



Sustainable Waste Initiative Lismore Workers Club Lismore, NSW

The main goal for Lismore Workers Club in 2014/15 was to improve its sustainability outcomes. With support from the NSW EPA Industrial Ecology Program, Circulate, the club has introduced new source separation bins and new collection services, and has educated staff, resulting in the diversion of almost 90 tonnes of material from landfill per year.

Background

Lismore Workers Club is a popular venue located in the heart of Lismore in North Eastern New South Wales. The Club employs 150 staff and facilities include a range of function rooms, an auditorium, two bars and dining facilities.

The club has been proactively working to develop sustainability initiatives, recently installing one of the largest solar arrays on the North Coast, with an estimated 162 tonnes of carbon emissions per year taken out of the environment, reducing the club's power bill by at least \$187,000 per year.

Now with energy under control, Lismore Workers Club approached Industrial Ecology facilitators, Resource Recovery Australia, to assist the club to improve their waste-management practices.

Situation

Lismore Workers Club engaged with Industrial Ecology Facilitators for the North Coast, Resource Recovery Australia, to determine the club's waste profile and identify systems and procedures they could implement to reduce their waste on-site and waste going to landfill.

Lismore Workers Club current waste collection system	
Bin Type	Collection Frequency
3m ³ general waste skip bin	Five times per week
3m ³ general waste skip bin	As needed – reserved for larger functions
1.1m ³ cardboard recycling skip bin	Twice a week
Four recycling bins	Weekly

The results of Lismore Workers Club waste audit were:

- 36.5 tonnes of co-mingled recycling was going to landfill per year
- 53 tonnes of food waste was going to landfill per year
- 7.8 tonnes of plastic film was going to landfill per year.

Solution

Resource Recovery Industrial Ecology Facilitator Samala Heart worked with staff at the Lismore Workers Club to facilitate solutions, including on-site source separation and diversion of materials from landfill.

Solution to increase waste diversion at Lismore Workers Club:

- Capitalise on North Rivers Waste's established and licensed organics processing facility to divert organics from landfill.
- Focus on in-house logistics and addressing staff barriers to source separate materials.
- Ascertain internal and external bin requirements, options and logistics for practical source separation.
- Provide clear information and education to staff and effective signage to areas within the club.
- Providing regular follow up between Industrial Ecology Facilitator and the business in order to provide structure and to identify and address barriers and unknowns that occur during the process.

Outcomes

The outcomes of Lismore Workers Club's waste management overhaul have seen:

- source separation bins for organics
- co-mingled recycling and waste bins installed in their two busy kitchens, bistro and two bars to improve source separation of material
- co-mingled recycling and waste bins installed in offices to improve source separation of material
- recycling of all plastic film.

Lismore Workers Club has increased recycling bin collection from:

4 x 240-litre bins per week → **20 x 240-litre bins per week**

Organics separation trials have commenced with potential twelve 240-litre bins per week.

After the initial trial, the systems established will result in the diversion of 36.5 tonnes of co-mingled recycling from landfill and up to 53 tonnes of food waste per year.

Resource Recovery Australia

Resource Recovery Australia work with local government and communities to broker, establish and scale social enterprises that sustainably manage waste and generate local training and employment opportunities.

Resource Recovery Australia bring decades of experience and a multi-award winning operation that saves councils money and delivers environmental and social impact to local communities.

Resource Recovery Australia also work with peak industry bodies, social enterprise intermediaries, regional waste groups, strategists and industry consultants to achieve economic, social and environmental benefits.



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Circulate, NSW EPA Industrial Ecology

Over four years, Circulate, NSW EPA Industrial Ecology seeks to engage with 1000 medium-to-large enterprises to establish approximately 100 industrial ecology projects. During this period the program is targeting 160,000 tonnes of landfill diversion and \$21 million dollars in additional income and/or savings for participating businesses. The program will focus on the recovery of wastes currently being sent to landfill.

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