

Sustainable Business Program

Sustainable Waste Tips

What is waste?

- Waste is anything you **throw away** because you no longer want it.
- Waste can be in **solid, liquid or gaseous** form, and can be either **hazardous or non-hazardous**.
- Waste can be **valuable (\$\$\$)**. Something no longer wanted by one business (waste) is often a useful resource to another. The saying 'one mans waste is another mans treasure' still holds true.

Why is waste a problem?

- Almost **everything we do creates waste**.
- In Australia **waste generation per person has grown** by approximately 32% between 1996—2003¹.
- All waste placed in your garbage bin is sent to **landfill** for disposal.
- In 2003 an estimated **67.5% of business waste was sent to landfill**.
- Disposal of waste to landfill poses a number of problems including:
 - Wasted **resources**.
 - **Costly** ongoing requirement to manage landfill.
 - Cost of sending waste to landfill will increase by
 - **Pollution** of land, water and air.
 - **Health** risks associated with toxic emissions to land, water and air.
 - **Loss of land, habitat and biodiversity**.
 - **Greenhouse gas** emissions (Climate Change).

What does the legislation say?

- **Heavy fines** apply for incorrect disposal of waste.
- All businesses must have **written evidence**, held on site, of a valid and current **contract** with a licensed collector for waste and recycling collection.
- All waste and recyclables should be **stored in a skip or secure container, cage or wheelie bin**.
- **Lids should be closed** at all times to prevent materials being blown away. This could incur \$400 fines.
- Waste containers **permanently left on streets/ lanes** can incur fines of \$340 for obstruction of roadways.
- **Do not hose down** skips or waste storage areas with a hose. Instead use a broom.
- **Dumping of waste** onto any public land is illegal and could attract fines of up to \$750.
- Any **incidents** which contaminate or have the **potential to pollute** the environment (stormwater drains, etc.) should be **reported** to the DECC immediately on **13 15 55** immediately.
- Do not dispose of **liquid hazardous wastes** by pouring them down the drain, or into stormwater drains.

What is 'Hazardous Waste'

- Waste is hazardous if it has **dangerous characteristics**, such as being explosive, flammable, corrosive, carcinogenic or toxic etc.
- Hazardous waste includes radioactive, clinical, asbestos and chemicals. It can also include many **everyday items** such as used paint, detergents, fluorescent tubes, some everyday electrical items, pesticides, used tyres, used oils, smoke detectors, gas bottles and batteries etc.
- Many of these items can contain high levels of lead, chromium, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, nickel, zinc, and brominated flame retardants. These everyday items therefore pose a significant risk to the environment and human health if placed in the garbage bin and disposed of to landfill.

Other 'problem' or 'priority wastes'

A NSW Government committee was formed to identify **wastes which are of major concern**. Twelve of the top sixteen problem wastes are shown below in Table 1. It is important that businesses work with the DECC and local council to reduce, reuse or recycle these problem wastes to avoid them causing significant harm to the environment or human health.

computers	televisions	Nickel cadmium batteries
used tyres	plastic bags	mobile phones/ batteries
packaging wastes	cigarette litter	office paper
end of life vehicle residues	other electrical products	treated timber

Table 1: Priority wastes of concern for NSW ²

What are the benefits of reducing your waste?

Recycling in Australia has significantly grown over the past 20 years. Benefits to business of recycling include;

- Save your business purchasing, labour and disposal **costs** (typically 1-10% of turnover)³.
- Save **space**.
- Assist you in meeting **legal requirements**.
- Provide your business with a **competitive edge**.
- Improved **public image and staff moral**.

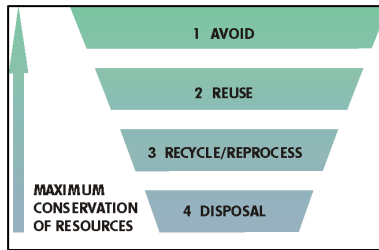
The waste hierarchy

1. **Reduce or avoid**. Most favourable option. Ask yourself if your business needs it in the first place.
2. **Reuse or return it to the supplier for reuse**. i.e. packaging.



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- Recycle or reprocess.**
Set up a contract with a recycling contractor. Partner with neighbouring businesses to share admin infrastructure and costs.
- Disposal** to landfill is least favourable option.



How can you reduce your waste?

- Buy products which are **durable and reusable**.
- Buy products with **less packaging**.
- Ask **suppliers if they will take back their packaging for reuse**. Some may provide a discount if you return packaging.
- Ask suppliers if they can **reduce polystyrene packaging by** replacing it with corn starch or wheat beads which can be composted
- Buy in **bulk** to reduce packaging and cost.
- Encourage **customers to bring their own** reusable bags and containers.
- If **bags, containers and packaging are unavoidable, ensure they are biodegradable**, i.e made from paper, cardboard, natural fibre (hemp or cotton), or corn starch (ask The Watershed for advice on suppliers).
- Manage **stock orders** to avoid over purchasing perishables.
- Print double sided** and have **multiple pages print** on each side of a page.
- Avoid junk mail** by placing a 'No Junk Mail' sticker on your letter box (available from The Watershed).

How can you reuse your waste?

- Reuse single sided waste paper** as scrap.
- Donate** unused food to charity (contact **OzHarvest**) to be redistributed to the needy.
- Donate **old furniture, equipment, uniforms** etc. to charity or reuse centres.
- Donate **used magazines** to hairdressers/ doctors surgeries, dentists etc.
- Donate **used coat hangers** to dry cleaners.
- Donate double sided **waste paper** to pet store to use as bedding.

How can you recycle your waste?

- Compost or wormfarm** food scraps.
- Encourage staff to **take home left over scraps** of food to feed pets or worm farms at home.
- Donate **corks to the Girl Guides** through The Watershed collection bin.
- Engage a recycling contractor to collect your **glass, cardboard and paper, plastic, cooking fat and oil, aluminium and steel** to be recycled.

Where to recycle near you

The Council's recycling collection service is a domestic service not available to businesses. Contact a private recycling or garbage collection contractor, or your local Waste Transfer Station. To find a recycling provider near you log onto www.recyclingnearyou.com.au. Or call The

Bower waste referral service (see reverse for details). Alternatively check under 'Recycling Services' or 'Waste reduction and disposal in the **yellow pages**.

Close the loop by buying recycled

To support the industry you should **buy products made from recycled materials** such as paper, toilet paper, tissues, toner cartridges, or bags.

Action plan for your business? Plan

- Look at the **types** of waste your business produces and the **quantities**. An example **waste record sheet** is available from the Watershed.
- Identify ways in which you can **reduce** waste generation. You could try contacting suppliers about returning packaging or supplying products with less packaging, or asking yourself if you can order less or alternative products.
- Investigate **selling or giving your waste away** to a business or person who will make use of it.
- Contact **neighbouring businesses** to share ideas on waste management and if possible, **partner** with them to share resources and costs associated with recycling.
- Allocate a **waste reduction and recycling champion**—this person will be responsible for monitoring waste generation and recycling rates, and assessing contamination rates.
- Encourage **suggestions from staff and customers** on how your business can reduce, reuse or recycle your waste.
- Contact a few **waste or recycling contractors** to visit your business and provide a quote for a collection container and regular collections for recycling.

Implement

- Sign up to the **recycling contractor** that offers the best service for your business - remember the cheapest is not necessarily the best!
- Train staff, contractors (especially cleaners) and tenants**, on waste reduction and recycling.
- Place **collection bins and signage** in a visible and accessible position.
- Store waste in a safe, secure location**. Ensure there is no potential to litter or pollute.

Review

- Continuously **review system** and investigate ways to improve performance.

For further advice on how your business can save money and save the environment please contact The Watershed Business Liaison Officer and receive a free consultation. Simply visit The Watershed at 218 King Street, Newtown, or phone 9519 6366 or email watershedbiz@marrickville.nsw.gov.au.

References

- Australian Environment: Issues and trends*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006
- Report on the implementation of the NSW Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement 2004, DEC 2005*
- Saving money through waste minimisation : teams and champions*, WS Atkins, 1995



Contact details for recycling drop off centres (FREE if you to drop items off in business hours - call to check)

Company	Phone No.	Address	Steel	Aluminium	Building material (call to check)	Paper	Paper, glass and plastics	Printer cartridges	Cork & recycled batteries	Computers	Mobile phones	Furniture & small electrical (call to check)	Clothes	Fabric, leather, haberdashery, Cookware crockery & books
VISY drop off centre (FREE) Botany	1300 368 479	Corner baker and Moore St, Botany					✓							
VISY drop off centre (FREE)	1300 368 479	6-10 Burrows Rd South, St Peters				✓								
Reverse garbage	9569 3132	Building 8/142 Addison Rd, Marrickville	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓
The Bower (referral service)	9568 6280	Building34/142 Addison Rd, Marrickville		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Vincent de Paul	9557 1996	187 King St, Marrickville										✓	✓	
Smith family	9557 3020	80 Enmore Rd, Marrickville											✓	
Eastside Glass (Tuesday FREE collection)	0402 435 222	Sydney South, East and Inner West											✓	
Technical aid to the disabled	9808 2012	Royal Rehab Centre, 227 Morrison Rd, Ryde, 2112								✓				
Wesley uniting employment	9684 6366	13 Clyde St, Rydalmere, NSW, 2116								✓				
Australia post - Newtown	8512 4116	292 King St, Newtown, NSW, 2042						✓						
Australia post – Erskineville	9557 2539	108 Erskineville Rd, Erskineville, 2043						✓						
The Watershed drop off (FREE)	9519 6366	218 King Street, Newtown, 2042							✓		✓			
ANZ Bank, Newtown	9550 5033	294 King Street, Newtown									✓			

Please note that the details above were correct at the time of publication. Please contact service providers directly for up to date information.

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Contact details for recycling contractors

Company	Phone No.	Email	Website	Cardboard	Paper	Plastic	Steel	Aluminium	Glass bottles	Cooking oil & fat	Food for charity
Visy Recycling	1300 368479	customerservice@visy.com.au	www.visy.com.au	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Sita Environmental Solutions	13 1335	cscsydney@sita.com.au	www.sita.com.au	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Veolia Environmental Services (Collex)	9841 2500	nsw@veolia.com.au	www.veolia.com.au	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Paper-go-round	9550 4784	papergoround@optusnet.com.au	www.papergoround.com.au	✓	✓						
Document Destruction Services	1300 888420	info@ddsrecycle.com.au	www.ddsrecycle.com.au	✓	✓						
CBD Enviro Services	9666 8099	info@cbdenviro.com.au	www.cbdenviro.com.au	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Loumbos	9784 8600	sales@loumbos.com.au	www.loumbos.com.au	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Remondis	9623 4733	info@remondis.com.au	www.remondis.com.au	✓	✓						
Eastern Glass (FREE Tuesday collection)	0402 435222	N/A	N/A						✓		
Wanless Wastecorp	13 92 78	sales@wastecorp.com.au	www.wastecorp.com.au	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
All Product Recycling	9825 0876	service@aprecycling.com	www.aprecycling.com	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Auscol	9627 1311	admin@auscol.com.au	www.auscol.com.au							✓	
Scanline (FREE)	9627 6600	samprimo@abgbiodiesel.com	N/A							✓	
All Sydney Recycling Service (FREE)	0425 218 073	sydneyrecycling@dodo.com.au	www.sydneyrecycling.com							✓	
Oz Harvest (FREE)	9516 3877	info@ozharvest.org	www.ozharvest.org								✓

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Free environmental advice for local businesses
Visit The Watershed and learn how your business can save money and the environment

The Watershed

Located at 218 King Street Newtown Ph: 02 9519 6366 watershedbiz@marrickville.nsw.gov.au