

EDAP CONFERENCE PAPER 2007
Waste Resource Management in Central West NSW
Dara Clayton, NetWaste Projects Co-ordinator

BACKGROUND

NetWaste is a collaborative waste management project sponsored by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Central West (CENTROC) and Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC), located in Central and Western NSW. The region comprises 28 Councils, covering a total area of 317,942 km² and has a population of over 300,000 people.

NetWaste emerged in 1997 as a response to pressures to improve the management of solid waste in the CENTROC and OROC Regions and to explore more appropriate approaches than those that may have been imposed through the Regional Waste Boards (RWBs) or Council amalgamations. There was strong recognition that solid waste management was being driven by community expectation, and the cost and complexity of meeting community expectation was likely to be a major challenge to existing individual Council resources.

The driving force for NetWaste has been the development of a waste management model that ensures cost effective and environmental best practice solutions for the 28 participating Councils. The model also encourages the sharing of resources and knowledge, and co-ordinating the planning of waste issues at regional and sub-regional levels. Whilst acknowledging the benefits of individual Councils retaining control over waste management issues, the NetWaste approach has sought to develop collaborative waste management methodologies and projects that are achievable within individual localities, whilst having regard for existing geographical, economic and environmental constraints.

REGIONAL CONTRACTS

1. Regional Domestic Waste and Recycling Contract

- Contract serviced by JR Richards & Sons
- Contract commenced in December 2005 for a period of 10 years
- 5 Councils are participating in the contract, including Orange City, Blayney Shire, Forbes Shire, Parkes Shire and Cabonne Councils
- The savings and benefits of the regional contract total in excess of \$8 million

2. Collection of Car Bodies, Scrap Steel & Fencing Wire Contract

- Contract serviced by SIMSMetal
- Contract commenced in March 2005 for a period of 2 years. The contract has recently been extended for another 2 year period
- 25 Councils are participating in the contract
- Additional waste management programs have been financially supported by SIMSMetal including Waste to Art (\$10,000) and e-waste recycling (\$25,000)
- The collaborative approach allows member Councils to competitively bargain for an above average return for steel

3. Processing of Garden Organics, Wood & Timber Contract

- Contract serviced by Lovick Engineering
- Contract commenced in March 2006 for a period of 2 years.
- 17 Councils are participating in the contract
- The collaborative approach allows all member Councils to access an affordable service

4. Household Hazardous Chemical Collection Program

- Contract serviced by Chemsal Pty Ltd
- Contract was for the 2006 calendar year

- 16 Councils participated in the contract
- Program was 50% subsidised by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation

5. Future Regional Contracts

- Concrete and Masonry Crushing Contract
- Collection of Used Oil Contract
- Tyre Disposal Contract

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

1. Trial e-waste Recycling Program

- 7 Councils are participating in the trial program, including Bathurst Regional, Cowra Shire, Dubbo City, Lachlan Shire, Orange City, Parkes Shire and Wellington Councils
- Collection sites were established at each Council
- Collection period was open from February to May 2007
- NetWaste funded TV commercials to promote the service
- SIMSMetal has provided \$25,000 for the dismantling of the e-waste, and additional TV commercials
- Total value of program in excess of \$38,000

2. Community Sharps Management Project

- 14 Councils are participating in the project, which has been funded under the NSW Department of Health grants scheme
- All sharps bin infrastructure supplied to Council at no cost, and is being collected free for a 12-month period
- 52 toilet cubicle units (1.4L) and 3 public place bins (240L) have been installed in the region
- 10 Pharmacies committed to a 50L sharps bin within their premises
- NetWaste developed a Community Sharps Management Plan, Policy and Procedure for Councils to adopt
- TV commercial and radio announcements on safe sharps disposal were aired
- Promotional posters and brochures distributed to Councils and pharmacies
- Total value of program in excess of \$55,000

3. Waste Management Training

- Through a partnership with OCTEC Incorporated, Councils were invited to attend a free one day training workshop in the Identification of Hazardous and Chemical Waste
- Certificate III in Waste Management (Asset Maintenance) has been provided free of charge to members, with 10 people completing the training for 2006

4. Butt Free Mitchell & Newell Highways

- 11 Councils are participating in the project, which was funded under the Butt Littering Trust grants scheme
- The aims of the project are to raise awareness and reduce the incidences of butt littering along the Mitchell and Newell Highways
- Butt bin infrastructure and educational material distributed to participating Councils
- TV commercial, street banners, roadside banners, posters and free-standing displays developed to promote the 'please butt it, then bin it' slogan
- Catchment Management Association also provided \$4,500 for roadside banners
- Total value of project in excess of \$45,000

5. Waste Separation and Entrance Signs for Waste Management Facilities

- 8 Councils participated in the project, with 98 signs being purchased
- The bulk order for the waste separation signs reduced costs to Councils, and promoted a standardised and simplified approach to signage across the region

- In consultation with the NSW Environment Protection Authority, a template for waste management facility entrance signs was created, and bulk ordered

6. Event Waste Management

- The Australian Food and Grocery Council committed \$20,000 to NetWaste for the provision of an event recycling trailer and training sessions
- 15 Council staff and event operators attended the BINS training in 2006
- The event recycling trailer consists of 50 recycling bin caps, 50 general waste bin caps and safety vests
- The trailer is available to all member Councils
- Total value of project in excess of \$35,000

NETWASTE REGION DIVERSION RATES FOR 2006

Regional Domestic Waste and Recycling Contract	2,936 tonnes
Paper	1,774
Glass	305
P.E.T	78
Mixed plastic	71
Aluminium	37
Steel	95
Glass fines	576
Car Bodies, Scrap Steel & Fencing Wire Contract	5,465 tonnes
Garden Organics, Wood & Timber Contract	34,254 m³
Household Hazardous Chemical Collection Program	11 tonnes
Community Sharps Management Project	656 kg
Event Waste Management	4 tonnes
drumMUSTER	171,176 drums