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eNews

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## Can I recycle: X-rays?



**Yes.** A small amount of valuable silver can be recovered from x-ray slides. Simply return your slides to the Radiological Clinic where you received the x-rays free of charge, minus the reports and patient records that may also be in the envelope.

Alternatively, x-rays can be dropped off free of charge or sent via mail to Ecocycle Australia and Quantum Technical Services. For address details and your A-Z of Recycling visit [recycleright.wa.gov.au](http://recycleright.wa.gov.au) or download the app.

Available on the iPhone  
**App Store**

ANDROID APP ON  
**Google play**



## Fast Facts: Buying in Bulk

### Did you know?

Every year, every single person in Perth generates around 2.5 tonnes of household waste.\*

Buying dry food in bulk is one of the easiest ways to reduce your waste footprint by avoiding excess packaging.

Buying in bulk is also cheaper. On average bulk food purchases are significantly lower priced than individually packaged goods.

### What can you do?

Bring your own reusable containers. Save your glass jars, cardboard boxes, paper bags or invest in some quality containers.

You can buy in bulk from Perth suppliers such as Kakulas Sister and Kakulas Brothers, Manna Wholefoods and Loose Produce.

Don't forget to bring your reusable shopping bags!

\*Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

## Freo Launches Reverse Vending Machine



Pic: A Melville Primary student places a can in the RVM.

Earlier this month, the City of Fremantle launched an exciting new initiative that rewards people for recycling their waste - a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM).

The RVM dispenses reward vouchers for the deposit of empty cans or plastic drink bottles; an initiative that aims to encourage visitors to recycle their waste, promote local businesses and keep the streets of Fremantle clean.

With a capacity of up to 2,000 items per bin, the RVM project will play a role in reducing the amount of plastic making its way into landfill and the marine environment.

The City was recently awarded a Recycling Community Grant by Keep Australia Beautiful to fund the program's first year of implementation which will be trialled in Fremantle until 2018.





Pics: Maintenance team members removing large fur ball within digester.

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## Maintenance Team Remove 'Fur Ball'

### Which Bin: Hose?



**Neither bin.** Hoses of any kind should never be placed in your green or yellow-topped bin. They wrap around the machinery at the recycling facility and cause mechanical problems.

Hoses should be stored safely at home and put on the verge at the time of your junk verge collection.

For your A-Z of recycling, visit [recycleright.wa.gov.au](http://recycleright.wa.gov.au) or download the app available for free at the App Store or at Google Play.

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It's important to remember that the contents of your green-topped bin are composted and to never place contaminants such as broken glass, wire or metal in with organic material. Recently the Regional Resource Recovery Centre's (RRRC) maintenance team removed a four metre long 'fur ball' from deep within one of the four large digesters found at the Waste Composting Facility (WCF).

The 'fur ball' consisted of a tangle of wire, plastic, hoses and large pieces of fabric that cannot be composted. The sheer mass of the jumble obstructed the efficiency of the digesters and required a great deal of effort to remove.

The WCF digesters breakdown organic material in an anaerobic composting system and are the largest in the southern hemisphere, reaching 67m long and 4.6m wide. Each cylinder is rotated by a powerful hydraulic system. The composting process creates an average temperature of around 50-60 °C.

After passing through the digester the material travels through a series of processes and concludes its journey as nutrient rich compost to be used on agricultural land in WA.

58% of the contents of green-topped bins is recovered through this process, saving valuable material from landfill.

## John Curtin College Science Visit



Pics: Recycle Right's Emma Baker making paper with John Curtin College Year 7s.

Recently Education Officer Emma Baker visited John Curtin College of the Arts to talk waste and conduct recycling craft activities with the Year 7 Science classes. Students couldn't wait to find out how their paper had turned out after the break and took away valuable lessons about sustainability and recycling.

Teacher Peta Scorer was pleased to report that students are now taking recycling out of plastic bags and no longer placing lids on milk bottles.

To find out how a Recycle Right presentation or activity session fits in with your curriculum, please contact Emma on 9256 9528 or via email - [tours@smrc.com.au](mailto:tours@smrc.com.au)



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## Recycle Right App – Fresh Updates



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## RRRC Tours

**Would you like to see what happens to your rubbish?**

We run free tours of the **Regional Resource Recovery Centre** from Monday to Friday and once a month on a Saturday for anyone interested in understanding exactly what happens after the vergeside bin collection.

Schools, community groups and individuals are welcome and bookings are essential.

The next community tour dates open to families and individuals are:

**Saturday 3 October**

**Wednesday 7 October**

**Saturday 7 November**

Other dates can be arranged for groups. To discuss your tour requirements, please contact Emma Baker on **9256 9528** or [tours@smrc.com.au](mailto:tours@smrc.com.au)

We're happy to announce that the Recycle Right app was recently updated. The newest version offers a wide range of improvements and will greatly aid users to recycle right.

A key feature of the upgrade is the inclusion of information for councils using a three bin waste system. Now residents in Stirling, Cottesloe, Bayswater and Cambridge councils will be able to access listings and locations specific to their region.

Other improvements include an expanded list of items within the A-Z of recycling. Each listing is now paired with an icon, increasing accessibility and visibility.

The app also offers a larger number of drop-off points based on your location as well as information about plastic symbols. Check your app is updated by looking for icons in the A-Z of Recycling or to manually update visit the App Store or Google Play.

## Strategic Waste Management Plan



On Monday 7 September the SMRC held a briefing session for member local governments to discuss the draft recommendations from the Strategic Waste Management Plan.

The Plan was presented by Mike Richie and Tiffany Key from MRA Consultants.

With new sustainable waste management alternatives available, the Plan considers future options to improve SMRC performance at a lower cost.

The Plan is also the first step in a process to improve the sustainability and performance of SMRC waste practices to achieve the State's waste diversion targets.

The Plan's recommendations were also discussed at the SMRC Strategic Plan workshop on 24 September.

A copy of the draft Strategic Waste Management Plan is available on the SMRC website.





Interested in learning how you can Recycle Right at home?  
**Recycle Right at the Perth Royal Show**

## Calendar – Upcoming Events

### Recycle Right at Perth Royal Show 26 September to 3 October

Interested in knowing more about how you can recycle right at home?

Or would you like to bring your kids along to take part in our free, fun recycling workshops?

For the first week of school holidays the Recycle Right team, supported by the Waste Authority, will be at the Royal Show to promote recycling and sustainable living. You can find the Recycle Right marquee in the Carter Precinct.

**Date:** 26 Sept to 3 Oct

**Time:** 10am-3pm daily

[recycleright.wa.gov.au/recycle-right-at-perth-royal-show-2015/](http://recycleright.wa.gov.au/recycle-right-at-perth-royal-show-2015/)

### Garage Sale Trail 24 October

Garage Sale Trail is one big day of garage sales happening right across Australia.

Now in its fifth year, the award winning Garage Sale Trail is Australia's biggest REUSE event. Everyone can get involved and it's free for sellers and shoppers.

[garagesaletrail.com.au](http://garagesaletrail.com.au)

### National Recycling Week 9-15 November

The overall aim for National Recycling Week is to increase the environmental benefits, including greater tonnage and less contamination of kerbside, industrial and community recycling programs. For a full listing of events visit the Recycling Week website.

[recyclingweek.planetark.org/events](http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/events)



## Findbins

### Looking for a charity bin?

#### Simple.

Findbins makes donating clothing to charities simple by providing a searchable directory of your local clothing bins, stores and other services.

Charities can use [findbins.com](http://findbins.com) to create awareness of their clothing bins and services, get feedback from the people who use them and collect donations.

Visit [findbins.com](http://findbins.com) for more information.

## Compost-A-Pak Compostable Liners

There is a big difference between biodegradable and compostable classifications. It's important to know that biodegradable plastics will be broken down by micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungi over a period of time. However, there is no requirement for removing "toxic residue" or for the time period needed to biodegrade.

To be classified as compostable a product must be biodegradable, must disintegrate in compost, and must not produce any toxic material.

There are many compostable products such as bin liners that

can be used as an alternative to disposable items and reduce your waste footprint.

Compost-A-Pak compostable bin liners are designed to break down within weeks within a normal compost environment similar to other organic waste. Drop into the SMRC offices in Booragoon to pick up a sample pack.

Readers of the Recycle Right eNews are able to save 20% off orders when using the code **Composta** on their online store at checkout.

[sourceseparationsystems.com.au](http://sourceseparationsystems.com.au)