

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Introduction

Johnstone Shire Council has a commitment to improving Waste Management practices in the Shire. The year 2002 saw the continued success of waste separation practices previously introduced, as well as the implementation of new strategies and future plans.

News

All waste management programs initiated in previous years by the Council have continued to operate successfully; they include public education, DrumMuster, composting, commercial waste reduction plan, bin surveys, waste stream analysis, Clean Up Australia Day, green waste subsidy, vermiculture, and the pre-cyclone cleanup.

The Council's waste subcontractor introduced a recycling component into waste processing in July 2002, recycling over 4500 tonnes of materials including metals, plastics, and papers. Public recycling bins are located at the transfer stations.

Additional efforts through the support of Planet Ark campaigns have continued to promote a philosophy of recycling amongst the Shire community, including reuse of printer cartridges, mobile phones, as well as Christmas cards and paper.

Green waste at the Stoters Hill Transfer Station is utilised by the public as readily as it is accumulated. Marketed commercial applications for the green waste remain a possibility.

An initiative to encourage industries to reduce waste is under development, through the Commercial Waste Reduction Plan.

An investigative monitoring program to better analyse community waste separation was implemented, and results are becoming available in 2003.



Dry waste,
Wet waste
and
Compost
bins at
home.

Indicators

A further 600 compost bins were supplied by the council, raising the number at the end of 2002 to 2350, whilst the number of worm farms issued stands at 60.

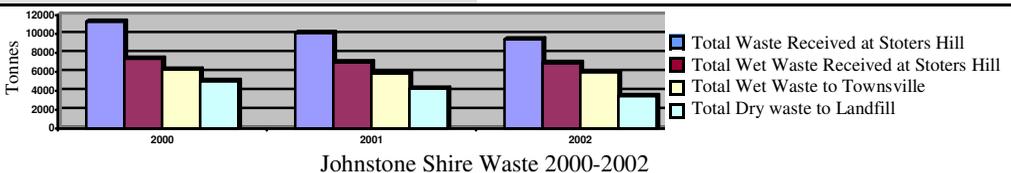
Approximately 5000 chemical containers were collected as part of the DrumMuster program in 2002, compared to 3500 in 2001.

Since the introduction of waste separation practices, levels of waste received at the transfer stations continued to fall in 2002, with a large reduction in the dry waste going to landfill. Levels of wet waste, which are transported to Townsville, remained similar to previous years.

Community education towards responsible waste disposal continued, with 11 schools visited, and the provision of information calendars, as well as promotions and displays.

Bin contamination rates increased slightly from previous years, with close to 20% showing contamination – so community involvement with the waste separation program may be lower.

The State government's Chemcollect program



removed 5929 kilos of chemicals from the Shire including fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides.

The 2002 Pre-Cyclone Season Cleanup was more than twice as successful as the previous year, with 70 tonnes of material removed. Twice the time was invested in the effort.

860 registered volunteers, including 440 school children from five local schools were involved in Clean Up Australia Day.

Conclusion

The Shire's Waste Management Program has continued to demonstrate the best practice achievements from previous years. 2002 saw the

addition of improvements in waste separation and monitoring. Additionally, waste separation procedures have led to a recycling process at the Waste Transfer Stations. The composting and vermiculture projects implemented by the Council have also continued to encourage a positive philosophy towards waste reduction and the concept of recycling in community consciousness.

Future Direction

Waste Management within the Shire has continued to improve and can be expected to progress further towards the target of wet waste reduction to 5100 tonnes per annum. Future years will see the implementation of further Waste Management strategies which are currently under development.

Report Card—Solid Waste Management

Criteria	Grade	Recommendation Group	Explanation
Action on recommendations 9 of 9 completed	A+	- Waste reduction - Community involvement - Monitoring	All recommendations have been investigated and acted upon, or are currently still in place. Further progress towards additional goals took place in 2002, such as recycling and clinical waste management.
Filling deficiencies in data	B+	- Monitoring	Waste stream analysis was improved in 2002 with more detailed breakdown of waste components. Bin surveys continued with the addition of improved investigative surveys.
State of the Shire	B	- Waste reduction - Community involvement	Wet waste volumes remain consistently lower due to the composting initiative. Waste volumes in total have been reduced. The incorporation of some recycling processes has been a positive addition towards future development. The DrumMuster program's success continued.
Goal Achievement	B	- Waste reduction	Dry waste volumes continued to fall, in line with goals set out at the beginning of the waste management program. Wet waste is currently only better than halfway towards the target of 5100 tonnes per annum by 2004. 2350 compost bins have been issued, only slightly short of the 3000 expected by 2004.
Community Awareness	C+	- Community involvement	Community awareness has remained the same as the previous year. Council continues to provide interpretive material to the public.

OVERALL GRADE B