

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
OUR REGION BUSINESS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Annual Report 2009 - 2010

Councils working together in the Northern Rivers Region to achieve sustainable waste and resource management.



Published
December 2010





The North East Waste Forum acknowledges the funding contribution it receives from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Sustainability Division for RENEW NSW.

Table of Contents

Vision of the North East Waste Forum	4
Guiding Principles	4
Community	5
EARLY CHILDHOOD WASTE WISE EDUCATION PROJECT	6
THE WEBSITE OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM	7
WASTE WISE EVENTS	8
THE GREEN HOUSE MOBILE WASTE EDUCATION PROGRAM	11
A – Z OF WASTE	14
Partnerships	15
ECO-FRIENDLY YOUTH PROJECT	16
HAZARDOUS WASTE STORES AND COLLECTION DAYS	17
STUDENTS USING SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES	18
NORTHERN RIVERS GROUP OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS	19
REGIONAL SCHOOLS SUPPORT PROGRAM	20
Business	21
BUSINESS WASTE REDUCTION PROJECT	22
THE REUSE DIRECTORY	25
Local Government	26
COUNCIL WASTE REDUCTION & SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PROJECT	27
EDUCATION TRAINING	28
CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE	29
LANDFILL OPEN DAYS	30
MANAGING ORGANIC WASTE	31
NEWF COMMUNICATION	32
Our Region	33
REGIONAL CONTRACTS	34
BENEFITS OF RECYCLING	36
SOCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	37
ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	40
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	41
GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NEWF	42
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	44

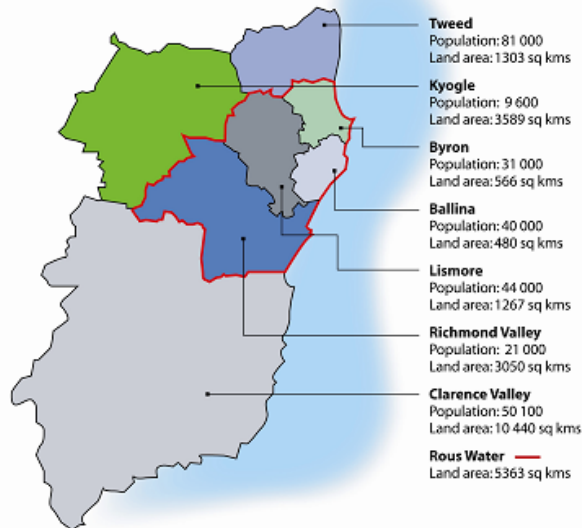
Vision of the North East Waste Forum

Councils working together in the Northern Rivers Region to achieve sustainable waste and resource management.

	strong positive regional partnerships	
effective communication and promotion		integration of our work with other agencies
	effective and focused projects	
integrated sustainable resource management		adequate and equitable resourcing
	ways to achieve maximum efficiency	

Guiding Principles

ecological sustainability		collaboration and co-operation
	active participation, commitment and resourcing	
creating and maintaining positive relationships in a supportive network		benchmarking (monitoring and evaluation)
	continuous improvement, leadership and innovation	



TOTAL POPULATION: 276 700 • TOTAL AREA: 20 695 SQ KMS

Image courtesy of Richmond Tweed
Clarence Alliance



Community

The NEWF recognises the importance of working with the community and meeting their expectations in relation to providing information, services and resources to help them tackle waste avoidance and resource recovery issues in their homes, their workplaces and in their leisure time. We have endeavoured to create a suite of projects that are participatory, help build relationships and networks, share information and understanding and build the capacity within the community to create and implement change where needed.

EARLY CHILDHOOD WASTE WISE EDUCATION PROJECT

Aim: The aim of this project was to work with the early childhood sector to reduce waste and chemical use by providing training and support for implementing simple waste reduction measures in early childhood centres.

This project began in May 2007 and finished in June 2010 with the aim of working with early childhood services, including long day care and community preschools, to reduce waste and chemical use by providing education training and support. The project had a 5 step approach which included:

1. Initial assessment to determine what support the Service requires to become waste wise
2. Implementation of routines for staff and children to avoid, compost, recycle and re-use
3. Educational group-times with children to discuss landfill and waste avoidance
4. Supporting the Service to collaborate with parents and look at issues such as disposable nappies and reducing chemical use in the Service
5. Follow-up support and evaluation

Support for this project was very strong and there now exists a strong awareness of the importance of Education for Sustainability in Early Childhood. Over 90 visits to 37 Services were undertaken over the duration of the project. Three kindergarten classes and an after school care centre were also included in the project. 353 Early Childhood staff were influenced by this project and 3176 children were enrolled in the services that NEWF visited.



Early Childhood Project Coordinator, Georgie Piper, talks to preschool children about waste wise activities.

The project also extended more widely into the community through a newsletter developed in conjunction with Rous Water. An educational display aimed at parents and children promoting waste avoidance was available for Services and the project has been widely promoted at Early Childhood and Environmental Education conferences.

This project built on existing resources and networks established within the Early Childhood Sector, such as the Lady Gowrie Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Children's Services Training Package, the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN) and locally with Rous Water's Early Childhood Water Aware Centre Program.



WWW.NORTHEASTWASTEFORUM.ORG.AU

The website of the North East Waste Forum

Aim: Increase the awareness of the NEWF activities/projects across the region.

The NEWF website continues to be an important tool in communicating resource recovery messages, outcomes of programs and other waste information across the region. The website aims to be a 'one-stop-shop' for waste related information.

The website continues to be improved and is updated throughout the year, and now contains toolkits, fact sheets, case studies, reports and project information thus allowing interested organisations and individuals to participate in our programs.

Feedback about the website and the information it contains has been extremely positive and we will continue to improve and update it in the future. In 2009/2010 the website played host to over 10,847 unique visitors and 242,572 hits.



WASTE WISE EVENTS

Aim: to facilitate event organisers to achieve measurable waste reduction outcomes & reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill in the NEWF region.

The Waste Wise Events Project entered its fourth and final phase in Jul 2009, reaching 34 events over its 3 year lifespan. The project co-ordinators worked collaboratively with ten regional events to achieve a diversion of around 39 cubic meters or 2.85 tonnes of materials from landfill. An average diversion rate of 43% was attained with five of the events achieving diversions of over 45% of their total event waste to recycling. Contamination rates varied with five of the events achieving less than 10% contamination in the recycling stream.

Events were varied in 2009/10 (See table below). Two of the region's biggest events, Casino Beef Week and the Primary Industry Exhibition (PRIMEX) both held in Richmond Valley Council area, took part in the WWE project for the second time as a result of improved council recycling services and the greater commitment expressed by this year's organisers. Assistance was also provided on request to a number of other organisations and events including the Deadly Days Indigenous Festivals at Kingscliff and Grafton TAFE, the Byron Writers Festival and Youth Week events in the Byron Shire.

During 09-10 events were strategically chosen for their potential to influence the event waste management practices of as many associated



A highly visible bin station at PRIMEX (Primary Industry Exhibition).

groups as possible, through the reapplication of waste wise principles in other events. This included schools in the region and events sponsored by groups such as the Cancer Council.

In 2010 successful partnership was developed between NEWF, Richmond Valley Council, Southern Cross University (SCU), North Coast TAFE and Exhibition Marketing Pty Ltd, organisers of PRIMEX, for the purpose of improving waste management at the region's largest agricultural event, as part of a 5 year



Brunswick Valley Small Schools Cross Country Competition - demonstrating their 3 bin system.



The Cancer Council ran a waste wise 'Relay for Life' at Grafton in March 10.

Sustainability Strategy. The annual 3 day primary industry exhibition is host to over 400 exhibitors and 50,000 visitors. Collaboration in the development and implementation of a Waste Wise Management Plan and the assistance of five SCU students resulted in significant improvements in the events waste management practices and provided benchmark information and recommendations for inclusion in the PRIMEX Sustainability Strategy.

A comprehensive range of online Waste Wise Event resources are available on the NEWF website to continue assisting event organizers across the region to plan and implement successful event waste management. The website includes a toolkit with useful templates for a management plan, flyers, promotional ads and media stories as well as a wide range of reference case studies, highlighting the outcomes and opportunities achieved by those events that participated in the project.

The Waste Wise Events Program in 2009/10 and the resource recovery achieved are highlighted in the following table.



Area	Event	Date	Resource Recovery			Total	Diversion & Contamination
			Card/paper	Co-mingled	Organics		
Ballina Shire	Fox St Pre-School	19 Sept	365L 36.5Kgs	47L 0.95Kgs	60L 10.5Kgs	472L 48Kgs	62% Diversion <2% Contamination
	Ballina Community Market	March 2010	450L 45kgs	420L 6.84kgs	300L 51kgs	1070L 102.8kgs	58% Potential Diversion (excluding organics)
Byron Shire	All Natural Expo	11-12 Jul 09	419L 41.9kgs	106L 2.3kgs	300L 65kgs	825L 109.2kgs	70% Diversion 19% Contamination
	Brunswick Valley Small Schools Cross Country Carnival	23 Apr 10	600L 60kgs	456L 11.5kgs	90L 13.5kgs	1146L 85kgs	78% diversion 5% Contamination
Clarence Valley	Grafton Relay for Life (overnight event)	27 – 28 Mar 2010	600L 60kgs	1860L 67.51kgs	Not Quantified	2460L 127.51kgs	49% Diversion <4% Contamination
	Multicultural Festival of Five Senses	22 May10	185L 18.5 kgs	196L 4.67 kgs	240L 36 kgs	621L 59.17kgs	47% Diversion <1% contamination
Richmond Valley	Casino Beef Week	29 & 30 May 2010	574L 57.4kgs	1608L 43kgs	120,000L {not included in totals}	1760L 100.5kgs	27% Diversion 10–12% Contamination
	PRIMEX	17 – 19 Jun 2010	11,790L 1179kgs	3176L 64.5kgs	N/A	14966L 1243.5kgs	22% Diversion 14% Contamination
Tweed Shire	Repco World Rally Australia	31 Aug – 6 Sept	7296 L 730 kgs	8058 L 273 kgs	N/A	15354 L 1003 kgs	15% Diversion 16% Contamination
	Tweed River Festival	24 Oct 09	361 L 36.1 Kgs	640 L 35.9 Kgs	N/A	1001 L 72 Kgs	20% Diversion 9.5% Contamination
Total Recovery			22190 L 2219 kgs	16147 L 503 kgs	690 L 125 Kgs	39027 L 2847 Kgs	Average Diversion Rate 43% Average Contamination 9%

THE GREEN HOUSE MOBILE WASTE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Aim: To encourage people to learn about how they can actively help their local environment through adopting simple waste-less practices, such as smart-shopping, avoidance, reuse, composting and recycling.



“Living Green with The Green House” is a mobile waste education program developed by the North East Waste Forum on behalf of its member Councils, which promotes sustainable waste practices to the North Coast community through the provision of information marquees, education resources, demonstrations and performance based education.

The educational objectives of the Green House program include:

- Increasing awareness of the impact of our continuing use and waste of resources;
- Building the capacity of community to adopt sustainable waste practices at home, school, work and play;
- Promoting local Council waste management services and keeping the community informed.

The NEWF Green House Waste Education Program was launched in December 2004 at St Xavier’s Primary School in Ballina Shire. The original Green House unit was created out of reused timber and other materials and visited over 100 schools and community events around the region, over a 3 ½ year period, delivering the Waste wise message to around 7500 students and other members of the community. In August 2008 the Green House was redesigned, to produce a resource which is more robust, satisfies council occupational health and safety requirements and has a broader educational reach and the potential to meet the evolving requirements of NEWF council environmental education programs.



Singing the ‘We can stop the Landfill’ song at the Big Scrub Open Day in Bangalow

The new 'Living Green with the Green House' mobile waste education program was launched at Alstonville Primary School in Ballina Shire in May 2009 with an intense program of 23 visits taking place across the region in May/June 09.

The success and popularity of this regional waste education program has continued to strengthen throughout 2009-10 with many events being the result of direct requests from schools and community event organisers. In 09-10 the Green House:

- Presented at 24 different venues and performed for a total of 29 days;
- Visits included 23 NEWF council events plus 6 additionally funded events including the RENEW NSW voluntary regional waste group meeting and the Students Using Sustainable Strategies Forum;

- An estimated 2630 people visited the Green House and many more would have seen the unit and engaged with the performers during community events;
- The unit visited 10 primary/K-12 schools, 1 pre-school, 1 regional high school forum (SUSS), 1 market, 1 indigenous student festival, 3 agricultural show days, 4 community/environmental festivals and 3 council Landfill /Transfer Station open days.

The table below summarised the total number and type of events that the Green House has participated in across the region since the program began in 2004.

A full schedule of events is planned for 2010/11 across the NEWF region with availability for neighbouring councils as requested.

GH Events by Council Area (2004 – 2010)



The Green House 'Smart Shopping & Greener Products' display.



Ellie EWaste performs for Lindisfarne Anglican School students at the RENEW meeting.



COUNCIL	DATES	Event Days	Reach (Estimated Attendance.)	Event Types
BALLINA SHIRE	Dec 04 – Jun 10	28	2385	Schools – 20 Community – 7 Other – 1
BYRON SHIRE		31	2140	Schools – 14 Community – 15 Other – 2
CLARENCE VALLEY		32	2691	Schools – 15 Community – 8 Other – 9
RICHMOND VALLEY		33	2965	Schools – 3 Community – 22 Other – 8
TWEED SHIRE		11	622	Schools – 7 Community – 3 Other – 1
KYOGLE SHIRE		1	48	Schools – 1
LISMORE CITY		11	885	Community – 5 Other – 6
Cross Regional Events		4	315	Other – 4 (3 x SUSS Forum; 1 x schools Expo)
Totals			151	12,050

A – Z OF WASTE

Aim: Increase awareness of waste avoidance and resource recovery issues

Simple, easy to read and straight to the issue, the A – Z of Waste information sheets have proved to be a valuable resource for schools, university students, community groups and other organisations when searching for information about a range of waste related issues.

There are more than 92 information sheets available for download off the NEWF website.

A complete fact sheet resource book is also now available with The Green House unit.





Partnerships

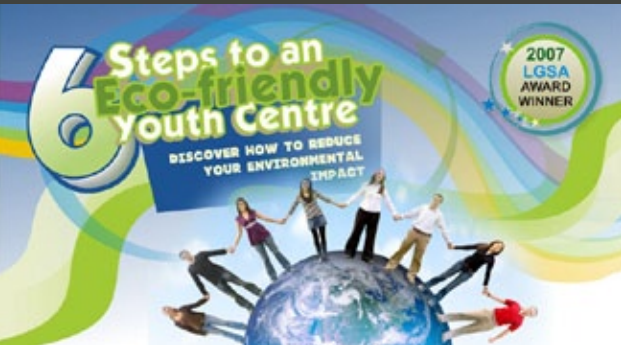
Having effective partnerships with other agencies is helping the NEWF to achieve our vision of sustainable waste management and our objectives, namely developing strong positive regional partnerships and integrating our work with other agencies. Working with partners allows us to build trust within the community and engage with them over the long term. It also helps us to build the commitment and capacity of our partners in this process.

PARTNERSHIPS

ECO-FRIENDLY YOUTH PROJECT

www.ecofriendlycentre.com

Aim: Help and support youth service providers in the region to become Eco-friendly Youth Centres.



Website's home page detail.

The Eco-friendly Youth Project works closely with youth organisation staff, management and clients to integrate environmental issues into the day to day running of the organisation. In 2007, the project received the LGSA Excellence in Environmental Education Award for the outcomes it had achieved in the region. In December 2008, the Environmental Trust offered NEWF the opportunity for funding the project to take it state-wide. The toolkit and website (www.ecofriendlycentre.com) have been updated and are a fantastic, easy to use resource for Councils and youth organisations.



Participants at the Sydney workshop learn how their youth organisation can become a more sustainable place.

In 2009 -10 the Environmental Trust funded program included a conference presentation to youth workers at the NSW Youth Affairs and Policy Association Conference, the delivery of 3 workshops across the state and mentoring of 5 centres to undertake the steps to a sustainable youth centre.



Snapshot from the CD-ROM Toolkit interface.

The project has proved that implementing change across a youth organisation is possible with the commitment of staff and management. By incorporating waste and sustainability issues into existing programs these messages can reach the young people that access programs and services on a regular basis, and have a greater and longer lasting impact.

HAZARDOUS WASTE STORES AND COLLECTION DAYS

Aim: Reduce hazardous waste to landfill.

The household chemical collection program is a joint initiative between the NEWF, its member Councils and the DECCW. The purpose of the program is to recover hazardous chemical waste from households, including cleaning agents, paints, batteries, fire extinguishers, gas bottles and pesticides. Two permanent hazardous waste stores in Grafton and Lismore are providing a much needed service to the north coast community. Promotion of the stores continues to ensure that all members of the community are aware of and can make use of this valuable service.

In June 2010 Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire Councils participated in a single day regional household chemical collection. A total of 17,504 kg was collected from the 2 permanent stores and the 4 single collection days, distributed as follows:

- Byron Shire – 2942 kg
- Richmond Valley Council – 1704 kg
- Tweed Shire Council – 3737.5 kg
- Clarence Valley Council - 1400 kg
- Lismore City Council - 7720 kg

Councils reported that this was an increase in participants to the program and are now investigating the feasibility of establishing permanent waste stores in their area.



it's time to
clean Out
your household chemical clutter
the right way

Here's your chance to get rid of
paint and paint related products
pesticides, herbicides and poisons
solvents and household cleaners
pool chemicals
acids and alkalis
hobby chemicals

AND IT'S FREE!

@

Ballina Shire Council
Saturday 29th March, 2008
Ballina Waste Management Centre,
Southern Cross Drive, Ballina.
9am - 4pm

Only household quantities accepted up to 20 litres.

CALL THE CLEAN OUT INFO HOTLINE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
1800 502 300

STUDENTS USING SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

Aim: Build the capacity of students (Years 10-12) and teachers to undertake and implement sustainable conservation strategies within their schools and community.



The Students Using Sustainable Strategies (SUSS) Program is a highly successful partnership project which includes a 2 day Forum for selected high school students and their teachers. The Forum focuses on workshops, audits and capacity building for students to undertake action in their schools, with a follow-up schools support Program.

The 4th SUSS Forum was held from 26 – 28 May 2010 at Linnaeus Estate, Broken Head with overwhelming success. Seventy five enthusiastic students and sixteen teachers from 15 high schools across the region spent two days and nights sharing their skills and ideas on environmental issues and sustainability. Involvement by key youth organisations YES (Youth Environment Society) and YEC (Youth Environment Council) were integral to the success of the event.

A new addition to the program this year were guest speakers. Andrew Turbill, a leading climate change facilitator with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water entertained the students with the latest research on climate change, inspiring them to be the much needed 'leaders of change' within their communities.



The SUSS Message Board and The Wrap Up Session 2010.



SUSS Waste Audit with Murwillumbah students.

NORTHERN RIVERS GROUP OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

Aim: Facilitate enhanced local and regional co-ordination and collaboration of environmental education programs.

The NRGe represents a forum for exchange, information sharing, collaboration and networking amongst professional environmental educators working in the Northern Rivers region. The NEWF continued to co-ordinate this group in 09-10, with four meetings held in addition to an email network. Group members have also come together to work collaboratively on regional projects including the Students Using Sustainable Strategies Forum, the Regional Schools Support Program and the Early Childhood sector.



Members of the Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators



PARTNERSHIPS

REGIONAL SCHOOLS SUPPORT PROGRAM

Aim: Facilitate enhanced local and regional co-ordination and collaboration of environmental education programs.

The Regional Schools Support Program is a partnership between NEWF and member Councils to assist Councils with their school-based programs where required, and to respond to school requests for audits, demonstrations and other education activities. The Program follows up on the Students Using Sustainable Strategies Program. In 2009-10 the NEWF worked with a number of schools. Southern Cross High School was supported in planning and delivering resource recovery programs and the Green House visited the school in March 2010 to assist in the schools waste management strategy. Alstonville High School were successful in securing funding for their waste plan

and the NEWF will continue to assist with their endeavors to improve waste management.

Assistance was also provided to Casino Christian School to train students in waste auditing, following a Green House visit and the launch of the Richmond Valley Council new kerbside recycling service. 16 Year 10 students attended and will work on a Waste Action Plan and implementation for assessment. Evans Head K -12 is progressing resource recovery strategies in the primary school.

NEWF Green House lesson plans have also been used to teach waste management units.





Business

The NEWF Regional Waste Plan highlights the need to engage the commercial and industrial sector in waste reduction initiatives. By engaging the business community, the NEWF is fulfilling the objectives of facilitating effective and focused projects, creating positive relationships and initiating integrated sustainable resource management. This is done by effectively communicating sound advice, practical initiatives and providing ongoing support.

BUSINESS WASTE REDUCTION PROJECT

Aim: Achieve measurable waste reduction outcomes and reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill from businesses across the NEWF region.

The Business Waste Reduction Project is implemented by i) collaborating with individual businesses to identify waste management issues and developing action plans to implement change ii) targeting the wider business community through information transfer, networking with industry groups and the media.

The project engaged over 30 businesses in Stage 3 (2008-09) and Stage 4 (2009-10). It fostered relationships with a range of industry groups, business networks and relevant government agencies enabling it to promote waste reduction to a broader regional audience. The project was promoted in regional and national media and through its quarterly newsletter.

In 2009-10 a different approach to reducing business waste was trialled in two council areas, Byron Shire and Ballina Shire, to broaden the projects outreach. In Brunswick Heads businesses were surveyed and a media campaign selecting a sustainable business each month was launched. A Cafe and Hospitality Survey was conducted in Byron that resulted in the uptake of new recycling services and Clubs in Ballina were surveyed and given waste management advice.

The project was promoted to business advisory services across all shires and engaged in a number of activities with Chambers of Commerce in the region. It was also featured by request in the WMAA Conference in 2010.



BWRP coordinator inspects recycling at Kingscliff TAFE

In addition, business sustainability training was conducted as part of the Green Skills course for Tweed Ace and support and advice was given to commence recycling and waste reduction throughout ACE buildings.

Stage 3 business have diverted 46.08 ton to date. These figures are based on volumes from implemented services and are subject to weekly variation. Not all Stage 4 figures are available as most businesses are in the process of implementing action plans.

The Business Waste Reduction Project has been extended until June 2011. It is recommended that this stage of the project should continue in its present format of working with specific businesses in the region while continuing to broaden its target audience through industry groups, associations and the media.

2009-10 Activities are outlined in the Table below



New bin Station installed at Calypso Holiday Park, Yamba.



Waste Auditing at Ballina Headlands Resort.



BUSINESS

	Business	2009-2010 Activity
Ballina	Sandbar Restaurant	Assistance with organic waste and composting
	Ballina Clubs	6 Clubs surveyed, provided with information and recommendations made.
	Alstonville High	Continued support and information
	Research	Organics Recycling for Commercial Businesses in the NEWF – paper for businesses and Council
Richmond Valley	On Focus Casino	Waste Audit and report conducted, Action plan and policy produced Case study developed
	Casino Golf Club	Waste Audit and report conducted, Action plan produced Case study developed
	Ron Howard Printing Casino	Waste Audit and report conducted, Action plan produced Case study developed
Clarence Valley	Grafton Shopping World	Audit and Report Action Plan and review Case study
	Calypso Caravan Park	Consultation to improve recycling stations and education of clients. Case study Draft report prepared for council on changes to bay and budget, needs bin sizes entered.
Byron	Byron Beach Cafe	Visual Assessment Recycling service introduced and adjusted Signage internal provided, continued support and information
	Byron CBD Hospitality Survey	Survey on waste management practices and knowledge of 44 businesses Advice, information and follow up provided 7 businesses have successfully implemented recycling where there was none prior to the survey
	Byron Bay Community Centre	Site inspection and advice Business/organisation survey Bin labelling provided Organics management program installed Research, referral and transition into appropriate green cleaning products commenced Waste management system adapted to maximise recycling Adaptation to waste wise events currently in progress
Tweed	South Tweed Heads Pool	Site inspection and Management survey Recycling bin with appropriate location and signage installed based on Kingscliff report (similar premises)
	Kingscliff Pool	Site inspection and Management survey Audit and Report Recycling bin with appropriate location and signage installed
	Tweed City Shopping Centre	Site inspection and survey of retail outlets Audit and Report

THE REUSE DIRECTORY

Aim: To promote and encourage the reuse of materials in the region by providing a 'one-stop-shop' listing of reuse, repair and rental businesses operating on the north coast.

The online reuse directory received over 3,200 unique visitors to the site throughout the year. This is significantly less than the previous year and may be the result of less media advertising of the directory. The site provides a listing of the contact details and services provided for 260 reuse, repair, rental and eco-friendly businesses in 52 categories, from the Tweed to the Clarence Valley. The directory allows shoppers to easily locate businesses to service their shopping needs, saving time, money and the environment.

The Reuse Directory can be found at: www.reusedirectory.com

A major addition to the directory during 2009 – 2010 was a regional markets and second hand community event guide. It includes a comprehensive listing and contact details for all the regions markets including farmers, weekly and monthly markets as well as annual market & special events, library book sales, trash & treasure days, antiques and vintage clothing fairs.





Local Government

The NEWF recognises the important role local government plays in the community – providing leadership, delivering services and developing and facilitating the move towards sustainable communities. NEWF member councils work together to plan and assist the community through the implementation of the Regional Waste Plan delivering a range of strategic, participatory and well developed projects.

COUNCIL WASTE REDUCTION & SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PROJECT

Aim: Facilitate NEWF councils to achieve measurable waste reduction outcomes and reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill for NEWF council activities, through improved purchasing processes and greater recycling / reuse.

This project was wound down in 2008-09 with councils self managing the progress of their Waste Reduction Action Plans in to the future, a focus on the development and implementation of sustainable procurement policy and utilising the LGSA Sustainable Choice program to help build their capacity to procure more environmentally preferable goods and services.

To assist and encourage council staff to continue to improve their sustainable purchasing processes, a number of council case studies were created highlighting successful sustainable purchases. The case studies included: recycled paper newsletters and business cards; recycled indoor seating, decking and signage; solar lighting; waterless urinals and C&D waste reused as road base. The case studies were widely circulated across the NEWF region and beyond via the RENEW NSW voluntary regional waste groups and are available on the NEWF website.



Sustainable Purchasing Roadshow visits Byron Shire Council



Sustainable Purchasing Roadshow visits Richmond Valley Council

EDUCATION TRAINING

Aim: Provide training, professional development and networking opportunities for landfill and education staff in the region.

In 2009-10 the NEWF facilitated a number of training opportunities. A green cleaning train the trainer workshop for Local Government and community educators was held in November. Sixteen people representing 10 organisations attended the workshop. In addition, a green cleaning education workshop for Early Childhood Services attracted 20 services from the region. Waste wise training and resources have been provided for students undertaking a Certificate IV in Early Childhood with Byron ACE (2 classes in 2009)

The training course for landfill operators has earned a solid reputation among the regional waste groups of NSW and the NEWF has shared resources with a number of the groups over the past few years. A new Landfill operator training program was developed for the NEWF in 2010 by the New England TAFE. Training was delivered in July with 14 participants from regional landfills, representatives from the DECCW and WorkCover attending.

NEWF also attended the NSW AAEE conference with the Byron Shire Council educator. Findings from the conference have been shared with other regional educators.

The waste wise events project and the Green House project were submitted for Local Government Waste Awards and the Business Waste Reduction Project presented its findings at the WMAA Conference in Coffs Harbour.



Landfill Operation Training held in Grafton, July 2010.



RENEW members visit a cold storage facility in Blaney to learn about their sustainable business practices..

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE

Aim: Improve Construction & Demolition waste minimisation and resource recovery activities in the region.

This project maintains a close eye on developments in the Construction & Demolition (C&D) Recycling Industry and takes action when possible to increase C and D resource recovery and processing. This year, Byron Shire Council has developed a Draft Waste Not Development Control Plan and has distributed it to other member Councils for review and consideration as a potential template.

The need to train waste management staff in the management and disposal of asbestos has also been identified and appropriate training opportunities are under investigation.



Recycled Concrete at Myocum Landfill, Byron Shire Council

LANDFILL OPEN DAYS

Aim: To educate students and/or the community about their local waste facility, through an experiential learning experience.

The NEWF co-ordinated two successful Transfer Station / Landfill Open Days again this year, at the Grafton Regional Landfill (Clarence Valley Council) and at the Evans Head Transfer Station (Richmond Valley Council) with the focus on school participation. More than 295 students and teachers attended from Grafton, Woodburn and Broadwater Publics and Evans River k – 12 school, taking the opportunity to experience resource recovery and waste management in their local area.

By providing an organised day of information and educational activities the following objectives were able to be met:

- Inform school children and their teachers about the value of waste minimisation with the focus on reducing, reusing, recycling and resource recovery;
- Enable young people to see firsthand the environmental outcome of their waste separation efforts;
- Demonstrate the problems caused by contamination in recycling; and
- Reinforce the importance of waste minimisation and good landfill management for the environment and future generations.

An extended program of Landfill Open Day visits is planned for 2010/11 with all five of the NEWF councils requesting involvement.



Students from Grafton Public School on a guided tour of the Grafton Waste Transfer Station.



Students from Woodburn Public School learn about Ewaste on a tour of the Evans Head Waste Transfer Station.

MANAGING ORGANIC WASTE

Aim: Assist councils to develop local and regional strategies for managing the beneficial reuse of organic waste.



Green waste shredding at Ballina Waste Management Facility



Ballina Councillor Jeff Johnson, promoting the Council's new organic kerbside collection, scheduled for July 2011

As part of the approach to improving the management of organic waste in the region, NEWF continues to be involved in monitoring a range of developments in organic resource recovery and reprocessing with a view to maximizing economic growth and industrial development opportunities. NEWF will continue to assist Councils to progress their organics collection proposals and systems where practical and look at options for regional collection and treatment.

In the past year Ballina Shire Council have explored local and regional options for improved organics management. Recently the Council endorsed a weekly kerbside collection service to begin in 2011. Ongoing public consultation will determine the bin size, frequency of collection and disposal method. Richmond Valley Council are also investigating the possibility of an organics collection service.

Byron Shire Council have developed an organics education management plan, which has been adopted by Council and is currently being implemented. Across the Shire home composters are encouraged with public demonstrations and workshops, as well as the reduced prices for composting bins.

NEWF COMMUNICATION

Aim: Communicate with the community through local and regional media.

The NEWF aims to promote the collaborative nature of the work undertaken by councils through the NEWF as well as inform the community of specific projects where participation from the community is vital to their success. To achieve this, the NEWF has used a number of media opportunities and national events for targeted promotion of projects and features regularly in local and regional media.

- a) National Recycling Week 2009 media campaign completed with all NEWF Councils participating. Advertising and a feature article submitted to 11 regional newspapers. Ad and posters distributed across councils and NEWF network to promote NRW and council recycling services.
- b) The NEWF website has been updated with new case studies, reports, evaluation and photos as well as project specific information
- c) Reuse Directory and Eco friendly Youth Centre websites have been maintained
- d) The NEWF newsletters has been produced and distributed quarterly at a local, regional and State level
- e) Early Childhood Services newsletter – quarterly joint production and distribution with Rous Water to EC services across the region.
- f) 32 media articles have been prepared and circulated for specific NEWF projects
- g) A media campaign for Hazardous Waste Collection 2010 was completed through May and June 2010.
- h) Presentation on the BWRP at Waste 2010, Coffs Harbour.
- i) Presentation on the Early Childhood Project at the AAEE Conference in October in Coffs Harbour.
- j) NEWF has been represented at AAEE Conference in Coffs Harbour, the NSW Youth Affairs and Policy Association Conference, RENEW NSW meetings, Waste 2010 and other regional conferences and gatherings.



Check it, Clean it, Recycle it!

- REMOVE LIDS, CAPS, CORKS AND TOPS
- SQUASH CONTAINERS
- FLATTEN BOXES
- RINSE AND CLEAN ALL BOTTLES AND CANS
- DO NOT BREAK GLASS
- DON'T WRAP RECYCLABLES IN PLASTIC BAGS

Byron Shire Council now accepts all plastics marked with the numbers 1 to 7 (excluding bags, film & polystyrene). Empty aerosol cans are also recyclable, please put them in your recycling bin along with any of the above items.

WWW.RECYCLINGNEARYOU.COM.AU
WWW.NORTHEASTWASTEFORUM.ORG.AU

National Recycling Week 2009



Our Region

Our region supports an innovative, diverse and growing range of social, economic and environmental opportunities. The NEWF recognises the importance that this diversity has in shaping our region, and aims to facilitate regional cooperation of services and programs where practical.

REGIONAL CONTRACTS

Aim: : Improve service, price and/or cost for disposal and processing of specific waste types for NEWF councils.

NEWF councils have signed joint contracts this year for Electronic Waste and Compact Fluorescent Lamps and Fluorescent Tubes. The NEWF Councils of Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire have set up permanent collection points at their Waste Management Centres for collection of E-waste, with permanent signage attached. Over 190 tonnes was collected in 09-10, representing a substantial portion of all e- waste collected in regional NSW areas.

Similarly, the Councils of Ballina Shire, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Tweed Shire have permanent collection facilities for CFL's and Fluorescent tubes. All Councils continue to share the regional tyre contract but two Councils are proceeding with individual arrangements for metal recycling.

Regionally recovered resources
Electronic Waste – 194 tonnes
Scrap metal – 4343 tonnes
Tyres – 5198 units



E-waste recycling depot at Mycom Transfer Station, Byron Shire.



OUR REGION

Resource Recovery/Waste Diversion Reporting for 1st July 2009 to 30 June 2010

Waste Type	Resource Recovery Rates or Waste Diversion Rates	Measurement tonnes/kg/m3	Recycled or Reused
Garden Organics	30568	Tonnes	Recycled
Scrap Metal	4343	Tonnes	Recycled
drumMUSTER	7372	Unit -Drums	Recycled
Hazardous/Chemical Waste	17503.5	Kilograms	Hazardous disposal or treat then recycle
Used Oil	66674	Litres	Recycled
Construction and Demolition	21621	Tonnes	Recycled
Commercial & Industrial	39350	Tonnes	Recycled
Tyres	5198	Units	Recycled
Sharps	201	Units	Hazardous disposal or treat then recycle
Batteries	5648	Units	Recycled
Gas bottles	657	Units	Recycled
Recyclables (co-mingled)	23390	Tonnes	Recycled
Recyclables (paper & cardboard)	5239	Tonnes	Recycled
Illegal Dumping	403	No of Incidents (or)	Clean up
Glass	94	Tonnes	Recycled
E Waste (Computers etc)	194	Tonnes	Recycled
Landfill	168435	Tonnes	Disposal

BENEFITS OF RECYCLING

The DECCW confirms that “domestic kerbside recycling is making a substantial contribution to the improvement of our environment by cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and delivering significant energy and water savings, as well as conserving non-renewable virgin resources.” (DECCW website 2007)

During 2009-10 more than 28,700 tonnes of household waste was recycled in the NEWF region of Richmond Valley, Byron Shire, Tweed Shire, Ballina Shire and Clarence Valley Council areas. Using the DECCW Benefits of Recycling Calculator, this saves 14,300 tonnes of CO₂e being emitted to the atmosphere and is the equivalent to 3441 cars being permanently removed from our roads. It also equals a water saving of more than 475,752 tonnes or 190 Olympic sized swimming pools and a total energy saving of 478,000 gigajoules.





SOCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The NEWF aims to provide projects for contractors that are engaging and challenging and to provide educational and professional development opportunities where possible. The NEWF seeks to include and involve contractors in all aspects of the organisation, to assist with their professional development and help them develop skills in all areas of management, project management, budget and co-ordination.

a) Contractors

The NEWF has engaged 5 part time contractors and 4 casual contractors:

- 1 x Co-ordinator
- 1 x Education Co-ordinator
- 1 x Business Waste Reduction Co-ordinator
- 1 x Projects Coordinator
- 1 x Early Childhood Education Project Co-ordinator
- 1 x casual Green House Site Manager
- 3 x casual Green House Performers

All contractors are engaged via a contract with set conditions and remuneration.

b) Engagement of Contractors

Contractors are engaged following procedures that mirror those used by council Human Resources procedures. The following process is employed:

- Advertisement in local papers, email groups, councils
- Contract, contract outline, remuneration package, project outline prepared.
- Selection process based on selection criteria.
- Interviews conducted by the NEWF Executive Committee.
- Preparation of Work Plan for the period of the contract.



OUR REGION

c) Training and Professional Development

Contractors are given the following professional development opportunities:

- Attend relevant conferences, workshops and seminars on behalf of the NEWF.
- They are encouraged to present papers / workshops at conferences and seminars to promote their projects and assist with developing their skills in this area
- Attendance at the Voluntary Regional Waste Groups meetings is by the Coordinator and one other NEWF team representative.
- Attendance at regional Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators.
- Participation in e-networks.

d) Partnership and Collaboration

The NEWF has been developing its partnering initiatives over a number of years. The forum is an active member of the RENEW NSW (Voluntary Regional Waste Groups Forum), regularly attending meetings and being instrumental in creating more consistent strategy, funding application and reporting measures for all groups. The NEWF has been in partnership with a number of organisations across the region and sees this as an important way of maintaining and promoting good practice waste avoidance and resource recovery in the region.



OUR REGION

The NEWF has entered into a number of partnerships and collaborative projects in 2009/2010 including:

- NSW Environmental Trust
- Linnaeus Estate
- National Parks and Wildlife Division
- Rous Water
- Southern Cross University
- Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre Environmental Encounters
- Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
- Mid Rivers Group Environmental Educators
- Northern Inland Regional Waste
- Lismore Shire Council
- EnvITE
- Kyogle Tidy Towns
- Tim Fitzroy Consulting
- Lennox and Brunswick Head Chambers of Commerce
- NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN)
- Exhibition Marketing
- North Coast TAFE



ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

a) Transport / organisational travel

As part of their work NEWF contractors neutralise their air-travel through purchasing carbon offsets where possible. NEWF contractors also car pool to meetings, project events, training sessions and conferences where practical and possible. NEWF team meetings are scheduled to reduce car use as much as possible.

b) Paper Use

NEWF contractors aim to limit the use of paper and maximise paper reduction measures:

- Double sided printing of all documents.
- Drafts printed on used paper.
- Use of electronic editing for all documents.
- Use of email for memos, editing purposes.
- Electronic storage of files and documents.
- Reuse of envelopes for mail.
- E-newsletters
- Electronic reports

c) Purchasing Policy

The NEWF has a Policy covering the Purchase of Goods and Services. All communication materials are delivered where possible by email or printed on 100% recycled paper / cardboard where possible. Contractors always attempt to purchase locally or Australian made products.

d) Reducing Environmental Impact

In addition, the NEWF aims to reduce our impact on the environment in other ways:

- Reuse and repair as often as possible
- Recycle or refill all toner / printer cartridges from printers.
- Using vegetable based inks or digital printing processes wherever possible.
- Use 'Green Power' electricity and use of solar power in most of the offices.
- Compost and recycle in all workplaces



ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

a) Member Council Contributions

Each Council that is a member of NEWF contributes between \$0.80 - \$1.00 per head of population (based on 2006 Census results) towards NEWF operations, project development and implementation. This is capped at maximum population of 50,000. This way each council shares in the ongoing operations of the Forum and contributes a proportionate share of running costs and project expenses.

b) Department of Environment and Climate Change Sponsorship

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) has provided sponsorship for assistance with project development and implementation. Regular progress reports and a final report, including project outcomes and resource recovery figures are delivered to the DECCW each year.

c) Financial Accounting

Byron Shire Council currently handles all NEWF financial accounts as per the NEWF Memorandum of Agreement. A Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Financial Position are produced for the Annual Report each year. In 2010-2011 this responsibility will be transferred to Tweed Shire Council.



GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NEWF

During 2009/2010 the NEWF underwent the first phase of a two phase review. This review resulted in the development of a new Memorandum of Agreement. The second stage of the review will proceed externally through the engagement of contractor in 2010/11.

a) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

The NEWF operates under an MOA outlining the objectives and the role of the NEWF; voting rights, delegation of power; administration; council responsibilities and the policies and procedures that accompany the document. The MOA is signed by all member councils and recognises the right of councils to withdraw membership at any time. The MOA was revised in 2009/10, with a new MOA taking effect from 30 June 2010.

b) NEWF Committee

All councils are members of the committee and send a representative to the bi-monthly meetings of the NEWF.

c) Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has the responsibility for making decisions on behalf of the NEWF in relation to funding and planning issues. It also co-ordinates the engagement of contractors via delegation to the NEWF Co-ordinator and provides decision making support to the NEWF Co-ordinator.

d) Policies and Procedures

The NEWF has developed a number of Policies and Procedures that accompany the MOA and assist with the smooth co-ordination of NEWF activities. These include:

- Budget – Record Keeping
- Communication Process
- Contractor Engagement Process



- Contractor Review Process
- Delegated Authority to Forum Co-ordinator
- Ethics Policy
- Grievance Process
- Meeting Procedures
- Member Council Financial Commitment
- Purchase of Goods and Services
- Sub-committee Roles and Responsibilities
- Member Financial Contribution

e) Meetings of the NEWF

Meetings of the NEWF are held bi-monthly and rotated to each member Council. During 2009/10, seven meetings were held.

August	Richmond Valley
October	Clarence Valley Council (Maclean)
December	Byron Shire Council
February	Ballina Shire Council
April	Tweed
May	Richmond Valley Council
June	Byron Shire Council

g) Council Delegates

Ballina Shire Council	Cr Jeffrey Johnson, Rodney Dawson
Byron Shire Council	Russell Chaplin
Clarence Valley Council	Ken Wilson, Richard Roper
Richmond Valley Council	Peter Cotterill
Tweed Shire Council	Adam Faulkner



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

REVENUES	2010	2009	2008	2007
NEWF - State Government Funding	215,000	202,500	235,000	165,000
Richmond Waste	0	0	0	0
Member Contributions	180,197.15	173,878.45	178,610	0
Landfill Operators Course	0	0	0	0
Sundry Income	73,329.66	48,518.99	24,701	210,743
Eco Friendly Youth Centre Project Grant	0	24,000		
NSW Waste Levy Establishment Grant	0	98,000		
TOTAL REVENUES	468,527	546,897	438,311	375,743
EXPENSES	2010	2009	2008	2007
Forum Co-ordinator	55,009.65	81,927.6	78,392.24	77,632
Forum Co-ordinator - Communication	1,308.42	1,037.73	1,715.24	1,864
Forum Co-ordinator - Travel Expenses	3,126.36	5,281.26	5,443.82	3,220
General Administration	11,083.31	8,735.67	13,342.66	13,562
Education Officer Contract	49,641.53	41,230.64	44,197.88	43,001
Education Officer Communication	3,082.26	2,379.6	1,554.98	5,472
Education Officer Travel	5,787.7	4,089.93	1,908.97	1,835
NEWF - Promotion	15,657.05	14,637.65	13,963.64	13,036
Meetings, Subscriptions & Conferences	0	45	148.12	925
Publicity Events and Open Days	4,690.05	4,223.59	4,180.15	3,477
Education and Training	0	0	-	0
Event Recycling	0	80	-	0
Litter	0	0	-	0



Annual Report 2009 / 2010

EXPENSES	2010	2009	2008	2007
Avoidance Education / Sustainable Living Program	0	0	-	0
Student Internship / Youth Program	0	0	515.13	0
Schools Program	0	0	1,358.22	1,413
Reuse and Repair	7,291.04	5,090.77	5,748.48	6,135
Short Film Festival	0	1,395.6	-	0
Household Hazardous Waste Stores	0	0	-	0
Annual Collections	28,283.66	93,270.02	35,277.70	14,527
Regional Stores	53,354.75	0	-	9,310
Drummuster	0	0	-	0
Education - Natural Clean Alternatives	0	0	-	0
Sustainable School Projects	0	166.91	-	0
C & D Waste	1,114.32	0	-	0
Education and Communication	94.72	4,213.07	4,610.51	6,100
Electronics Waste	5,040.28	1,925	64,115.52	
Plastic Bags Campaign	9,168.36	0	5,428.41	2,191
Landfill Operator Training	0	0	-	0
Second hand Saturday	0	0	13,926.34	4,006
Reuses Case Studies	0	0	-	250
Commercial / Industrial Hazard Waste	0	43,586.05	40,849.64	0
Waste Information Sheets	45,005.46	454.54	1,277.50	40,490
Avoidance Education MDU	600	46,623.64	20,780.43	0
Recycling Contamination	25,540.83	0	-	20,063



Annual Report 2009 / 2010

EXPENSES	2010	2009	2008	2007
National Recycling Week	0	0	-	-573
Recycling Information Display	0	0	-	0
Education Evaluation Plan	21,243.65	24,107.62	22,854.35	8,106
Regional Education Group	0	0	-	750
Update Regional Waste Plan	0	0.00	-	0
Waste Mass / Volume Composition	0	158,985	-	0
New NEWF Strategy	0	0	-	0
Reuse centre Model	0	0	-	10,000
Green Waste Shredding	0	0	-	0
Regional Solutions for Organics	0	0	-	9,000
Biosolids	0	0	-	0
Sub-Regional Solutions - Northern Rivers	0	0	-	0
Sub-Regional Solutions - Clarence Valley	0	0	-	0
Eco Friendly Youth Project - Contracts	6,932.04	295.11	5,596.60	7,290
Eco Friendly Youth Project - Admin	436.36	0	1,515.66	1,705
Eco Friendly Youth Project - Promo and Education	3,821.31	1,389.87	3,834.00	9,139
C & I Waste Expenses	1,979.85	3,692.76	3,246.81	4,480
C & I Waste Travel	4,964.44	4,640.9	4,582.87	2,051
Scoping Studies	0	0	-	0
NEWF Reporting	0	0	-	0
Contracts - Legal	4,198.18	0	-	0
NEWF Review and Plan Update	0	0	-	0



Annual Report 2009 / 2010

EXPENSES	2010	2009	2008	2007
Members Waste Planning Process	3,181.82	0	-	0
State Government and Waste Groups	4,677.04	0	-	0
Skills, Knowledge Development	4,887.59	10,831.39	8,036.56	7,438
Waste Wise Events Contract	28,188.1	20,760.78	28,718.84	22,324
Waste Wise Events Travel	1,248.94	3,827.59	3,802.24	2,697
Waste Wise Events Expenses	3675.91	2,268.58	5,000.01	3,127
Council Waste Reduction Contract	1303.2	7,276.32	21,826.28	20,733
Council Waste Reduction Travel	0	1,103.82	1,339.30	2,209
Council Waste Reduction Expenses	27.8	305.83	1,532.21	900
SUSS Coordination	24,568.93	3,976.67		
SUSS Support Program	223.13	4,863.49		
Waste Levy Est Grant Council Payments	56,000	25,575		
Eco Friendly Youth Project State Expan	8,116.81			
Flourescent Lamp Recycling	4,566			
TOTAL EXPENSES	509,121	634,295	470,621	379,885
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(40,594)	(87,398)	(32,311)	(4,142)



	2010	2009	2008	2007
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at Bank	247,891	288,485	375,883	408,193
Accounts Receivable				
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	247,891	288,485	375,883	408,193
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors				
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	0	0	0	0
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES				
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	0	0	0	0
NET ASSETS	247,891	288,485	375,883	408,193
EQUITY				
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	247,891	288,485	375,883	408,193

The North East Waste Forum
PO Box 148 Suffolk Park

E-mail: coordinator@northeastwasteforum.org.au
www.northeastwasteforum.org.au