



COMPOST KINGS

The Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) welcomed 40 special guests earlier this month who were representatives from Eastern States based organics recyclers. The visit was part of a combined study tour comprising members of Compost Victoria and the Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA).

The group participated in a tour of the RRRC to gain an understanding of the SMRC's waste processing and composting technologies.

Their visit to Western Australia also focused on:

- The use of compost products to rehabilitate the environment following the construction of highways, such as the Forrest Highway from Perth to Bunbury. In particular, the role of compost in improving top soils, controlling erosion and protecting wetlands following highway construction
- Green waste, acid sulphate soil processes and bioremediation
- The use of compost products in sports turf and council landscaping
- The use of compost products in improving sandy soils

The study tour concluded with a networking event with professionals from the WA branch of the Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA).

For more information on AORA visit www.aora.org.au



EMMA JOINS THE TEAM



Photo: Emma Baker - Our New Education Officer

Emma Baker has joined the SMRC as the new Education Officer. Emma is a former primary school science teacher and has hit the ground running, sinking her teeth into some new education projects and taking visitors on tours of the RRRC.

She is excited about the opportunity to reveal the 'mystery' of what happens to our waste after our bins are emptied and to show others how easy it is to Recycle Right and live more sustainably.

If you would like Emma to visit your school or community group, or participate in a tour, she can be contacted on **08 9256 9528** or tours@smrc.com.au

DO YOU WORK IN A GREEN OFFICE?

We often talk about making changes at home to reduce waste and save the environment, but you can also make a difference in your workplace. Here are some simple tips how:

- Save the trees and choose recycled paper for your printers and toilets
- Does your office recycle old print cartridges? Find out how at Cartridges.PlanetArk.org
- Ditch the disposables. Takeaway coffee cups, plastic plates, cutlery and paper towels can all be replaced with reusable alternatives. It will save money too

- Separate your waste. Have a box for old papers and make sure all recyclables go in the right bin
- Don't recycle shredded paper. Place it in your green general waste bin so that it's made into compost instead of going to landfill
- Invest in rechargable batteries and battery chargers to avoid all the hazardous waste produced by disposable batteries
- Select products from suppliers that use minimal packaging





CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

This weekend on 1 March 2015, you can join over half a million volunteers around the nation for Clean Up Australia Day. There are a number of Clean Up activities in our local communities, including at the following locations:

- City of Melville:** Bicton Baths and Deep Water Point
- City of Fremantle:** Bathers Beach
- City of Kwinana:** Governor Road Reserve and Wandi Community Hall
- City of Cockburn:** Bibra Lake and North Lake

For details on locations and times, or to register your own Clean Up event, visit www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au



DON'T BAG IT!

New research shows that lots of people who put their recycling in the bin in a bag genuinely think the items will be recycled. Unfortunately they're wrong, **recycling in plastic bags ends up in landfill.** Items should be loose with the lids removed.



For more information go to recycleright.net.au

FREE COMPOSTABLE BIN BAGS

Plastic takes a very long time to decompose and instead breaks down into smaller and smaller particles. That's why it is such a problem for our land and sea environments.

A simple way we can all make a difference is by using compostable bin liners rather than the standard plastic ones.

We are currently giving every tour participant a **free sample** of the compostable bin liners when they come and see what happens to their waste!



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK HOTLINE

At the SMRC we welcome feedback from the community about our operations at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale. With your assistance, we can improve how we work and achieve our vision of delivering sustainable waste management solutions for the benefit of our communities and the environment.

The SMRC's Community Feedback Hotline is open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. You can use the Community Feedback Hotline to:

- Report an odour you suspect may be coming from the RRRC
- Tell us what you think about recycling in the southern region of Perth
- Give us feedback about a tour you have been to at our facility
- Give us feedback about your waste calendar and how you would like to receive your information about recycling.

Once an odour is reported to the Community Feedback Hotline, details such as the location, time and character of the odour will be immediately sent to the staff at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre, who will conduct an inspection of the Waste Composting Facility, as well as investigate the location where the odour was reported.

Incidences of odour are also immediately sent to the Department of Environment Regulation so their officers can attend to determine the source of the odour.

A call to our feedback line will receive a personal response by the next working day.

Unfortunately, odours reported hours or days after they have been experienced cannot be verified.

The Community Feedback Hotline, **1300 556 726**, is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round.



SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR WASTE



Photo: A tour group walking through the RRRRC Bushland

We run free tours of the Regional Resource Recovery Centre for anyone interested in understanding exactly what happens to their household waste. The tours are on the first Saturday of every month at 10am and bookings are essential. The next available dates are:

Saturday 7 March

Saturday 4 April

To book, please call Emma on **9256 9528** or email tours@smrc.com.au

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

If you would like to join the CAG or learn more about what they do, please contact them on the details below.

Please email smrccag@gmail.com or write to them at SMRC Community Advisory Group, PO Box 1501, Booragoon WA 6154.



Like us on facebook at **RecycleRight NOW with SMRC CAG.**

Do you love recycling?
The Community Advisory Group (CAG) is your point of contact for recycling and more. We'd love to hear from you!

Would you like to join the Community Advisory Group?

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council is responsible for waste management and recycling in your area.

The Community Advisory Group is an independent group made up of community volunteers who raise public awareness about recycling.

Come on a tour of the Regional Resource Recovery centre to find out what happens to your waste!

To contact or join us:
Email: smrccag@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook or write to: SMRC Community Advisory Group, P o Box 1501, Booragoon WA 6154



SUPPORTED BY



through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

