

July 2023

recycle right newsletter

A publication helping Western Australians to reduce their household waste, recycle right and live more sustainably.



PLASTIC
FREE JULY®

THE FACE OF WASTE:

SELF-PORTRAITS THAT STIR SELF-REFLECTION

Check out the [new Recycle Right video](#) showcasing a collaborative art exhibition at Curtin University titled “The Face of Waste”! The exhibition featured colourful works co-created by artist and Designer in Residence, Paula Hart, and school students from City of Melville, Town of Cambridge and City of South Perth. Staff from Curtin’s School of Design and the Built Environment shared their support for the project.

ABC’S ‘WAR ON WASTE’ RETURNS

Craig Reucassel’s first episode strikes a chord with everyday Aussies by delving into one of the most obvious and well-publicised recycling issues: plastics.

Viewers are met with a barrage of confronting images of plastic – our consumption, its stockpiling, some recycling, and the issue of micro plastics. There is also some much-needed portrayal of hope, recognition of responsible community ventures, and a dash of comedy. Watching Craig’s rendition of Cottee’s Cordial theme song delivers some much-needed laughter in what is a confronting hour-long piece.

As we follow Craig engaging with people at a beach-side plastics display, a neighbourhood street waste audit, then delivering used blister packs to pharmaceutical companies, he uses strong language, describing Australia’s recycling situation with words such as “devastating”, “a burden”, “help”, and “confusion”.



However, the most powerful word used in this first episode is “trust.”

Craig reminds the government, stakeholders, and residents of Australia that trust needs to be built upon and that trust is a crucial requirement for a sustainable future.

[Watch “War on Waste” on ABC iView](#) – episode one is available now.



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DID YOU KNOW?



Episode 1 of War on Waste Season 3 featured a brand-new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Adelaide, SA, which has the capacity to accept several items that aren't accepted in WA kerbside recycling bins.

Plastic bottle lids are one of these – in WA, plastic bottle lids should not be put in your co-mingled recycling bin! They need to be removed and put in the general waste bin, or you can look for a drop-off location near you.

Follow Recycle Right on our Socials for more reviews as the series unfolds.

[FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM](#) OR VISIT OUR [YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)



FOGO FLOOR FIRST-HAND FEELS!

To fully understand how food organics and garden organics are pre-processed at the Canning Vale Centre, I ventured onto the FOGO Processing Facility tip-floor recently, along with the Communications and Marketing Manager, Luke Stewart.

We donned essential PPE including a face mask, hard-hat, ear protection, steel-capped shoes and safety glasses and were escorted onto the tip-floor. It's a busy and humid environment, with trucks entering the site carrying raw FOGO material, a front-end loader moving material around the tip floor, between the shredder, trommel, fines pile, and finally to load trucks carting contents for final composting at our processing partners. We documented the site operations on camera to capture this part of residential FOGO waste's journey.



FOGO contents from your kitchen caddy, like the one shown above for scale, are delivered to the tip-floor at the Canning Vale Centre for pre-processing.

We also visited the sorting cabin, where sorting staff quickly remove contaminants from the stream by hand. Seeing the sorting process first-hand highlighted how important it is to correctly sort our residential waste at home in the first instance.

During my short time in the sorting cabin that day, I saw soft plastics, rigid plastic plant pots, garden hose, e-waste, aerosol cans, nappies and rope – none of which should be placed in a FOGO bin. The more we can reduce contamination of waste and recycling streams, the more efficient the process becomes and the greater the quality of the end products.

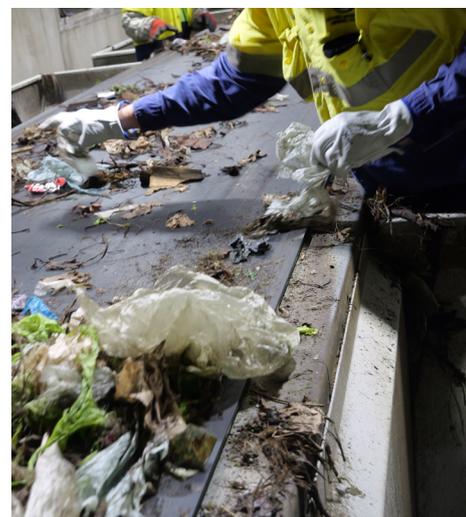
By **Bron Veale**, Waste Education Officer



Removal of contamination is an important, yet time-consuming, part of pre-processing. Correctly sorting kerbside waste at home will greatly improve processing efficiencies.



The large spinning trommel which separates small FOGO 'fines' from larger FOGO materials. The larger materials are sent through a picking line for sorting staff to remove large contaminants.



FOGO Sorting process



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RECYCLE RIGHT
WEBSITE & APP



All West Australian residents have access to the Recycle Right website or smartphone App to help them identify what to do with residential waste and recycling, no matter which kerbside bin-system your local council uses.

Check it out today, by visiting recycleright.wa.gov.au/ or downloading the App here: recycleright.wa.gov.au/download-the-free-app/



COMMUNITY TOURS KICK OFF AT THE CANNING VALE CENTRE

By **Bron Veale**, Waste Education Officer

As the new Waste Education Officer at Resource Recovery Group, I am excited to have commenced Tours of our Canning Vale Centre for our Member Councils as well as the general community! The past two months have flown by, and I've enjoyed learning about the various operations at each facility, exploring the site and getting to know the team.

The FOGO Processing Facility is where food organics and garden organics are received and diverted from landfill. It's great to see first-hand how this valuable resource is recovered and turned into a tangible and useful end-product with the support of our processing partners. Going onto the tip floor, seeing the trucks, machines and sorting staff at work gives me a new appreciation for the scale of waste diversion being achieved.

Over at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where co-mingled recycling is separated and processed, seeing how materials are sent along a network of conveyor belts, screens and machinery, overseen by a dedicated team of operational and technical staff is fascinating.

Despite having facilitated numerous educational experiences for mixed audiences throughout my career, stepping into this role has been an interesting new venture. The waste and recycling industry is a dynamic one, and I'm eager to expand my knowledge of the numerous ways value can be retained from materials that might otherwise be discarded as waste. I'm enjoying meeting and sharing knowledge with likeminded people working in this field, along with members of the public who are keen to learn about how to reduce, reuse and recycle.

There are so many inspiring individuals creating great initiatives to tackle waste! Identifying ways to work together has a range of positive outcomes including a broader reach, greater impact and more meaningful relationships.



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NEW PARTNERSHIP: WANNEROO AND RESOURCE RECOVERY GROUP



Resource Recovery Group is proud to partner up with the City of Wanneroo in recovering their recyclables at our leading Materials Recovery Facility. Luke waved down City of Wanneroo's Truck Operator, Glen, and he was more than happy to park "Karli" at the entrance to Resource Recovery Group's facility. It's great to see Glen's "Karli" unloading resources to be streamed, sorted, and sent to our processing partners.



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WASTESORTED SCHOOLS WORKSHOP

9 AUGUST
– GET IN QUICK!

The team from WasteSorted Schools and Keep Australia Beautiful Council are holding a Professional Development workshop at the Canning Vale Centre in August. Attendees will expand their knowledge of waste avoidance and recovery, environmental conservation, and community engagement. Teachers, principals, EAs, administrators, gardeners and parents from schools within City of Melville, City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle are strongly encouraged to register at the link below. The workshop is FREE and teacher relief payments are available for two staff from each school.

Get in quick, as places are limited!

This workshop includes:

- A step-by-step guide for whole school waste and litter prevention programs
- Loads of resources to take back to your school
- Information on relevant laws, social and environmental impacts and behaviour change
- Tips for waste avoidance and resource recovery projects
- Advice on becoming an accredited WasteSorted School and grant funding applications
- Incursion information
- A tour of the Resource Recovery Group Canning Vale Centre

We hope to see teachers from schools in our Member Councils and Recycle Right Member Councils there! For any queries regarding this workshop, please contact WasteSorted Schools:

Phone: **(08) 6364 6696**

Email: wastesortedschools@dwer.wa.gov.au

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



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