



## SMRC RECEIVES SAFETY AWARDS

The SMRC has been recognised for its commitment to workplace safety, recently receiving two industry awards.

On 2 April a Gold Diligence in safety award was received from LGIS CEO Jonathan Seth. Mr Seth congratulated the SMRC and RRRRC for ongoing improvements, which have resulted in a highly commendable safety rating.

In addition, the SMRC has also received a Gold Certificate of Achievement from WorkSafe.

“The SMRC has a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of all employees, contractors and visitors to our sites. We are proud of our safety culture and were delighted to accept the LGIS and WorkSafe certifications,” SMRC CEO Tim Youé said.



## MELVILLE LADIES PROBUS TOUR



The Melville Ladies Probus Club enjoyed a tour of the RRRRC in April and improved their understanding of materials recovery and industrial composting processes.

*“We have all come away with a better understanding of the recycling process and a determination to improve our own household ways in protecting our environment.”*

- Verna Hevron, Outings Officer

## RECYCLE RIGHT IN THE NEWS

Did you see us in the newspaper?

Community Engagement and Communications Officer, Chloë Rothery, was in the Cockburn Gazette recently, talking about polystyrene waste.

Polystyrene remains a major challenge for waste disposal with the product taking hundreds of years to break down, as well as flaking into small particles which can poison wildlife. Recycle Right encourages consumers to think twice about purchasing polystyrene products and to reuse where possible.

Image: Martin Kennealey, Community Newspaper Group





## BATTERY DISPOSAL - FAST FACTS

### DID YOU KNOW?

Australians use thousands of tonnes of batteries annually. More than 18 million batteries are disposed of in WA each year.

Most batteries are incorrectly binned and end up in landfill where their metal contents leak and contaminate soil and groundwater.

Household batteries contain toxic materials such as cadmium, mercury and lead, and are classed as hazardous waste.

Batteries should never be placed in the green-topped or yellow-topped bins.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Minimise battery use by plugging portable appliances into power mains wherever possible.

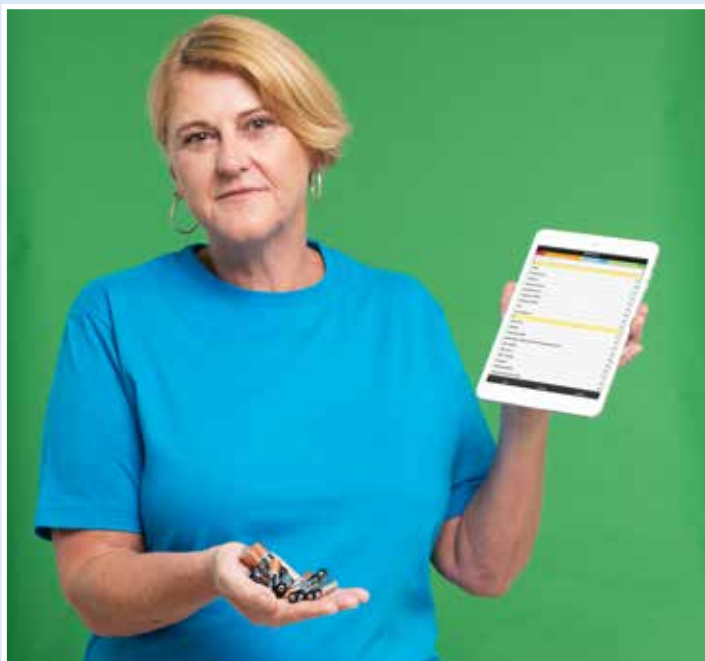
Buy rechargeable batteries. Each battery can be charged up to a **1000 times** – saving both money and waste.

### DISPOSE CORRECTLY

Batteries need to be disposed of correctly so they don't end up in landfill. There are many battery recycling bins throughout Perth.

By correctly disposing of batteries, plastic and metal contents can be recovered and sometimes used to manufacture new batteries.

You can find your nearest battery recycling bin at [recycleright.net.au](http://recycleright.net.au) or download the **Recycle Right app**.



## COMPOST WEEK



### International Composting Awareness Week

*Better Soil, Better Life, Better Future*

Monday 4 – Sunday 10 May 2015

### International Composting Awareness Week Australia

(ICAW), is a week of activities and events to promote awareness and use of compost.

Compost helps curb carbon pollution by diverting organic materials from landfill. It also helps ensure soils are healthy and productive.

Home composting is an easy and beneficial way to manage food scraps and organic garden waste.

**To celebrate Compost Week, everyone who attends a RRRRC tour in May will go into the draw to win 1 cubic metre of compost from the SMRC's compost partner NutraRich!**

For more information on composting and ICAW visit the website: [www.compostweek.com.au](http://www.compostweek.com.au)







## PLASTIC FREE JULY

**Plastic Free July** poses a simple yet ambitious challenge ... attempt to refuse single-use plastic for a month.

The initiative aims to raise awareness of the amount of plastic in our lives by encouraging people to consciously make a decision not to accept or purchase single-use plastic. Most commonly used disposable plastic items are designed solely for convenience and are discarded after their initial use – in one week we go through **10 billion** plastic bags worldwide, with the vast majority of these ending up in landfill or the ocean.

The Plastic Free July website ([www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org)) offers some practical tips for eliminating plastic from work and home life. The website also offers a list of great recipes that can be made at home to replace individually packaged goods like snacks and yoghurt.

**We're all aware of bringing reusable bags to the shops but have you considered using newspaper instead of bin-liners? Or recyclable aluminium foil instead of cling wrap?**

Families, individuals, schools and businesses are encouraged to sign up and take the challenge to reduce their individual consumption and to kick-start a greater awareness of waste. You can register for a day or a week if the whole month sounds overwhelming.

**If eliminating all single-use plastic is daunting, why not start out with a top 4 challenge (straws, plastic bags, plastic bottles & coffee cup lids).**



## RETHINK YOUR COFFEE POD



Image: Andrés Nieto Porras

Last year, independent consumer group Choice reported the leading producer of coffee pods had sold an estimated 28 billion capsules worldwide. This is about 28 million kilograms of aluminium, much is very likely sitting in landfill.

So what can you do to lessen your use of coffee pods?

### Recycle

Nespresso offers recycling drop-offs at several Perth locations. Details can be found online:

[www.nespresso.com/ecolaboration/au](http://www.nespresso.com/ecolaboration/au)

### Reuse

Reusable alternatives designed to work with existing systems are available online: Podcafe, Mr Coffee Pod and Ezy Coffee Pods.

### Rethink

Biodegradable pods are available from suppliers such as the Ethical Coffee Company. These pods are made from vegetable fibre and starch, enabling the capsules to biodegrade after use within six months. When purchasing biodegradable products make sure you check labels to ensure components break down.



## RRRC FROM THE SKY

The SMRC recently commissioned updated aerial photographs of the RRRC site. The photo below demonstrates the scale of operations.



Image: The RRRC Canning Vale site

## CITY OF MELVILLE TOUR THE RRRC

City of Melville staff made a visit to the **Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC)** in Canning Vale earlier this month.

The visitors gained a greater understanding of recycling and left keen to implement waste reduction strategies at work and home.

Here's what some staff members had to say:

*"It was a good experience, I learnt a few tips about recycling that I didn't know and I have passed these tips on to family and friends. I would recommend this tour to others."*

– Sonia Tranchita

*"I found the session very, very informative and enlightening. I learned a lot more about the recycling process and they types of articles that are acceptable in each bin."*

– Teresa Campbell



Image: City of Melville staff outside the Green Waste Processing facility





## SUPPORT ECO MAY IN WA



If you have a passion for the environment, why not support Eco May. It is an initiative of the Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA) to promote awareness and raise funds for environmental issues.

During Eco May, business and community groups across WA will host eco-themed activities to encourage a connection with the local environment.

Why not host an eco-themed BBQ, a beach clean-up with friends, or arrange a tour of the SMRC's Resource Recovery Centre. For more ideas, other activities or to register your event, visit:

[ccwa.org.au/ecomay2015](http://ccwa.org.au/ecomay2015)

## SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR WASTE



Photo: A tour group walking through the RRRR Bushland

We run free tours of the Regional Resource Recovery Centre for anyone interested in understanding exactly what happens to their household waste. The tours are on the first Saturday of every month at 10am and bookings are essential. The next available dates are:

Saturday 13 June

Saturday 4 July

To book, please call Emma on **9256 9528** or email [tours@smrc.com.au](mailto:tours@smrc.com.au)



SUPPORTED BY



through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

