

SMRC PRESENTED WITH 2021 WA WASTE AWARD

This month, the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council was awarded the 2021 WA Waste Award for its outstanding commitment to community waste reduction, reuse and recycling over 20 years.

The Annual Awards of the Waste Authority were held on 5 May 2021, and acknowledge the top performers in WA's recycling and waste industry. The prize was presented by The Hon Minister for Environment, Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA.

The SMRC would like to congratulate all the of this years' winners for their commitment to reducing waste generation and increasing resource recovery.

This year, over 80 nominations resulted in 40 finalists competing across 10 categories, showcasing the achievements of individuals, businesses, government, schools, community organisations, not-for-profits and media outlets. Details of the winners can be found on the [WA Waste Authority website](https://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au).

The SMRC was recognised for its benchmark Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale.

In 2001, the project was designed to take advantage of a regional scale of economies which is not normally available to individual local authorities.

The RRRC uses a combination of new and existing technology to process recyclables, green waste and FOGO waste on the one site, which is unique in Australia. It also incorporates an Education Centre with viewing platforms and the State's only dedicated waste audit facility.

Since commencement in 2001, the RRRC has processed 2.7 million tonnes of household domestic waste, produced 1.2 million tonnes of products for re-use, and diverted almost 1.8 million tonnes of waste from landfill at a consistent rate of 65%, significantly above many other local governments in Perth and ahead of state government targets.

SMRC Chairman Councillor Doug Thompson said the SMRC are honoured to be recognised for 20 years' operation of the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC). "It is the cooperative approach of the member Councils of the SMRC that has allowed the vision to be achieved," Cr Thompson said.

"This achievement reflects the commitment of our member Councils, their officers and our CEO and staff to environmentally sound waste solutions."

Brendan Doherty, SMRC's Executive Manager Strategic Projects, said these projects take a lot of time and energy to plan, implement and maintain.

"I would like to thank all of the staff that have worked at the RRRC over the years, particularly the front-line workers sorting the incoming waste," Mr Doherty said. "I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the SMRC's Regional Councillors and the Executive Group that made this project happen in the year 2000."



[L-R] Hon. Minister Sanderson, Cr Doug Thompson (Chair of SMRC), Mr Brendan Doherty (Executive Manager Strategic Projects SMRC) and Reg Howard-Smith (Chair of Waste Authority)



SMRC CEO Tim Youé, SMRC Chair Cr Doug Thompson with Reg Howard-Smith



Past and Present Waste Education, Communications and Operations Staff at SMRC & City of Melville

UPCOMING RRRC COMMUNITY TOUR



If you would like to see what happens to your recycling bin once it leaves the kerb, why not come and join a tour? It's a perfect opportunity to learn a little more about an everyday activity.

Free 1.5 hour tours of the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale are available to educate visitors about the recycling process and allow safe and exciting views from observation decks into the various facilities. To find out more information, or to book a tour of the RRRC for your school or group, email tours@smrc.com.au.



The new slow-speed shredder with a fresh pile of FOGO waste

SHREDDER HELPS IMPROVE FOGO PROCESSING

A slow-speed shredder is the latest equipment acquired to help process a significant proportion of Perth's Food Organic and Garden Organic (FOGO) waste.

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) processes waste from the newly-introduced FOGO bins at its Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale.

The shredder was purchased earlier this year with a \$250K contribution awarded from the Waste Authority's 2020 WasteSorted grants.

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"Pre-processing is helping to reduced contamination in the end products, whether that be compost, mulch or soil improver," Mr Youé said.

Once passed through the shredder, the waste is screened to remove any unwanted contamination.

Once the FOGO materials has undergone pre-processing at the RRRC Waste Composting Facility, it is sent to external FOGO composting partner, Purearth where it is composted over the next two months and turned into various products.

The compost is certified under Australian standards, and available for purchase from retail outlets throughout the state.

The RRRC is currently transitioning its Waste Composting facility into a FOGO processing one. Once complete, it will provide approximately 50% of the projected processing capacity required for the Perth metropolitan area FOGO roll out.



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RECYCLE RIGHT SCHOOL WASTE EDUCATION



The Recycle Right school waste education program is a key strategy used to educate students on important waste, recycling, and avoidance behaviours.

Our Waste Education Day is designed to run for the length of a school day, with each year group per period. Students in each period are divided into smaller groups and rotate through a suite of activity stations.

The activity stations cover the key messages from the Waste Authority's 'Be a G.R.E.A.T. Sort' education campaign, encouraging students to: Gift, Recycle, Earthcycle, Avoid and Take waste to the correct drop-off location, as well as activities on landfill waste and the Container Deposit Scheme.

To organise an incursion for your school, please contact Jared Crowe on jcrowe@smrc.com.au or **9329 2700**.



CLOTH NAPPY WORKSHOPS

Gone are the days of pins, soaking or bleaching! Modern cloth nappies are shaped, fitted, washable and reusable. Discover modern cloth nappies and tips on how to make using them easy!

Join Kam Andrews, "The Nappy Guru" for a cloth nappy workshop to learn about using and maintaining cloth nappies. Kam will demonstrate different cloth nappies available and explain the benefits of each.

A number of workshops are being held for residents living in the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council catchment area only - City of Melville, City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle. The workshops cover modern cloth nappies for babies, toddlers, children and adults – people of all ages are welcome. Proof of address will be required upon entry to the workshop (e.g. Drivers licence, utility bill).

[28 June 2021, 2 Nannine Ave, White Gum Valley WA 6162](#)

[20 July 2021, online](#)

More dates to be announced soon!

CLOTH NAPPY REBATE:

City of Melville residents can apply for a 50% rebate of up to \$100 for either the hire or purchase of cloth nappies.

The City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle cloth nappy rebates will be available in the 2022-2023 financial year.

To be eligible for the rebate, you must first attend a cloth nappy workshop run by The Nappy Guru facilitated by the City of Melville, the City of Fremantle or the Town of East Fremantle.

This is to ensure you have the information and support needed to successfully transition to using cloth nappies. Please bring photo ID with your name and address for proof of residence. The registration fee is \$7.70, with \$5.00 to be refunded to successful cloth nappy rebate applicants on top of the cloth nappy rebate amount.



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WHICH BIN? TIPS TO HELP YOU TO RECYCLE RIGHT



Remember to not place items such as ropes, cables or strapping into your yellow recycling bin. They can get caught up in machinery at the MRF and lead to the plant having to shutdown so they can be removed.

The same goes for textiles. If they are of good quality, take them to your local Charity shop. Or, if they have seen better days, why not use them as rags?

FOGO DERIVED COMPOST NOW AVAILABLE

FOGO Processing



Once material from the lime-green topped FOGO bins is pre-processed at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC), it is sent to external FOGO composting partners, Purearth and GO Organics where it is composted over the next two months via windrows. Purearth and GO Organics use Composted FOGO material in products, blending approximately 30% of screened composted FOGO material with their other composted materials, to make a range of products, such as compost, mulch or soil improver, available on a wholesale and retail basis.

The compost made from FOGO-derived material is certified under Australian standards, and available for purchase from retail outlets throughout the state.

Purearth's main product that incorporates FOGO-derived materials, is the Landscape Mix. GO Organics use composted FOGO material in their Brunnings All Purpose Potting Mix, Garden Soil and Compost.

Visit the [Recycle Right website](https://www.recycle-right.wa.gov.au) for more information on outlets.



LIKE US ON [FACEBOOK](#) AND [INSTAGRAM](#) OR VISIT OUR [YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#) FOR MORE NEWS, TIPS AND TRICKS ON ALL THINGS WASTE, RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY!

