



## BIN TAGGING TRIAL IN KWINANA

A selection of households in the City of Kwinana are currently involved in a rubbish bin research and education program that aims to improve household recycling and bin contamination.

Two other local governments, the Town of Cambridge and City of Joondalup, are participating in the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) project.



The bin tagging pilot was previously run in South Australia, where it was credited with reducing bin contamination by 60% and improving recycling by 25%.

The bin tagging project has four stages:

1. A visual check of recycling bins to identify any contamination. Residents then receive an information tag on their bin introducing the program
2. Two more visual checks of bins are again completed and households provided feedback on their performance with tags on the bin handles
3. For the fourth check, if a bin was contaminated in all previous checks and is still contaminated, the bin is stickered shut and refused collection. The bin is also tagged with instructions to remove the contamination in time for the next pick-up
4. If a household continues to contaminate the recycling bin, the service will be removed

Households demonstrating positive recycling practices will be entered in a competition to win prizes throughout the trial.

The project is due to finish in the coming weeks.

## POLYSTYRENE : FAST FACTS



### Did you know?

Polystyrene is difficult to recycle and mostly ends up in landfill. With age polystyrene flakes into smaller pieces, creating litter that travels long distances and usually ends up in the ocean, where it is toxic for marine life.

Polystyrene foam is generally used just once before disposal. It's banned in more than a 100 US cities, including New York, and is forbidden in Antarctica.

### How you can help:

#### Refuse

Refuse polystyrene products and ask for alternatives at restaurants and other outlets.

Rather than receiving disposable foam cups, invest in lightweight reusable cups. Instead of accepting chilled goods in foam containers, take your own esky.

#### Reuse

Old foam boxes can be rescued from landfill by putting them to use as worm farms or planting boxes.

#### Recycle

Some forms of polystyrene can be recycled at industry collection centres. In Perth, Claw Environmental in Welshpool is the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association's (PACIA) nominated contractor.

[www.clawenvironmental.com](http://www.clawenvironmental.com)



## CLEANED UP!

### Clean Up Australia sends a big thank you to all the 2015 participants!

2015 marks **25 years of volunteer action** across Australia.

Thanks to an estimated **526,268** volunteers a whopping **13,563** tonnes of rubbish at **6,165** clean up sites was removed over the week of Clean Up Australia Day action from 24 February to 1 March.

See you next year for the **26th Clean Up Australia Day**, on **Sunday 6 March 2016**.

In the meantime, if you want to organise a clean up, it is still possible!

Just register your site as an Every Day Clean Up site.

[www.cleanupaustriaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustriaday.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](http://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!



## RECYCLE RIGHT AT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY O-WEEK

Earlier this month Recycle Right joined in the activities at Murdoch University's Orientation Week to spread the **'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'** message.

Staff and students were put to the test and asked to identify in which bin (green top or yellow top) they should place common household waste.

A highly coveted herb-garden was offered as a prize for the best suggestion for reducing waste at home. The responses were both innovative and insightful and demonstrated that Murdoch students are great advocates for sustainability.

Many participants were surprised to learn that several of the items they considered to be waste could actually be recycled. It also provided the perfect platform to discuss and promote the newly updated **Recycle Right app**.

We'd like to congratulate **Valerie Won** for her winning entry:

*"We feed our chickens with vegetable scraps. We use their poo for fertilizer for fruit plants which we grow to eat. Our chicken egg shells are then crushed and placed in the compost as well."*

Other notable entries mentioned the use of compost bins, worm farms, reusable takeaway coffee mugs, cloth shopping bags, water-saving shower fittings and grey water systems.



## RIPE NEAR ME?

Ever had a peach, apple or lemon tree go bananas with a bumper crop and not know what to do with it?

**Ripe Near Me** is a web app that connects people looking to share, sell, or find homegrown produce. RipeNearMe aims to increase the quantity of urban and sustainably grown foods.

*"We believe that backyards, frontyards, balconies, roofs, vacant blocks and other empty urban spaces are perfectly good places to grow food, so why not utilize them?"*

- Justin and Helena Martin, Ripe Near Me co-founders

Connect with **Ripe Near Me** at: [www.ripenear.me](http://www.ripenear.me)



## CARNABY'S COCKATOO



Photo: Carnaby's Cockatoos at the RRRC

The RRRC is fortunate to have a resident population of Carnaby's Cockatoos on bushland within our site.

The Carnaby's Cockatoo is a threatened species and lives only in southwest Australia. Recently their numbers have dropped due to loss of habitat and food sources caused by urban development, combined with competition from invasive species.

## COCKBURN TOURS THE RRRC

**City of Cockburn** staff made a special visit to the **Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC)** in Canning Vale earlier this month.

There was a strong response from the visitors with many excited to implement new strategies for waste reduction at home and at work.

Kamila Fulara, Administration Officer, said:

*"Thank you so much for this mega helpful tour which answered heaps of my questions.*

*Minutes after I got back to my centre I took a garbage bag out of the recycling bin we have in the kitchen and today I'm going to write an email to all of our staff to pass on do's and don'ts.*

*When I got home I investigated with my council regarding recycling and excited like a kid I showed the compostable bin liner samples to my husband and encouraged him to recycle more.*

*One tour can change your life!"*



Photo: City of Cockburn staff at the RRRC



## EARTH DAY EXPO

On 27 March, **Recycle Right** took part in the **Earth Day Expo** for primary school groups at the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC).

2015 marks the **45th anniversary** of **Earth Day**. Earth Day is observed around the world in more than 300 countries and acts as an initiative for global action on environmental protection.

The expo provided a full day of fun, interactive activities promoting sustainability and featured presentations from a diverse range of local organisations. Recycle Right Education Officer, Emma Baker, challenged students to an innovative recycling race and explained the recycling process.

For more information, visit the Earth Day Network website: [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)



Photo: Education Officer Emma Baker speaks to students

## SHAY JOINS THE TEAM



**The SMRC and Recycle Right welcomed a new team member this month, Shay Colley, who joins us as the new Communications Assistant.**

Fresh off the plane from exploring Scandinavia, Shay brings strong graphic design and communications experience to the team and has already hit the ground running.

He also has some knowledge of vegetable gardens, which should be a big help in improving our burgeoning patch at the RRRC.

Welcome Shay!

## COMPOST LICENSE CHANGE

The SMRC has received approval from the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) to amend the license for operations at its Waste Composting Facility (WCF).

From 1 April the WCF will be able to operate to its capacity of 109,200 tonnes per year. This represents a 14.9% increase from its current capacity of 95,000 tonnes per year.

Independent odour consultant The Odour Unit reported, "the increase in throughput will not have a negative impact on biofilter emissions to atmosphere".

The WCF has performed well in the past two years following significant upgrades to the odour management system's biofilters.

"We remain committed to being responsive to the community and diligent in our compliance responsibilities," Chief Executive Officer, Tim Youé said.



## 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 11 April

Saturday 2 May

To book, please call Emma on **9256 9528** or email [tours@smrc.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

