

Waste Strategy Steering Committee
Meeting 2
MINUTES

Held 25 July 2017 at
Council Offices – Roberts Ave
Reception Room (Middle)
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Present

Kelvin Howe, Daryl Hobbs, David Bowe, Wendy Lynch, Millie Spence, Steve Schultz, Heather Phillips, Danielle Fowler, John Martin, David Pratt, Jared Hammond, La Vergne Lehmann

2. Apologies

Cr David Grimble, Mick Morris, Bill Schmidt, Rhonda Coffey

3. Introduction of Members

a. Brief introduction of self (new members only)

Heather – Former Councillor and was on regional waste management committee for last 4 years.

4. Previous meeting

a. Adoption of minutes

Noted

b. Action items

i. Communications following last meeting

- Media release went out to get feedback – had information about this Council's recycling and ranking.
- Listed issues and asked for feedback

ii. Web page establishment

- Webpage made – (reps listed)

iii. Circulation of other Councils' waste strategies

- Bendigo and Shepparton strategies circulated prior to this meeting

iv. Identification of further stakeholders

- Wimmera Disability Access Forum

v. Terms of Reference update (conflicts of interest)

- If you think you may have one – talk to John about it. Will primarily relate to commercial businesses.

5. Work Program

- a. Refer meeting notes
 - Information added about likely meeting dates and what engagement will be done at each stage.
 - Meeting 5/6 will look at developing recommendations to Council
 - Difficult part is getting communications out to people and engaging people.
 - Discussion about key issues – green waste, bin costs, e-waste, and possibly waste to energy

6. Vision

- a. To be developed by Committee members.

The following points relevant to a Vision were captured from the discussion:

- Focus on garbage bins, improve recycling.
- Our recycling should be better than the state average.
- Include green waste.
- Should be simple and high level, non-jargon.
- Should have inclusive language.
- Reduce volumes to landfill – towards zero
- Organics – is that too specific?
- Need to eliminate contamination – education aspect
- Council working with the community to reduce waste materials going to landfill.
- Towards zero waste to landfill.

An initial suggestion was developed after the meeting as follows:

Strive for reduced waste to landfill by developing better recycling and waste recovery services for all the community.

This suggestion will be circulated via email for Committee members to improve over the next few days. The final version is proposed to be ratified at the next Committee meeting.

7. Scope of Project

- a. Issues and options – From last meeting – refer information provided
 - Get comments from Natimuk Noticeboard Facebook Page
 - Iluka waste comment is out of scope of this project.
- b. Community input – Results of engagement
 - **Action – provide info from our waste audit – what streams do we have – how will we get the best bang for our buck. JH + LVL to provide**
 - Our main objective is to work on getting our rating up to, say, 50 for a start.
 - Number 1 thing dragging us down is green waste.

- Food waste – should this be from commercial entities as well?
- Hospitality services need to look at reducing food waste
- Food bank – get numbers from them on what is donated
- Could “second bite” be an option? Coles is a national supporter of this.
- Plastic bags are not the main issue – packaging also needs to be addressed. Tidy Towns committee and Horsham Urban Landcare are keen to implement the ‘boomerang bags’ initiative.

c. Prioritising issues to address

- Will have scope for Commercial Food Waste. GCWRRG may look at this on a regional level
- Green Waste Collection –
 - find out from other councils on if it reduced their waste. Southbank would like a bin, but would be happy with a drop off point in the street or in area.
 - Natimuk would also like this type system – this type of service has been free in past.
 - Need to consider potential for people to dump other types of rubbish.
 - What would we do with all the green waste?
 - Number 1 waste priority in next year’s state budget is organics. Ten councils west of Ballarat aren’t collecting green waste.
 - Some families would have a smaller waste bin if a green waste service is provided
 - Disability and elderly community don’t have access to trailers and would benefit from it being at their front door
 - Need to consider if green waste is composted or mulched.
- Hard Waste
 - Look at models on what other Councils are doing
 - Some offer a call up system which works well.
 - Horsham used to have a hard waste collection. Would have a nominated area that was for pick up and then it after the pickup, waste would be out again and still expect Council to pick up when not their nominated time.
 - “Kerbside hard rubbish collections are a thing of the 70s”
 - Looks terrible when rubbish is on nature strips all week
 - Don’t know what kind of material could be in there (e.g. syringes)
 - Some people can’t afford to dispose of hard waste
 - Council handyman service – does he have a capacity to collect this?

- Put some information in the FAQ sheet – metal is free
- Collection of other products
 - Community think that councils make money from recycling. Councils in Melbourne were making \$11m.
 - Golden Plains has recycling weekly and fortnightly waste
 - It reduced the number of pickups going to landfill – 2 years later it is now working quite well. Need to look at circumstances as well.
 - There are people in community that are wanting to change – going for smaller bin
- Rural Areas
 - With current recycler – got a per bin rate – so could work going out further – **Action – Kelvin to enquire**
 - Not many Councils have full coverage of recycling
 - Could promote that it is free service at transfer station – add to FAQ
 - Could do on major roads but harder on back roads
 - 2 compartment trucks? Could this be a possibility?
- People with limited abilities
 - Consider this across all issue papers
 - Interested to get feedback from this community and also their carers.
- Education
 - No clear instructions on recycle bin on what can be recycled – this needs to visual. A sticker would peel off and costs a lot to screen print onto lids.
 - “Back 2 basics” program happening regionally. There will be a project group set up for this.
 - Melbourne have done a study on having soft plastics in recycling – was successful. Gave all residents some special bags to get residents to do this.
 - Very confusing when it comes to soft plastics
 - Need to start again on education
- Hard Waste and Green Waste Collection
 - Transfer station operation hours to be reviewed
 - Some transfer stations are open more than they need to be
 - Some sites have a very low rate of use
 - A lot of consultation needs to go into this
 - If something is closed – then need to offer something else as well
- Redesign of Kenny Road Transfer Station
 - Drop off is free if can be recycled
 - Gas cans for helium balloons which can’t be recycle

- WestonVic Waste recycle more than Eaglehawk – can recycle up to 90% building waste
- Don't have a culture of a 'recycle shop'. Transfer station is to a certain extent. Not at the scale or variety of materials to attract masses yet.

8. Engagement

- a. Review of Engagement plan – JM (details in meeting notes)
 - Engagement outlined in work program
- b. Proposed preparation of FAQ – JM
 - Jargon free
 - Free metal drop off
 - Extra 240 L recycling bin available.
 - Updated recycling guide on web. What is recycling.
 - Can change bin size – pay less
 - Ban on e-waste
 - MRF in Horsham
 - Councils make money out of recycling.
 - What can we do with green waste – needs to go somewhere – big problem – tyranny of distance
 - Stockpiles – not flavour of the month following SKM fire
 - There needs to be an outlet for the green waste to go to

9. General Business

- a. Items Committee members wish to raise
 - New information on what is recyclable needs to be put on website
 - Opportunities for using an app – area on there for putting councils recycling calendars. Can put in address and see where things can be taken to be recycled and what you can and can't recycle
 - Not quite ready to promote this.
- b. Collins Mixer Melter – Steven Schulz
 - <http://newtecpoly.com.au/polywaste/>
 - Went to an interesting processing plant – have a new technology to melt plastic using friction.
 - Examples shown of products from grain bags and printer cartridges. Can handle dirty product, hence cheap to process.
 - Can be formed into any sort of product. Posts, garden beds, house stumps.
 - Is only a prototype at the moment.
 - Totally different to anything else – can take up to 20% contamination.
 - Have also done cigarette butts and made a material come out.
 - Happy for people to come over and look at their process – **ACTION: DF to arrange.** Will send an invitation by email to ascertain interested members. Come back via Eaglehawk to look at their facility.

- Bill Schmidt from Axis Worx should be involved.
 - Wet things can go into it – just takes a little bit longer to melt
 - Can color it – more expensive
 - An issue will be securing reliable quantities of feedstocks. There are gradually increasing, competing demands for plastic products. Currently these demands are low, but they may increase in a short period.
- c. SKM recycling fire (La Vergne)
- Fire has been going for last couple of weeks. State Govt is taking this very seriously – have set up a task force. They have started checking out stockpiles in Vic. Will be far greater enforcement in future.
 - Contractor that serves several adjoining shires used to get paid for recycling taken to SKM – now have cancelled this.
 - Need to look at our contract re potential repercussions of this. Could lead to a review of position on things like Container Deposit Schemes. Costs will change.
- d. E-Waste
- E-waste restrictions coming in next July. There will be funding for infrastructure to be put in place. There will be a 12 month transition period.
- e. Issue Papers
- Working on issues between meetings
 - Papers will be sent out before the meetings for discussion.
 - May have to have more meetings than listed
- f. GRWWMG Report
- Now have plan on website
 - Hepburn received a \$650,000 grant for waste to energy
 - 25 August will be taking a bus load around to look at organics in region

10. Next meeting

- a. Date 15 August
- b. Main agenda items
 - i. Refine the Vision
 - ii. Develop objectives
 - iii. Discussion of initial priority issues
 - iv. Education / awareness

John Martin
Director Technical Services