Ballina Shire Council

This year Ballina Council won a \$7000 grant from Keep Australia Beautiful which will contribute towards putting 3 bin systems into 7 primary schools within the shire. The 3 bin school systems will be introduced in time for each of the school's annual fete/market days with an education program undertaken by Council's Communication and Education Officer. Student Representatives will be chosen to implement the system and help keep contamination low. The 3 bin systems replicate what the students have at home and will reinforce the message of the important need to reduce what we send to landfill.

### Byron Shire Council

In the 2012/13 financial year Byron Shire Council embarked on the process of having its Myocum landfill landfill gas extraction and flaring system recognised as a project under the Federal Government's Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI). In December 2012 the project was officially recognised as a 'Registered Offsets Project' under the CFI after a complex and drawn out approval process. This is a significant achievement as Byron Shire Council is only the second council in Australia to have a LFG extraction and flaring project approved under the CFI scheme and the first to have an existing system approved that has not been associated with a previous greenhouse gas emissions scheme. Having achieved project recognition



## 3.1 New Council Initiatives

now enables Council to claim for Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions abated from the project for reporting periods of 1-5 years (as determined by Council).

Having achieved project recognition a Carbon Offsets report was prepared and audited for submission to the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) to support an Application for ACCU for the backdated reporting period 1 June 2011 to 14 April 2013. Notification was recently received from the CER that Council has been successful in its initial claim for ACCU for this backdated reporting period. Council was allocated 6752 ACCU for this period. The allocation of ACCU for the back dated period is a significant milestone for Council (and within the CFI scheme) as the project was initially conceptualised to address odour issues as well as GHG emissions before the Federal Government's CFI was even implemented. Thus Council had to negotiate and overcome a number of un-precedented project methodology non-conformance issues with the CER to achieve overall compliance with the terms identified under the CFI.

### Clarence Valley Council

Clarence Valley's food and gardens organics collection and processing started at the beginning of 2012 and has had a very successful first year with local residents embracing the new system. A recent Contamination Management Project found no contamination in the 409 randomly selected bins inspected across the Shire.



## 3.1 New Council Initiatives

The collected organic and green waste is processed in a vessel composter (pictured) and then matured in stockpiles outside, delivering a product that can be used to enrich gardens and agricultural lands.

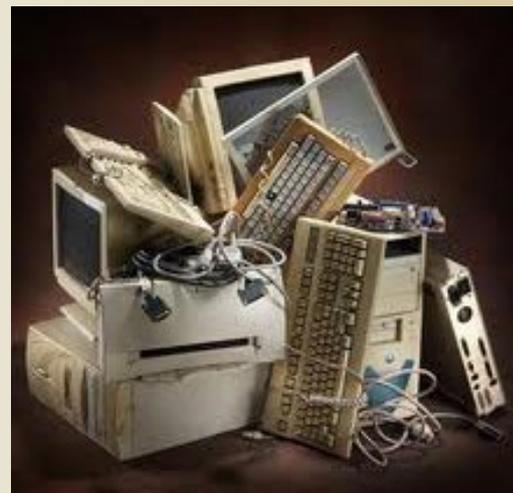
This year the Council also introduced a 360 litre recycling bin and this has proved very popular. The same Study indicated that the average volume of house hold recycling was 69% of the bin and this equates to 248L, demonstrating the suitability of this size bin.

### Kyogle Council

Kyogle Council implemented an e-waste recycling service for the first time this year. The community has been very responsive to this service and have already taken 13.5 ton of computers, TV's and electronic goods to the landfill for recycling.

### Lismore City Council

Lismore City Council has officially opened the Lismore City Environment Education Centre. The Centre will focus on waste and recycling, botanic gardens, waste water, storm water, koalas, rehabilitation, weeds and floodplain management education. The Centre is available for hire for staff training and meetings. Subsidised hire fees and free use is available for organisations and community groups affiliated with Council. The Centre is located within the beautifully landscaped grounds of the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens located at the Lismore Recycling and Recovery Centre in East Lismore.

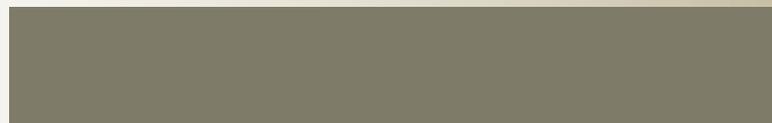


### 3.1 New Council Initiatives

Further enhancing the Lismore site is the planting of a phytocap. Phytocaps are vegetated soil landfill covers that control the drainage of precipitation into the buried waste through water balance mechanisms instead of the resistive mechanism employed by conventional capping techniques. The phytocap soil layers store moisture during rainfall events and the sun and plants remove the water from the soil by evapotranspiration, returning it to the atmosphere. Phytocaps are designed to maximise storage of water and evapotranspiration, rather than use of a low permeability barrier to intercept and redirect infiltration. Phytocaps also reduce the fugitive emissions of anaerobic landfill gas through diffusion and oxidation.

#### Richmond Valley Council

Richmond Valley's Community have embraced the kerbside recycling service with reports of very low contamination levels. Some businesses have taken up kerb side recycling during the year as well. The new kerbside green waste is also travelling very well and reports also suggest low contamination levels. Council has been running an education programme on recycling and waste streams in the LGA at Casino TAFE. This included a number of presentations, which were well received by the classes. Waste/recycling stations have been constructed by the Joinery and Fabrication section of Casino TAFE."



**Richmond Valley Council's New Fortnightly Garden Waste Collection Service \***  
\* for existing domestic garbage service customers

It's as easy as

- Garbage - weekly on your designated day (Red bin)
- Recycling - fortnightly on the same day as your usual garbage service (Yellow bin)
- Garden Waste - on the alternate week to your recycling (Green bin)

Place your garden waste bin out with your regular rubbish bin on the alternate week to your recycling. Check your waste services calendar or Council's website [www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

Leaves & weeds (Up to 100mm (3.9 inches) in diameter)

- Flowers
- Grass clippings
- Garden prunings
- Small branches

Please remember:  
No Garden waste in plastic bags or containers  
No Food scraps  
No Large logs  
No Soil or potting mix

Further information and enquiries? Richmond Valley Council Waste Hotline: Ph 6660 0350

## 3.1 New Council Initiatives

### Tweed Shire Council

In December Tweed Shire Council succeeded in gaining approval from the State government for the development of a new 750,000 cubic meter capacity landfill. The new landfill will be situated at the Quirks Quarry site at Eviron Road, have 3 cells and the potential to service the areas needs for approximately 10 years. A concurrent approval was awarded for a broader concept plan at the site for an additional two quarries and two landfills that would provide quarry and landfill resources for approximately 35 years.

They have also completed the construction of a new Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility. The new HHW shed is located at the Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre and provides a much needed opportunity for the disposal of household chemicals in the northern part of the North East Waste region.. The facility opened in December and has been well utilized.



## 3.2 Resource Recovery/Waste Diversion

### Reporting from July 1st 2012 to 30th June 2013

Resource	Metric	Total
Garden Organics	Tonnes	22956.09
FOGO kerbside	Tonnes	18673.96
Kerb comingled	Tonnes	38486.62
C&D	Tonnes	28629.91
Paper and Cardboard	Tonnes	4411.19
Glass	Tonnes	69.84
Scrap metal	Tonnes	7198.68
E-waste	Tonnes	717.54
Tyres	Tonnes	723.95
CFL's and Fluoros	Kg	9482
drumMuster	Units	9598
Hazardous Waste	Tonnes	20978
Used oil	Litres	83720
Batteries	Tonnes	90.737
Household batteries	Kg	517
Sharps	Units	405
Gas Bottles	Units	934
Polystyrene	Kg	26620
Plasterboard	Tonnes	49
Illegal dumping	Incidents	403
Methane	Tonnes	17019.33
Landfill	Tonnes	158667.64



# Management & Finance

NE Waste 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.

NE Waste 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 of the Group

The role of host council is important in ensuring our effective operation and Tweed Shire Council has again provided excellent support and guidance in 2012-13.

Lismore and Kyogle Councils became members of the group from July 2012. To celebrate a new era of regional cooperation we underwent a revamp of our branding. We are now North East Waste and have a new logo, website and new members, while continuing to operate under the same MOA and structure of governance.

In March 2012 the General Managers Group endorsed the extension to the North East Waste Forum's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to 2016.

The rationale behind the extension to four years was to align the waste minimisation planning cycle with the NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting Program. The result would be the development of an Annual Operational Plan, as is the case now and importantly a four year Delivery Program that will provide a strategic agenda.

The extended MOA includes the updated four year term, updated population data and includes the new members of Kyogle Shire Council and Lismore City Council.

NE Waste delegates this year were:

Ballina Shire:	Rodney Dawson
Byron Shire	Warren Burgess
Clarence Valley	Ken Wilson Richard Roper
Kyogle Shire	Andrew Clark
Lismore Shire	Kevin Trustum Phil Klepzig
Richmond Valley	Peter Cotterill
Tweed Shire	Adam Faulkner

## 4.2 Meeting and Reporting

NE Waste meets at least 6 times per year. Meetings are held bi-monthly and rotated to each member Council. Each Council is entitled to a single vote, with decisions carried by majority vote. A tied vote shall be a motion lost.

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

NE Waste reports to the NSW EPA on a quarterly basis. This report includes progress on projects, milestones reached and regional resource recovery. We also submit a comprehensive Regional Waste Plan every 3 years. In addition, this Annual report is completed for all NE Waste stakeholders.



## 4.3 Sustainability Aims

While NE Waste has no formal policy our contractors endeavor to minimize our foot print by choosing to:

- Offset air travel
- Carpool when possible
- Purchase local or Australian made products
- Adopt reuse and repair where possible
- Minimise waste and compost and recycle
- Use energy and water efficiently
- Make socially and environmentally ethical choices when operating for NE Waste

## 4.4 Finances

The NSW EPA provides funding to develop and implement our projects and NE Waste reports on our outcomes, achievements and resource recovery figures on a quarterly and annual basis. In addition, each member Council contributes between \$0.80 - \$1.00 per head of population towards operations, project development and implementation. This is capped at maximum of 50,000 residents. This means each Council shares in decision-making and contributes a proportionate share of running costs and project expenses. Not all voluntary waste groups are fortunate enough to operate under this model and NE Waste appreciated that this combined expenditure allows us to develop and deliver high quality programs. Additional funding is sought from grant programs, such as the Environment Trust, for some specific projects.

## 4.4.1 Procurement & Contracts

NE Waste 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 coordinator and group assists the Host Council by preparing any technical specifications and tender documents, assessing tenders; and making a recommendation to the Host Council regarding the preferred tenderer.

NE Waste delivers its projects through the engagement of contractors and consultants. This engagement is made under the procurement policies of the host Council.

- In 2012-13 consultants managed projects in the role of:
- Coordinator – Jeanie McKillop
- Education Coordinator – Linda Tohver
- Business Waste Reduction Coordinator – Kim Potter
- Illegal Dumping Coordinator – Tash Morton
- Website Management and Maintenance – Flavio Stankievich
- In addition preferred suppliers were engaged as:
- Green House site managers – Joanne Hoy and Wren Mclean
- Greenhouse Performers - Peter Motley and Tash Morton
- Regional Contracts governed:
- Electronic waste recycling
- Tyre recycling
- Household Hazardous waste collection and disposal
- CFL and Fluorescent tube collection and disposal

## 4.4.2 Financial Statement

### Revenue 2012-13

Description of Income, Grant or Payment	Total Revenue from Host Council Accounts
1051 EPA funding of operational plan and grant	\$298,00.00
1052 Member Council contributions	\$227,114.15
1058 Regional funds	\$94,569.00
1063 Hazardous Waste Contribution	\$17,500.00
	\$637,185.15

### Expenditure 2012-13

JOB NUMBER AND TITLE	Allocated Budget	Expenditure to Date
1026 General Administration	24,000.00	35,642.79
1027 Coordinator Contract	86,000.00	80,350.60
1028 Coordinator Expenses	7,550.00	6,726.08
1030 Ed Coordinator Contract	60,000.00	50,367.06
1031 Ed Coordinator Expenses	7,500.00	5,387.88
1033 Business Waste Contract	56,500.00	52,804.40
1034 Business Project Expenses	9,500.00	14,041.48
1038 RENEW NSW	15,000.00	6,225.16
1039 Litter/Illegal dumping Project	70,000.00	49,390.65
1042 Organics/Emissions Project	11,958.30	31,154.66
1043 Household Hazardous Waste	85,000.00	69,982.60
1045 Specific Waste Project	5,000.00	-
1047 Training/skills Enhancement	8,000.00	10,123.81
1048 Waste Avoidance/Education/LFHW	85,000.00	76,985.32
1057 Regional Waste Strategy	\$94,569.00	66,198.30
1059 Contamination Management	30,000.00	200.00
1060 Regional Waste Audit	20,000.00	49.50
SUB TOTALS YEAR TO DATE	471,659.92	411,856.61