



It's great to have a fresh start to the New Year – however, when you are preparing the kids to go back to school, there's plenty of ways to avoid unnecessary waste and save a bit of money too! New uniforms, stationery, lunch boxes and backpacks are all nice to have, but make a big impact on the environment in terms of the trees, energy and other resources they take to produce. Here's some of our tips to reduce, reuse and recycle in time for Term 1:

- 1. Reuse from last year:** Fix old binders, dig out the old stationary and see if you can repair your backpack. Encourage the kids to use notebooks double sided – it saves a lot of trees in the long run.
- 2. Plan:** Make a list of everything you need before heading to the store so that you resist impulse buying.
- 3. At the shops:** Buy durable items like lunch boxes and backpacks that you can reuse for years to come. Try to purchase items that use recycled content – like paper – and suggest to the store they stock it, if it's unavailable. Also, avoid items with lots of packaging.
- 4. Batteries:** Consider rechargeable batteries and make sure any disposable batteries are dropped off at battery recycling stations instead of going in the bin. Visit recycleright.net.au to find drop off locations.

- 5. Lunch responsibly:** Pack lunches in reusable containers and don't forget your refillable water bottle. Avoid buying individual packaging for snack items like chips, cheese and biscuits. Bento-box style lunches boxes like these are a fantastic way to reduce waste.



- 6. Twice loved:** Does your school have a second-hand program? If so it's a great way to save money on uniforms, books and even computers. Otherwise, there are online communities where you can buy and trade these items.
- 7. Safe and sound:** Encourage the kids to take care of their items. Treat them well and put them back in their backpack so they can return to school time and time again.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

On 1 March 2015, you can join over half a million volunteers around the nation for Clean Up Australia Day. There are a number of Clean Up activities in our local communities, including at the following locations:

- City of Melville:** Bicton Baths and Deep Water Point
- City of Fremantle:** Bathers Beach
- City of Kwinana:** Governor Road Reserve and Wandi Community Hall
- City of Cockburn:** Bibra Lake and North Lake

For details on locations and times, or to register your own Clean Up event, visit www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au



WORM WINNERS

We asked you to tell us your best idea for recycling at home and we sure did hear a few brilliant ones.

There were three lucky winners of our Win A Worm Farm competition and they were:

- Jill Anderson**
- Sondro Pippo, and**
- Craig Rydquist**

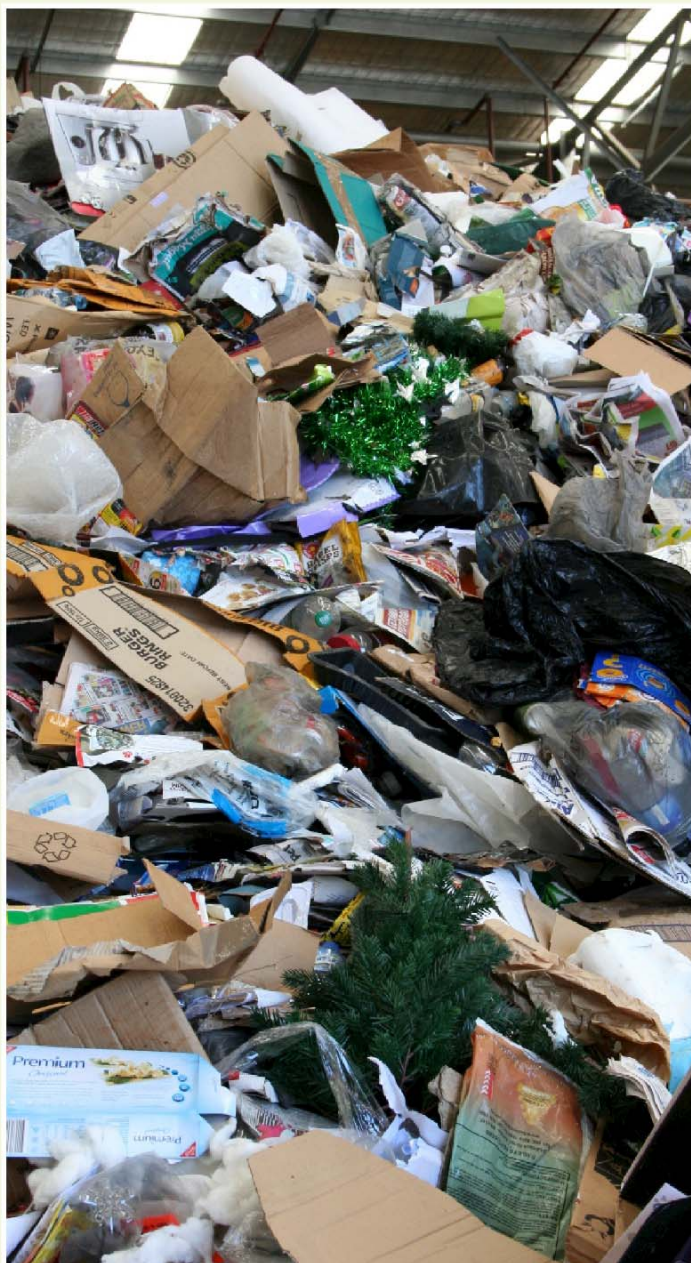
Congratulations and we hope the 1,500 worms went to good homes.





CHRISTMAS LEFTOVERS!

Our Waste Composting Facility and Materials Recovery Facility at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale were working overtime after the Christmas and New Year festivities. Wrapping paper, tinsel and plastic Christmas trees littered the tip floors as you can see in these photos. Christmas and New Year celebrations tend to result in significant – and unnecessary – waste. Simple changes like potting your own live Christmas tree, buying quality decorations, reusing your wrapping paper and putting all waste in the right bin are a big step towards reducing your waste and protecting the environment.





NEW EDUCATION RESOURCES

We have been busy creating new education resources to help spread the Recycle Right message to our younger generation. Visit recycleright.net.au/kits-and-factsheets to download the new education worksheets, which include a cryptogram, crossword and fun rubbish sorting activity.



DID YOU SEE US?

Our friendly Recycle Right team was out and about this month, sharing our messages with the local community. We attended the Grower's Green Farmer's Market in South Fremantle, the Plastic Free Festival in Fremantle and kept the little ones busy with workshops at local day care centres. Thanks to everyone who came along to say hello!



WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITY CHANGES

The SMRC has applied to the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) to amend the license for operations at its Waste Composting Facility (WCF) from 1 April 2015.

The amended license will permit the WCF to operate to its capacity of 109,200 tonnes per year. This represents a 14.9% increase from its current capacity of 95,000 tonnes per year.

Independent odour consultant The Odour Unit reported, "the increase in throughput will not have a negative impact on bio-filter emissions to atmosphere".

The WCF has performed well in the past two years following significant upgrades to the odour management system's biofilters.

"We remain committed to being responsive to the community and diligent in our compliance responsibilities," Chief Executive Officer Tim Youé said.



Photo: Inside the Waste Composting Facility



JOIN US FOR A TOUR



Photo: A group of young visitors enjoying a tour

The Recycle Right Tour Guides can provide your school, community group, family and friends with a fantastic tour of the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale. The tour takes 1.5 to 2 hours and includes a stroll through the conservation area, the Waste Composting Facility, Audit and Green Waste Facilities and finishes in our state-of-the-art Materials Recovery Facility Education Centre.

For further information, or to book your tour, please call on **9256 9555** or email tours@smrc.com.au

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

If you would like to join the CAG or learn more about what they do, please contact them on the details below.

Please email smrccag@gmail.com or write to them at SMRC Community Advisory Group, PO Box 1501, Booragoon WA 6154.



Like us on facebook at **RecycleRight** NOW with SMRC CAG.

Do you love recycling?
The Community Advisory Group (CAG) is your point of contact for recycling and more. We'd love to hear from you!

Would you like to join the Community Advisory Group?

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council is responsible for waste management and recycling in your area.

The Community Advisory Group is an independent group made up of community volunteers who raise public awareness about recycling.

Come on a tour of the Regional Resource Recovery Centre to find out what happens to your waste!

To contact or join us:
Email: smrccag@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook or write to:
SMRC Community Advisory Group
P.O. Box 1501, Booragoon WA 6154



SUPPORTED BY



through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

