

THE WASTE AUTHORITY VISITS THE RRRC



Left to right: Deputy Chair of the SMRC Cr Clive Robartson, Chairman of the SMRC Cr Doug Thompson, Neil Foley, Tim Youé, Waste Authority Chairman Marcus Geisler, Waste Authority Deputy Chair Jenny Bloom, Glen McLeod, Bernard Ryan, Brendan Doherty

On the 2nd of November, the SMRC hosted the Waste Authority monthly board meeting at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC).

The visit was part of a launch of the 3-Bin Food Organics Garden Organics Trial and provided board members with an opportunity to learn more about the trial and take a tour of the site.

Waste Authority Chairman Marcus Geisler, said the FOGO bin trial promoted improved recycling, giving community members the opportunity to make a difference and keep their food scraps out of landfill.

“Food and other organic waste make up around two thirds of the municipal solid waste stream in Western Australia,” he said.

“Kerbside services that collect food waste can achieve recovery rates of around 65 per cent—helping achieve Western Australia’s landfill diversion targets. Recovered food waste can also be used to produce valuable products such as compost and biogas to produce renewable energy.”

The visit of the Waste Authority was also covered by Channel 7 news who did a feature story to promote the trial to the broader community. You can view the story on the Channel 7’s Facebook page here: bit.ly/2naZOD9



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CLOSING THE LOOP WITH COMPOST



The SMRC's Waste Composting Facility (WCF) has continued its strong record of carbon emission reduction through the Australian Government's Emission Reduction Fund.

By turning household waste into compost, the SMRC has been allocated 29,362 Kyoto Australian Carbon Credit Units by the Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator for 2017-18, recognising the importance of keeping organic waste out of landfill and avoiding the creation of harmful greenhouse gas emissions in the process.

This achievement highlights the positive work and benefits achieved by the SMRC and its member councils, working together to close the loop and ensure organic waste is treated as a valuable resource which can help enrich local soils.

12 rules to Recycle Right this Christmas

1. Give the gift of knowledge by downloading and sharing the Recycle Right app, from your app store.
2. Give gifts that create minimal waste, have a long life-span or can be easily recycled.
3. Give someone an experience or homemade gift.
4. Buy locally made products and support your local community.
5. Buy quality Christmas decorations that can be stored and re-used or even try making your own.
6. Use paper wrapping rather than foil or plastic and save wrapping you've received for reuse next year.
7. When entertaining guests, provide labelled bins to help them separate their waste.
8. Try to minimise food waste, only buy what you need, serve smaller portions and store and use leftovers.
9. Ensure all recyclable materials (including broken glass) are placed into your yellow-topped bin.
10. Be sure not to bag or box your recyclables by placing all items loosely and separately into your yellow-topped bin. Flatten your cardboard boxes.
11. Donate unwanted gifts or items that have been replaced to charity.
12. For more great tips and information on how to Recycle Right this Christmas visit recycleright.wa.gov.au

Merry Christmas

LOCAL COMPANY TURNING PLASTICS TO PRINTING

There is an exciting new recycling project starting in Perth, inspired by one person's desire to make a difference. When Darren Lomman heard that by 2050 there would be more plastic in the ocean than fish, he set about learning more.



That journey led to the creation of Greenbatch, an enterprise that will take clear plastic PET bottles (those with recycling code number 1) and turn them into filament for 3D printers in WA schools. The plastic bottles will be supplied by the schools themselves, with students collecting them on site. The bottles will then be collected by Greenbatch, who will create the plastic filament for the printers.

Earlier in the year, the SMRC donated a trailer load of PET Plastics to Greenbatch to create a display to raise awareness about the initiative at the University of Western Australia open day and other public events.



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**WAR
ON WASTE**



THE WAR ON WASTE RETURNS

Earlier in the year, the ABC aired a three-part series that highlighted the volume of some areas of waste in Australia. The program generated plenty of discussion about the waste we all create, and inspired many to look at the products they use and ask the important question 'is there a better option?'

There were several stories covering a range of topics which have been a catalyst for change, inspiring a number of campaigns, including #BYOCoffeeCup and #SizeDoesn'tMatter.

The upcoming episode will follow up on the compelling series and help us all learn more and be inspired to change. The War on Waste airs on Sunday December 3rd at 7.30pm on the ABC.



Matthew Charlton of the WREN speaking to a Fremantle resident

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK

It's been another great National Recycling Week with the Recycle Right Team taking part in the opportunity this week brings to continue spreading the word on the importance of Recycling Right.

To coincide with National Recycling Week, the City of Fremantle celebrated the opening of their fantastic recycling centre. The Recycle Right team was at the opening on Friday with students from White Gum Valley Primary School visiting the yard playing a 'waste sort' game. The students all brought with them an item to deposit at the revamped facility. On Saturday it was the residents' turn to drop off materials for recycling. The team, with the help of some volunteers from the Waste Recycling Education Network (WREN), spent the day talking to Fremantle residents about recycling and answering any questions. Residents were able to enjoy a free coffee, have a chat about recycling and pick up a free tree for their verge garden.

At the RRRC there were also two tours throughout the week and the Recycle Right team took the opportunity to have some education of their own with a field trip to learn about other recycling practices.



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UPCOMING TOURS OF THE RRRC

With the school holidays on the way, the coming months are a fantastic opportunity to come and visit our Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale and see what happens to your waste once it leaves the kerbside.

We have Community Tours available on Saturday 13th and Friday 19th of January.

Bookings are essential – call Isabelle on **9256 9528** or via email **tours@smrc.com.au**



Conor MacGill standing alongside the first full compost window from the FOGO trial at the Waste Composting Facility

3-BIN FOGO TRIAL UPDATE

The 3-Bin Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) trial is well underway in the City of Melville, with about 7000 residents getting into the swing of putting the right thing in the right bin.

Collections of the bins began on October 16 and early results are looking positive, with the majority of households adjusting well to the new system.

While participants are doing a great job so far, if you're involved in the trial, there are a few key things to remember:

- If it didn't grow, it's not FOGO! Make sure absolutely no glass, plastic or metals go into your FOGO bin and use the council-supplied compostable liners or newspaper to wrap your food scraps;
- Free up space in your recycling bin by flattening boxes and cardboard and make sure all items go into your recycling bin loosely and not inside a plastic bag;
- If you are finding you need more space in the recycling bin after the change back to fortnightly collection, you can upgrade to a larger 360L recycling bin by contacting **1300 635 845**



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through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account