

recycle right newsletter

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



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Clean Up Australia Day

This Sunday 4th of March is Clean up Australia Day, a day where everyone can be part of the solution and help to clean up some of the litter that is choking our streets, beaches, parks, bushland and waterways.

There are plenty of ways you can get involved this Clean Up Australia Day, by either registering your own clean up site, or volunteering at a site near you. For more information on how you can make a difference, and to check out other great Clean Up events, visit cleanupaustaliaday.org.au.

Recycle Right App

The Recycle Right app provides you will all the information you need to know about waste and recycling, as well as tips for living sustainably including:

- what goes in which bin;
- a full a-z of different materials and which bin to put it in;
- a find my nearest drop off and disposal facility guide;
- hints, tips, recipes and information about how you can get involved in community projects.

The app is available on both the App Store and Google Play and since September 2013 has had over 16,000 downloads with more than 8,500 downloads in the last 8 months alone.



THE IMPACT OF CHINA'S WASTE IMPORT BAN

You may have heard in the news that China has implemented a 'National Sword' Policy, restricting the import of contaminated recyclables in order to reduce pollution and clean up their environment.

Whilst these changes to the global market present a challenge for the recycling industry, it also presents a number of opportunities for the community, industry and government to improve our efforts, and highlights:

- the need to create greater public awareness and responsibility for the generation and disposal of waste;
- the importance of reducing the amount of contamination being placed into the yellow-topped recycling bin; and
- the opportunity to create local industries to reprocess materials on shore, rather than exporting them to overseas markets.

SMRC Chief Executive Officer, Tim Youé recently spoke to the ABC about the impact of the current situation and also urged residents to continue to recycle through their yellow-topped bin, "It's important for the ratepayers to continue to recycle. We do have markets; the material is used in sustainable outcomes and the worst thing for people to do would be to not continue to recycle".

You can read the full article by visiting – abc.net.au/news/2018-02-16/waste-collectors-struggling-after-china-recycling-ban/9452574.





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PROBLEM WASTE



You do the right thing. You separate and sort your recycling, you rinse your containers, you take the lids off. But the moment you put those recyclables in a plastic bag and into your yellow-topped bin, they're trapped inside and can't escape!

Our system cannot process recycling tied up in bags. When bottles, cans and paper are all put together in a bag, there is no way for those items to be sorted correctly. With the sheer volume of recycling we receive every day, our workers do not have the time to open plastic bags.

So, help us to recycle right and make sure that you place your recycling into your yellow-topped bin loosely and not in a tied up plastic bag.



WORM FARM WORKSHOPS IN KWINANA

Want to convert your food waste into fertiliser easily and efficiently? The City of Kwinana is pleased to present a series of free Worm Farm Workshops hosted by Worm Shed. The workshops will include a demonstration about recycling organic waste at home, and give residents the opportunity to purchase a discounted Worm Café. Registration required.

The Worm Café is made of recycled plastic and consists of:

- four trays;
- set of legs;
- a tap to collect liquid leachate;
- 1 kg of worms (approx. 4,000);
- 15 litres castings;
- 500g tub of Dolomite; and
- comprehensive instruction booklet.

Thanks to the subsidy, City of Kwinana residents can purchase a Worm Café for \$90 (saving of \$127) when they attend a workshop. Proof of residency required.

Workshop Dates:

Wednesday 14 March 2018 – 6pm to 8pm – Ken Jackman Hall

Saturday 28 April 2018 – 11am to 1pm – William Bertram Community Centre

To register or enquire please email customer@kwinana.wa.gov.au or call **9439 0475**, can you also check out the Facebook event by visiting [facebook.com/events/151769018944743/](https://www.facebook.com/events/151769018944743/)



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UPCOMING TOURS OF THE RRRC

Come and see first-hand the machinery that sorts your co-mingled recycling and discover some of the alternatives to landfilling. The next community tour is scheduled for March 3rd at 10am, bookings are essential – contact Isabelle on **9256 9528** or via email **tours@smrc.com.au**



CITY STAFF LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Over the past three weeks, the City of Kwinana has been working hard to reduce its waste to landfill at the administration offices. Lead by Waste Minimisation Officer Trish Kursar, a range of changes has been implemented, including:

- Removing under desk waste bins
- Centralising waste bins with greater source separation, including the separation of food waste
- The creation of a worm farm out of an old fridge.

The changes have been well received with lots of positive feedback from staff and have led to a large increase in the collection of food waste and recyclables, and a significant reduction in the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

PLASTIC BAG CONSULTATION CLOSES SOON



A reminder that community consultation surrounding the proposal of a ban on single-use lightweight plastic bags in Western Australia is set to close on the 9th of March 2018.

To read the full public consultation paper and for information about how to provide comment, please visit: **der.wa.gov.au/your-environment/wa-plastic-bag-ban**.



SUPPORTED BY



through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account