

Waste Education update

BHRC Council Meeting July 2014

Margaret Macindoe & Darran Plumb – Waste Education Officers

The Waste Education Officers have been involved in the following activities over the past 6 months:

- Assistance with writing applications for councils for Better Bins Funding. This advice included councils within the region as well as other councils. To date, only two applications have been approved by the Waste Authority under the funding scheme – both from the Wellington Regional Waste Group.

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup was successful in their application for Organics bins, compostable bags and kitchen tidies. It is envisaged that the collection of Organics bins will commence in November 2014 in Donnybrook town site.

The Shire of Capel was successful in their application for larger Recycling bins. Resident requests for larger bins are currently being taken.

The Shire of Collie has submitted an application for funding to purchase Organics bins and compostable bags and collection costs for six months.

The Shire of Dardanup has submitted an application for funding to purchase Organics bins and compostable bags and collection costs for two years.

An application has also been submitted by the Waste Education Officers for the supply and collection of Organics bins to all schools in the Shires of Capel and Donnybrook-Balingup and the City of Bunbury.

- Community consultation was undertaken with residents in Dardanup and Donnybrook regarding the proposed introduction of Organics bins. Assistance was also given to Donnybrook with their comprehensive survey that went to all households with a collection service in the Shire.
- A grant application for the Waste Authority Regional Funding Program Competitive Funding Stream was submitted for additional infrastructure for the compost facility (Loader, bunker, MAF units).
- An MoU has been signed with the Waste Wise Schools program for Darran to present their Waste Wise program to schools in the region. Under the MoU the Waste Wise Program will cover the costs associated with the program in schools in the region.
- Attended and participated in the SW Waste Wise Schools training day at Dardanup Primary School.
- Participated in a Waste Wise Schools waste audit training day at Secret Harbour.
- Participated in Waste Wise Schools composting workshop at Boyanup Primary School.

- School interactions have included: Bunbury Senior High School's New Horizons program (6 tonnes of compost was donated to the school for their garden project), staff meetings at Dardanup, St Marys Bunbury and Adam Road Primary schools, waste audit at Cooina Primary school, Sustainability Show and Tell day at Bunbury Primary School, staff development day at Dardanup Primary school
- Met with the Healthy Schools SW coordinator to provide 'loose play' materials for schools to re-use.
- Three bin display at Donnybrook main street and Balingup Small Farm Field Day
- Display & booth at the Events Information Day for event organisers in the region promoting *Waste Smart* events and the events trailer that they have free access to.
- Audited vendors at the Australia Day event in Bunbury to implement *Waste Smart* guidelines for events.
- Provided bin toppers for the Bunbury Show and Viva Bunbury to trial 3-bin systems at events.
- Bin audits in Dalyellup to determine if letters encourage people to change behaviour (contamination) as it has in Bunbury and 'road test' contamination procedures developed for Bunbury.
- Talks and sessions with schools and interested community groups. Presentation at Dept Transport staff meeting, Holiday Care Australind and Parkinson's Support Group.
- Working with the Waste Wise Schools team to implement Waste Wise in schools in the region.
- Presentation at the Better Bins funding launch to outline the approach we took when introducing the third bin.
- Presentation at the Dardanup Waste Committee regarding Organics bins and future options for waste management.
- Participated in the WALGA workshop – "Think Green Talk Rubbish"
- Attended workshops and commented on WALGA's draft guidelines for Verge collections.
- Attended workshops and commented on the Waste Authority State Waste Communications Strategy.
- Attended Wellington Waste Management Group meetings
- Conducted guided tours of the Banksia Road Compost facility for City of Bunbury and Shire of Capel customer service staff; MWAC members, Curtin University Sustainability students, Bunbury urban Growers Group, SWIT horticulture students, Community Home Care and the general public.
- Participated in a webinar on the 'State of Waste in Australia'
- Toured the Total Green e-waste recycling centre to gain a better understanding of e-waste processes in WA.
- Met with MRC Waste Education Manager and toured Mindari Regional Council transfer station, landfill site and organics facility to gain a better understanding of what they do
- Toured Garbologie mattress recycling and tip shop.
- Calendar redesign coordinated and printed for all councils in the region.
- Developing media releases for topics of concern or interest.

Future projects and activities include:

- Currently writing the Wellington Regional Strategic Waste Management Plan 2014 – 2020.
- Waste and Recycling Conference. September 2014. Margaret and Darran have been asked to present a paper at this year's conference based on the successful community education program for the rollout of the Organics bins.
- Implementing waste audits and waste minimisation within council offices in the region.
- School-wide waste audits to encourage schools to reconsider their bin configuration and habits, with the intent of having data available to implement Organics bins when funding is granted. Three schools have already confirmed their participation in the audits.
- Continuing to implement Waste Wise Schools program
- Local Laws. Local Laws need to be updated in all council areas in the Wellington Regional group. It is proposed that all councils develop the same local laws at the same time. Some preliminary work has already been done.
- Junk instrument workshops in collaboration with the Stirling Street Arts Centre.
- Presenting a session at the Healthy Schools SW regional workshop in August 2014.
- Display at Bull and Barrel Festival, October 2014.

Feel free to contact us, our details are:

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