



BUSINESS SOLUTIONS CASE STUDY: **SYDNEY CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE**

Creating a showcase in **sustainability** for a world-class venue



The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre's goal was to bring its waste management up to world-class standards. Through Ecolibrium™ Business Solutions we helped the Centre achieve significant reductions in the amount of waste going to landfill, increased recycling rates, cost savings, a more engaged and aware workforce, and a reputation as a leader in environmental management.

THE CHALLENGE

A thriving event venue in a prime Sydney location, the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre generates high volumes of cardboard and light construction waste, as well as food waste from catering.

In the public eye and in business 365 days a year, the Centre wanted a cost-effective, integrated solution to reduce the amount of waste going into its bins and on to landfill. Sustainability reporting was another requirement, for stakeholder feedback, and to help ongoing identification of areas for future improvement.

OUR SOLUTION

The Ecolibrium™ Business Solutions team worked closely with the Centre to understand its operations and needs. From this, a broad-ranging program was agreed and implemented.

It addressed requirements from on site presentation – with new bins and signage – to specific processes and procedures, right through to staff training.



ECOLIBRIUM™
A WSP | SOLUTION



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
ONSITE EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO ENGAGE STAFF
TAILORED SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING HELPS IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
UNIQUELY DESIGNED COMPACTION SYSTEMS INCLUDING REFRIGERATION
COLOUR-CODED BINS ASSIST WITH SOURCE SEPARATION
RELIABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE COLLECTION SERVICE

The overall amount of waste diverted from landfill is assessed monthly, and provided in sustainability reports that can be used to inform stakeholders such as staff, customers and shareholders.

World-class processes and technologies

With an unmatched network of 12 waste and recycling facilities operating 365 days of the year, WSN was able to devise an integrated approach to complement the Centre's own seven day a week operations.

Recyclables

Metals, plastics and glass recyclables come to our Chullora Materials Recycling facility for sorting, before being sent on to manufacturers for reprocessing into new products such as glass and plastic containers, aluminium cans and car parts.

Food and general waste

We provide unique access to the advanced processes at the Eastern Creek Alternative Waste Technology facility where the Centre's food and general waste is converted into green electricity and compost.

Cardboard

The substantial volume of paper products used in exhibitions and conventions is sent to a paper plant for recycling into new cardboard products.

Untreated timber

This gets new life at our Chullora facility, where it is processed into compost and mulch products, or is reused as biofuel.

Residual waste

Anything that cannot be recovered or recycled is disposed of into landfill.

Training to help employees take the initiative

Educating and empowering the Centre's employees was an important part of the Ecolibrium™ approach. One of our waste education specialists was based at the Centre for six months, to train staff in source separation and resource recovery initiatives.

To further encourage cultural change within the centre, and provide a forum for ongoing sustainability improvements, we helped the Centre set up its own Environmental Committee.

Ongoing consultation and tailored sustainability reporting

In a full circle approach, we helped implement measures that enable the Centre to plan ahead more effectively, manage collections better, and to constantly evaluate those activities to identify areas for improvement.

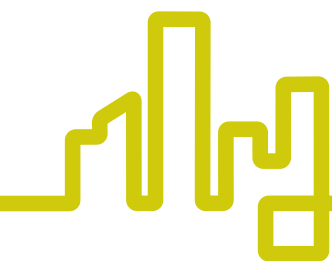
Weekly meetings between the Ecolibrium™ team and the Centre's own operational staff are now in place, where upcoming exhibitions and waste collection schedules are discussed and planned.

Bin movements and tonnages generated are measured and reported on weekly. The overall amount of waste diverted from landfill is assessed monthly, and provided in sustainability reports that can be used to inform stakeholders such as staff, customers and shareholders.

(Continued overleaf)

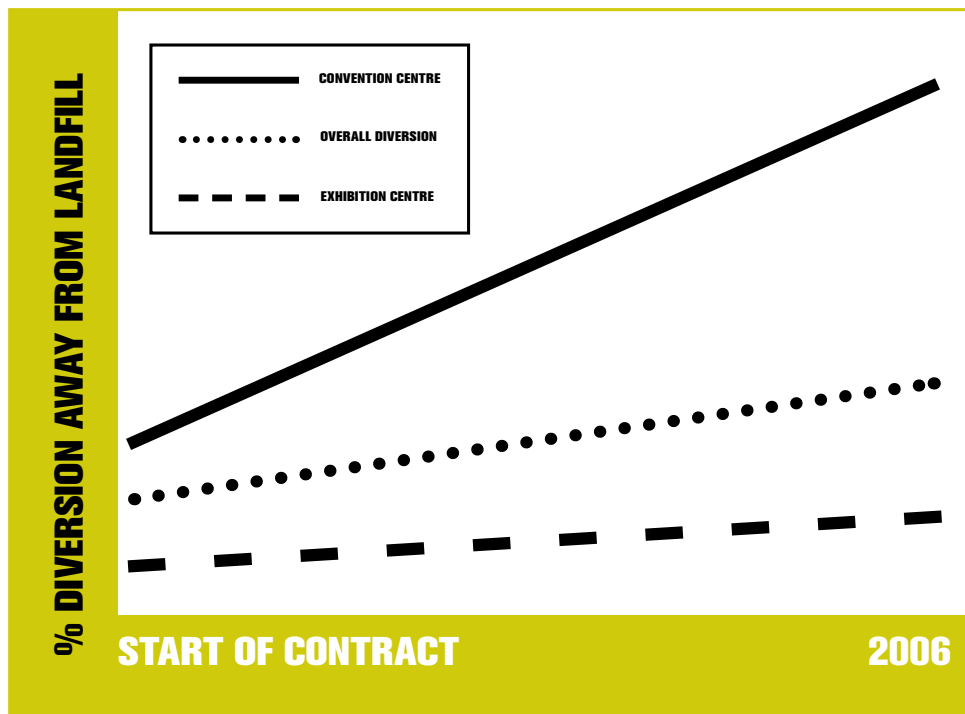


METALS, GLASS, PLASTICS AND PAPER ARE RECOVERED AND RECYCLED INTO NEW PRODUCTS



A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM WITH IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

As well as helping the Centre maintain its clean harbourside appeal to the highest standards, the Ecolibrium™ program has generated a long list of environmental and economic benefits.



SCEC DIVERSION RESULTS

The proportion of materials diverted from landfill has been dramatic

A positive chain effect – the Centre also has many partners and subcontractors on board in its drive for increased sustainability. For instance, a decision was made to no longer accept food in styrofoam packaging, so food suppliers are now delivering their goods in recyclable packaging.

- A significant amount of waste is now recovered for other uses (see graph).
- Far fewer bulk bin movements, together with higher average bin weights have enabled cost savings in collection.
- The paper and cardboard diverted from landfill and recycled into new products is providing a new revenue stream.
- Plastics, glass, aluminium are also recycled into new products.
- Most food waste is now converted into fertiliser and green electricity instead of going to landfill.
- Staff are more engaged in sustainability issues, driving further cultural change and waste initiatives that help improve business performance.
- As landfill costs rise, and the Centre continues to divert more waste into recovery and reuse, further efficiencies will be achieved.