

REDISTRIBUTE REGENERATE RESPONSE REPLACE
REVIEW REMEMBER **RESOURCE** REUSE
RECOVER RESEARCH REACT
REPLY RETHINK REPRODUCE RETURN REDEVELOP
REVISE RESERVE RESPECT RESOLUTION RECLAIM
REFORM RETRIEVE REPRESENT REDUCE



ISSUE 14 AUGUST 2009 ■ A REGULAR UPDATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WSN

WELCOME TO 'RESOURCE'

Welcome to the latest issue of **Resource**, our customer newsletter. We hope that **Resource** keeps you well informed about the services and facilities available to you and highlights sustainable initiatives.

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically? Would you or any of your colleagues like to be added to the mailing list? If so, please contact Marketing and Communications Officer, Kate Concannon, on 9934 7019 or email kate.concannon@wsn.com.au.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

BYTES OF INSIGHT
COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS ABOUT E-WASTE...

CAMDEN SOIL MIX
ON SHOW AT THE MUDGEES SMALL FARM FIELD DAYS...

TRIALLING TIMES FOR TEXTILES
TEXTILES RECOVERY PROGRAM...

LIGHTING UP THE GRID
MRRP EXPORTS GREEN POWER...

WEEKEND HOURS CHANGES AT WSN SITES

New weekend opening hours have recently come into effect at our Auburn, Belrose and Rockdale Waste & Recycling Centres.

Auburn

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Belrose

8am - 1pm Saturday
Closed Sunday

Rockdale

8am - 5pm Saturday
8am - 1pm Sunday

These reduced hours follow a decrease in weekend patronage at these facilities. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and, to minimise this, the following WSN sites are open over the weekend to receive your waste and recycling:

Artarmon

Friday 10pm - Saturday 5pm
Sunday 7am - 1pm

Chullora

8am - 5pm Saturday & Sunday

Lucas Heights

8am - 5pm Saturday & Sunday.



Important changes to the CPRS scheme means better outcomes both for the environment and for business

See inside for more on the changes to the CPRS scheme.

CEO'S MESSAGE



Ken Kanofski, CEO

Let's all applaud the Federal Government's decision to exclude legacy waste emissions from old waste disposed of in landfill from its Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

Under the amended CPRS design, waste operators will buy permits only for emissions from waste landfilled after the official start date of 1 July 2011. This means considerable savings for both councils and ratepayers, as waste operators will not have to pass on the costs of legacy emissions.

WSN has strongly supported the inclusion of the waste sector in the scheme, believing it can and should pull its weight in combating carbon pollution. These amendments allow us to do that in a fair and reasonable way.

In other news, WSN raised its gate prices by an average of 13 per cent from 1 July 2009. For mums and dads, the minimum waste charge is increased by \$3, which represents recovery of CPI plus the levy increase, rounded up to the next dollar.

Pricing increases reflect a range of factors, including state levies, direct processing and disposal costs for different waste types and increasing costs associated with improved

safety and environmental standards. Most of these costs are rising at a rate well above inflation.

WSN has also scaled down its weekend trading hours at Rockdale, Auburn and Belrose Waste and Recycling Centres from July 2009, due to the reduction in small vehicle deliveries to those sites as a result of increased uptake of kerbside collection services.

I am pleased that WSN continues its resource recovery credentials by taking its 25,000th mattress for recycling and re-use since its joint initiative with Dreamsafe Recycling began last year. The program allows householders to take responsibility for their old mattresses by paying to have them recycled rather than sent to landfill. It's a sustainable initiative and one that councils might consider supporting.

And last but not least, we welcome the news that federal and state environment ministers have agreed on a national waste strategy that will require personal computer makers to recycle old computers and keep them out of landfill.

We have consistently backed the need for a coordinated national scheme and eagerly await the results of the next Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) in November 2009, where the details of the scheme will be finalised.

Ken Kanofski
Chief Executive Officer

LIGHTING UP THE GRID

Macarthur Resource Recovery Park has begun exporting surplus green power from household rubbish to the NSW energy grid. This waste is processed in the Park's Ecolibrium™ Mixed Waste facility, which is in its final commissioning period.

The Park is currently generating enough renewable energy to power its own operations for extended periods. When it starts operating at full capacity in late April 2010, it will export to the grid surplus power equivalent to powering 1,700 homes.

Such impressive outcomes from this pioneering waste solution demonstrate that the waste sector can make a real contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions,

punching above its weight in combating climate change. While the waste sector produces about 3% of national emissions, new technologies like the Ecolibrium™ AWT have the potential to deliver a greenhouse abatement of up to 7% of total emissions.

WSN's network of sites is currently exporting enough green energy to the electricity grid to power 36,000 homes. By 2014, our sites will be powering 40,000 homes.

BIG CPRS WIN FOR WASTE CUSTOMERS FOLLOWS WSN CUSTOMER FORUM

Recent changes to the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) mean great news for waste operators and their customers.

The Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA), which played a key role in putting the waste industry's case to the Federal Government, met with Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Climate Change, Mr Greg Combet MP, to discuss its concerns regarding the government's treatment of waste under the scheme. Mr Combet listened attentively and responded by making important changes to the scheme that mean better outcomes both for the environment and for business.

These amendments include removing retrospective liability for waste that has been landfilled and bringing the industry's starting date for liability into line with all other industries. The previous proposed scheme involved problems of such concern that WSN held a Customer Forum in April to bring together greater Sydney councils to address them about the implications of the proposed CPRS for their waste management.

The scheme would have meant big hikes in waste management costs for customers as waste operators struggled to cover the cost of emissions permits for all waste landfilled from July 2008 onwards as well as all legacy emissions for waste landfilled before this time, which were to become liable as of 2018.

Ken spoke to the forum about the work WSN is doing to minimise costs for waste generators by reducing emissions. This work includes: improving gas capture in landfills; developing Alternative Waste Technologies (AWTs) that maximise diversion of waste from landfill; expanding the recycling programs WSN provides; and negotiating with government about waste's treatment under the CPRS.

Successful lobbying to create fair and competitive conditions for the waste sector is a great win for waste operators and their customers alike. WSN looks forward to continue its projects to reduce emissions and to working with customers to help them reduce theirs too through responsible waste management.

BYTES OF INSIGHT: ATTITUDES TO E-WASTE RESEARCHED

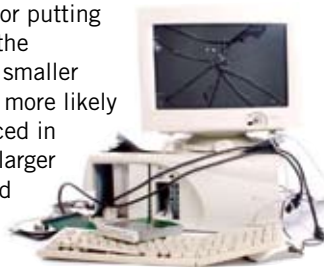
WSN undertook a research project to understand councils' and communities' perceptions about e-waste responsibility and to get a clear picture both of the volume and type of e-waste people dispose of and how they get rid of it. This research provided illuminating insights into what people are throwing out, who they think should cover the costs associated with e-waste and what they would be prepared to pay for its responsible disposal.

COUNCILS THINK...

- ▶ E-waste is a major concern for them – it clutters the kerbside, requires special recycling and poses landfill toxicity and airspace problems that need to be addressed.
- ▶ The community expects them to provide recycling solutions.
- ▶ The ultimate responsibility of recycling should be the manufacturers' and the state government needs to play a key role in establishing this responsibility.
- ▶ WSN has a potential role to play in educating the community about e-waste recycling and in lobbying government to establish manufacturer responsibility for e-waste and its recycling.

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS...

- ▶ Awareness of e-waste among the community is low, especially among younger people, who have much higher e-waste disposal rates. A large percentage don't even know what e-waste is.
- ▶ The most common point of disposal for e-waste is the household general rubbish bin, followed by giving it to someone or putting it out on the kerbside; smaller items are more likely to be placed in bins and larger items tend to end up on the kerbside.
- ▶ Computer monitors, mobile phones, TVs and printers are the most commonly disposed items.
- ▶ Half the community thinks e-waste disposal should be their own responsibility, while a third thinks it should be councils'. However, the vast majority think the cost should be borne by council or, to a lesser extent, the government.
- ▶ Residents recognise the importance of e-waste recycling – with older people more likely to feel disposal is their responsibility – but are unlikely to travel further than 7km to obtain these services and are largely unwilling to pay for them. Those prepared to pay would not likely pay more than \$10.



AND SOME GOOD NEWS...

Federal and State environment ministers have agreed upon a national waste strategy that will require personal computer makers to recycle old computers and keep them out of landfill. WSN has long argued for a coordinated national scheme and we eagerly await the results of the next Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) in November 2009, where the details of the scheme will be finalised.



DID YOU KNOW?

Recycling one tonne of plastic saves enough energy to run a refrigerator for a month.

PRICE RISE

The NSW Government's scheduled increase for the Section 88 waste levy took effect as of 1st July 2009. This rise means all waste sent to landfill now incurs a charge of \$58.80 per tonne, up 25% on the 2008-2009 charge.

WSN has adjusted its disposal prices to reflect the increased cost it bears under the levy hike. Updated pricing brochures are available from weighbridges at each WSN facility and online at www.wsn.com.au.

WSN OUT THERE

WASTE 2009 COFFS HARBOUR

Hundreds of representative from NSW local governments braved torrential rains and regional flooding to attend the annual waste conference in Coffs Harbour in April.

Ken Kanofski, Geoff Gerard and Catherine Johnson from WSN's executive presented at the conference, taking the opportunity to talk about WSN's Ecolibrium™ Mixed Waste and Organics facilities at Macarthur Resource Recovery Park and to present WSN's illuminating research into community and council attitudes about e-waste.

The conference, sponsored by WSN, was a wonderful opportunity to meet with our customers and speak with councils from around the state about how WSN can work with them to reduce waste and increase landfill diversion to boost economic and environmental performance.

CAMDEN SOIL MIX ON SHOW AT MUDGEJEE

Camden Soil Mix, which provides total soil solutions for agriculture, civil works and landscaping, recently exhibited at the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days.

Biological farming methods are gaining momentum as farmers and consumers realise the importance of reducing chemicals in agriculture – both for the quality of end product and for sustainable land management.

The Field Days event was a great opportunity for Camden Soils Mix, as a proponent of the biological agriculture movement, to discuss with farmers the many benefits of using compost and other recycled products to improve soil structure and soil microbial populations for healthy plant and animal growth.

Camden Soil Mix is continuing to develop its product range for distribution into agricultural markets, building on its success in providing earth management solutions to other sectors, such as local councils.



MILESTONES

30,000 MATTRESSES RECYCLED



Resources are stripped from old mattresses and given new life.

WSN and Dreamsafe Recycling's collaborative mattress recycling program is enjoying continued success, with residents dropping off 30,000 mattresses at WSN sites throughout Sydney to date.

WSN began offering the service to give residents the option of paying for their mattresses to be recycled instead of being disposed of in landfill. Sydney residents are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm for recycling, as their efforts have helped to boost resource recovery and divert thousands of cubic metres of waste from landfill.

Dreamsafe Recycling collects old and unwanted mattresses from WSN's sites. Those that are still in good condition are restored and sold for re-use by hostels and motels. The rest are pulled apart so the resources they contain can be recycled. Coil springs, wood and foam are recovered like this to make new metal components, biofuel and carpet underlay.

Sydney residents are becoming increasingly conscious of their environmental footprint and they want to see that less is wasted when they dispose of unwanted household

goods. WSN's mattress recycling service is an important part of our project to work with the communities we serve to achieve great environmental outcomes.

50K MEGAWATT HOURS OF POWER

WSN and joint venture partner LMS Generation Ltd together have generated over 50,000 megawatt hours in the first year of the waste-to-energy plant at Eastern Creek.

Commissioned in May 2008, the plant comprises six engines capable of exporting enough renewable electricity from methane to the NSW Energy Grid to power 6,000 homes. The methane is extracted from decomposing waste in the landfill and then combusted to produce energy.

The facility currently abates greenhouse gases equivalent to taking 63,000 cars off the road for an entire year and two more engines are soon to be added, increasing capacity to the equivalent of 8,000 homes.

A QUARTER OF A MILLION TONNES RECYCLED AT MACARTHUR

WSN has processed a quarter of a million tonnes of resources in its Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Macarthur Resource Recovery Park.

While most of the items recovered at the MRF arrive onsite already separated by households for council pick up and by self-delivering customers, a portion of them are rescued from mixed waste processed in the park's Ecolibrium™ facility, which services four South West Sydney councils and WSN's GreenStep customers.

TRIALLING TIMES FOR TEXTILES

Campbelltown Council is already enjoying greatly improved recycling and landfill diversion rates by processing its waste at the Ecolibrium™ AWT facility in Macarthur Resource Recovery Park. Now a new trial will test how the environmental performance and cost efficiency of the council's waste management program can be improved even further with a textiles recovery program in place.

Textiles – including clothes, shoes, bed sheets, blankets and other linen – make up between 4% and 10% of the mixed waste stream. Processing these items is difficult, as they can become stuck in machinery. These materials pose an additional challenge because they cannot be recycled once they have been contaminated through contact with general rubbish, so until now they have ended up landfill.

However, Campbelltown Council and WSN have banded together to trial a textiles collection system among 2,000 local households that will see these materials recovered and put to socially and environmentally responsible use. Throughout the four-week trial period, residents are able to place their unwanted textiles in specially marked plastic bags. These bags are then dropped in the rubbish bin for weekly collection as usual.

On arrival at WSN's facility, the highly visible bags are extracted from the general waste and the contents will be made available to local charities to select items they want to make available to the communities they serve. Remaining items will be reused and recycled in various other ways, extending the active life of these goods.

HOW TO CONTACT US

We value your input. There is a range of ways that you can find out more about us and our operations, or make a comment or suggestion.

- For a wide range of information about our operations and services please visit our website: www.wsn.com.au
- Report an odour – Free-call 24-hour odour complaints hotline: 1800 062 086
- Obtain information about waste disposal services, Waste and Recycling Centre

opening hours etc – Customer service information line: 1300 651 116 (7.00am–5.00pm, Monday to Friday)

- Contact a member of staff directly – 02 9934 7000
- Send us a fax – 02 9934 7185
- Send us a letter – PO Box 3260 Rhodes NSW 2138
- Feedback forms are available at the weighbridge of each Waste and Recycling Centre and on our website.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over the past 15 years volunteers on Clean Up Australia Day have collected over 200,000 tonnes of rubbish. That's 4.7 million household wheelie bins!

wsn 
ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

© 2009 WSN™