



Landfill Levy Funds Diverted

In this month's issue of *insidewaste*, Anne Prince, ACOR CEO, reported on the Carr Government's decision to divert revenue generated by landfill levies to a range of environmental initiatives other than waste minimization. While a portion of the fund will be allocated to waste management, including resource recovery, funding will also be diverted to marine parks, environmental community groups, purchasing water entitlements to increase environmental flows in rivers and rehabilitating wetlands. Ms Prince says, "This final smoke and mirrors trick guarantees the recycling industry stands an even lower chance of seeing even a single dollar returning to assist resource recovery. As such it means only one thing - the waste levy is now definitely nothing more than a tax."

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LAWMAC Conference 2005

The LAWMAC Waste Management Conference will be held on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th July 2005, and followed by the AGM on Friday 29th July 2005. The Conference is being hosted by Whitsunday Shire Council, and will be held at the Reef Gateway, Canonvale. Registration is from 9.00am on Wednesday with the Conference program commencing at 11.00am.

The program includes a range of presentations, workshops, field trips and social activities. Presenters include Dr David Moy (President, Waste Management Association of Australia, Queensland Branch), Ed Cordner (Chief Executive Officer, National Packaging Covenant) and Karen Cosson (Coordinator, Victorian Litter Action Alliance).

For more information please contact Gail Budge, Whitsunday Shire Council, phone 07 4945 0237 or email gail.budge@whitsunday.qld.gov.au

Project Funding Now Available!

The Butt Littering Trust is offering funding nationally through a series of \$10 - 40K grants to support innovative programs to encourage smokers to take positive action to reduce butt littering for the benefit of the environment.

Submissions are due 5pm Friday 22 July 2005, and will be assessed on how well they meet the priorities of the Trust and the conditions of funding, as outlined in the "Funding Guidelines" supporting document.

For information about how to apply, go to the "Funding" page on the Trust website at www.buttlitteringtrust.org

WOMAD Music Festival Waste Trial

By Dr Richard Stewart

The 2005 WOMADelaide music festival held in Adelaide's Botanic Park recently was officially a "Zero Waste Event". Caterers were permitted to serve only biodegradable plates, cups and cutlery and recyclable drink containers, while patrons were asked to place their waste into either a "compostables" bin or a "recyclables" bin.

Flinders Bioremediation physically audited the compostable waste on-site over the three day event. Project manager Raya Giffard and her team sorted through more than 380kg of compostable waste, which was then delivered to a local composting facility as part of a large-scale composting trial.

Contrary to popular belief, the biodegradable stream of event waste typically contains less than 25% putrescible food by weight. We found about 40 glass bottles and some non-biodegradable plastic in the five tonnes of waste delivered to the site, which was consistent with the audit results. The worst contamination, some 10%, was manually removed upon delivery at the site, and the remaining material was batched up with various types of green organics using a front-end loader. The spread of litter was a key concern, so the waste was covered with a layer of green organics on arrival, and batching was performed in the early morning on a day with little wind.

Waste and degradation

Following batching, five static piles of approximately 25m³ each were formed into a cone shape. Each one was covered with a fresh layer of coarse green organics approximately 100mm thick to contain odour, minimise vermin attraction and prevent the litter from spreading.

The batching process was completed within approximately five hours. Some odour consistent

with fresh food waste was observed during batching, while afterwards the odour was typical of coarse mulch/pine bark and no discernable food smells were detected.

Monitoring continued for nine weeks, during which time the piles were not turned. Normal composting temperatures (55-70°C) were achieved, with no signs of anaerobic conditions observed. Most of the biodegradable catering products in the centre of the static piles were substantially weakened or had begun to disintegrate.

On the outer layers of the piles, the biodegradable plastic products (mainly PLA) were essentially still intact. Paper and cardboard products had substantially weakened throughout the pile and had begun to disintegrate. Wooden cutlery was mainly still intact but had lost some of its strength.

After nine weeks of static composting, the piles were combined to form a single open windrow, which is currently being treated as a typical commercial open windrow for another three weeks, with regular turning and watering. While the oversize material from screening is expected to contain some partially degraded catering products, these will be incorporated into a fresh green waste windrow for further degradation.

Dr Richard Stewart is general manager at Flinders Bioremediation.

From: www.insidewaste.com.au

The Bin Liner Dilemma

LAWMAC members have often commented on "the bin liner dilemma", the issue of replacing plastic shopping bags with alternative bin liners given the increasing use of reusable shopping bags. The May issue of the DEH's Degradable Plastics newsletter considers this issue in detail.

"In the past, many people have reused their supermarket plastic carry bags as household garbage bin liners. However, the increasing popularity of reusable shopping bags coupled with the interest of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (the Australian environment ministers) in phasing out lightweight shopping bags by 2008 has left many asking whether degradable plastic bags provide an environmentally friendly alternative bin liner."

The full article can be found at www.deh.gov.au/degradableplastics

Waste Cooking Oil Update

Bowen Shire Council advises that North Queensland Resource Recovery have recommenced collections of waste cooking oil. For more information please contact NQRR on 4774 7333.

Swim Club Profit from Recycling

At a meeting of the Glenden Swim Club to discuss fundraising opportunities an empty aluminium drink can provided the impetus to commence a recycling program, which would also raise money for the Club.

Several groups community groups including the Glenden Town Club, the Bowls Club and the Golf Club have gotten behind the project and now have collection bins in and around the clubs. Bins have also been placed in the towns shopping area.

The biggest problem faced has been getting people to separate the cans and not contaminate the can bin with rubbish.

"In 3 months, we've turned in 237 kg of aluminum. The return so far is just over \$250 but we anticipate the aluminum price to increase in the future. We also feel good about doing our part for the environment in a way that the kids can help with," Shan Pletcher of the Glenden Swim Club said.

Glenden School Save Waste

Glenden State School were recently finalists in the Central Queensland Local Government Associations Community Waste Savers Awards. Their entry highlights the waste reduction and recycling initiatives the school has undertaken including:

- Constructing compost bins to compost their garden clippings and food waste. The school also has a worm farm to recycle some food scraps.
- Implementing an aluminium can recycling program.
- The school plans to use some of the proceeds from their can recycling to purchase biodegradable food packaging for use in the school's tuckshop.
- Primary students participated in "Litter Free Lunches". The Year 4/5 children counted litter on those days and encouraged everyone to do better each time. This has resulted in a reduction of lunchtime litter.

