

WHAT GOES AROUND

COMES AROUND

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## ECO-Buy BUSINESS

Watch out corporate world here we come!! Yes, ECO-Buy is about to enter the corporate sector to assist businesses to green their purchasing practices. This exciting new venture is funded by EcoRecycle Victoria and will initially work with businesses who are sponsors or suppliers of the Commonwealth Games. The additional funding has allowed ECO-Buy to appoint an additional Resource Officer **Alison Raymond**, who will work with our business members to ensure they have all the support and information needed to establish and develop their green purchasing programs.

Alison has a unique environmental / industry career background and has most recently been working with Greening Australia managing their Corporate Partnership program. We are hoping to be every bit as successful working with businesses as we have been working with our local government members and feel confident that Alison will bring the same level of expertise and enthusiasm to this role that Tania Struzina brings to her work with our council members.

A formal launch of ECO-Buy Business is being planned however ECO-Buy Business members will be recruited as soon as Alison is on board. Alison begins work on 4th July and I'm sure you will all warmly welcome her to the wonderful world of ECO-Buy!



Please note that text appearing in this newsletter in bold red font, hotlinks through to websites or email addresses mentioned in the article. If you are unable to link to these sites contact ECO-Buy for the list of links.

## REPORT CAVORT COUNTDOWN

At the end of each financial year local government ECO-Buy members are required to calculate their spending on green products. This means reporting back on recycled content, greenhouse friendly (including energy rated and fuel efficient products), water saving, lower toxicity and re-conditioned or reused products.

This data is used to:

- Collect data on members' progress in purchasing green products.
- Collect data on the amount and type of green products purchased by members.
- Provide information to stakeholders about the types and amounts of green products purchased by local government.
- Set future directions and strategies for the ongoing development of ECO-Buy.

This year ECO-Buy will provide an online electronic report for members. As in previous years the report will be divided into four pages: Recycled, Greenhouse, Green or Re-used, and a new section for Green Power. If a product is compatible with more than one of the categories the person compiling the report must decide the most appropriate category for the product.

ECO-Buy coordinators should start preparing their green purchasing data collected over the past 12 months. This means working out the amount spent on each green product, and if possible, the quantity, supplier and brand. You could also approach contractors and asking them to report back on products purchased.

Previous techniques used to cajole departments into releasing purchasing information have included, personal visits to relevant persons in each department and distributing chocolate frogs and public accolades to those who respond. You may also cut and paste the reporting document and email the relevant section to each department.

If you need any support with the reporting process do not hesitate to call ECO-Buy.

## ECO-Buy MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RE-SIGN

When council members sign up to ECO-Buy the CEO is required to sign an MOU which states they are committed to achieving the following:

- Developing and implementing a green purchasing policy
- Establishing and Action Group to develop an action plan and guide green purchasing.
- Establishing a tracking system within councils purchasing procedure and reporting green spending every 12 months.

As the ECO-Buy MOU is valid for a period of 36 months from the date of signing, a number of the original MOUs have expired. A letter has been sent to all CEOs of member councils with a lapsed MOU and an email has been sent to all ECO-Buy coordinators in these councils.

ECO-Buy coordinators have an important role in supporting the re-signing of the MOU. They will need work with their green purchasing team, their department managers and CEO to encourage the resigning of the MOU. If councils have a new CEO and a new group of councillors they may need evidence of successes and achievements of the program in their council since joining ECO-Buy.

It is important that you have an up-to-date MOU so ECO-Buy can continue to support your council and provide you with our range of quality services and tools at no cost – these include product specifications, web access to over 400 suppliers of green products, access to discounts and incentives on green products and tailored training provided by ECO-Buy staff.

We are also inviting member councils to increase their sustainability profile by making a public commitment to green purchasing on the ECO-Buy website. This will simply require a brief statement of support from your CEO discussing ECO-Buy and how it fits into councils wider sustainability strategy. This will be accompanied by a photo of your CEO and a council logo.

For more information on membership go to [ECO-Buy website](#) and choose > About ECO-Buy.

Link to [Memorandum Of Understanding](#)

Link to [Draft Resolution Document](#)

Contact Tania on 03 96675572 if you have questions

## JASPER COFFEE—EXCELLENCE IN TASTE AND ETHICS

Coffee may not be on your radar as a typical green product, but the social and environmental impacts of the world coffee trade are profound. Small-scale coffee farmers in developing countries are often so underpaid for their product that many can't afford basic food provision, healthcare or education. This poor quality of life is often compounded by the environmental degradation from land clearance, unsustainable farming practices and the overuse of pesticides and herbicides. Unless your organisation is purchasing an ethical, organic or Australian grown coffee it is highly likely the coffee you are purchasing is being produced under these conditions.

**Jasper Coffee** supply the largest range of FAIRTRADE certified and certified organic coffee in Australia. All coffees are sourced from small cooperatives with profits going directly back to the community. Jasper also has a range of 'shade-grown' coffees—grown under the forest canopy and helping protect the forest and biodiversity in coffee growing regions.

From Nicaraguan Organic, to East Timor Maubisse to Okapa Organic from Papua New Guinea, these cooperatives support infrastructure, health care, and education for the local community. If you don't know which coffee to choose try a Fair Trade Blend, made from 100% FAIRTRADE and a minimum of 60% Certified Organic Coffee. Jasper also is proud to offer Skybury—an Australian (QLD) sustainably grown coffee.

Whether you are looking for whole bean or coffee ground to your specific requirements, the friendly team at Jasper Coffee are ready to help you with a premium coffee that won't cost the Earth!

Jasper  
FAIRTRADE  
Coffee



## DESIGN BY NATURE—TIPS FOR GREEN PRINTING AND DESIGN

The ECO-Buy May metro network meeting hosted a number of presenters on the subject of green printing and design. One of our presenters, Anna Carlile has created a website called Design By Nature (DBN), an independent clearinghouse of information on all aspects of environmentally preferred printing and design.

The DBN site is a subscription service of enormous value to anyone involved in document design or print. Visit the website for a tour of site and contact Anna Carlile [violadesign@iprimus.com.au](mailto:violadesign@iprimus.com.au) for subscription information (let her know if you are an ECO-Buy member).

Design and Printing Tips from [Design By Nature Site](#):

### For eco-friendly design:

- consider the smallest paper size for your job
- use design format that minimises paper wastage on press
- consider the minimum number of ink colours
- choose recycled materials where possible
- check that the publication can be re-used and recycled
- inform your audience of the environmental initiatives taken to produce your publication

### For eco-friendly printing options:

- ask if your printer has an environmental management system in place
- check the VOC emission ratings from – inks, coatings, cleaning solutions, dampening solutions, glues – select
- minimal or no VOC emissions where possible
- select a computer-to-plate printing– eliminating film
- if possible choose vegetable inks & uncoated paper
- avoid metallic & fluorescent inks –high in heavy metals
- choose aqueous varnish over coatings & plastic laminate
- check how your printer recycles and separates solid waste – paper off-cuts, cardboard, printing plates, ink containers, cleaning rags, palettes, screens and metals.

### For eco-friendly paper choice ensure that it:

- has high post-consumer recycled content
- comes from sustainably managed plantation timber – look for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification
- is free of chlorine bleached fibres – look for Process Chlorine Free (PCF), Totally Chlorine Free (TCF) or Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) certifications
- comes from a paper mill that has an EMS certification

## NEW ECO BOLLARD FROM REPEAT PRODUCTS

For many years now councils have been asking for a competitively priced round bollard to compete with the treated pine post. Well its here - the "ECO Bollard". Made from 100% recycled plastic and black printer cartridge toner. This is an excellent use for waste toner from the printer remanufacturing industry. Waste toner is a prescribed hazardous waste which to date has had no reuse opportunities.

This unique bollard has all the advantages as the other recycled bollards in that it is long-lasting and will never require painting or maintenance. The ECO Bollard is 1.5m high and 150 mm wide. It is available in black and green. Repeat Plastics are offering a special introductory price of \$36 per bollard.

Visit the [Repeat Products website](#) or phone Repeat on 03 8790 8888



## UPCOMING ECO-Buy MEETINGS

Attending network meetings is an important part of ECO-Buy membership. Members repeatedly tell us that these meetings are a vital support tool in implementing the program in their council. Quite a few members have confided that they find the meetings fun, look forward to them and are the best meetings they get to attend! High praise indeed from our 'meetinged-out' members!

The Local Government network meetings are held four times a year in the Metro Region and three times a year in regional locations. Upcoming meeting dates, times and agendas can be found under the events button on [ECO-Buy website](#). Click here to [RSVP](#) now for the next meeting in your area.

### Local Government Network

Metro: 16 August, 15 November  
NorthEast: 14 July, 17 November  
South-West: 20 July, 23 November



## GET THE LITTLE THINGS ORGANISED BEFORE CHRISTMAS



Many of you ordered your 2005 'The Little Things' sustainability diaries at the end of 2004 and discovered the diary is not only an ideal Christmas gift, but also an excellent giveaway for community sustainability forums. The diary features a sustainability tip for every day of the year which will not only lessen your environmental impacts but will save you money at the same time. This unique diary, printed on 100% recycled paper is now selling through commercial bookstores but you can order bulk copies at a reduced price if you get your order in ahead of time.

To order your 2006 'The Little Things Diary' [visit the website](#) or call Andrew Cooper on 040 8864660

## ECO-Buy 2005 BANKSIA AWARD FINALIST



ECO-Buy was a proud finalist in Category 3—Government Leading By Example For A Sustainable Future.

The **Banksia Environmental Awards** are recognised as Australia's pre-eminent environmental awards. The award acknowledges excellence and dedication in various areas that contribute to the environment and a sustainable future.

## GREENER RESTROOMS— HAND-DRIERS AND WATERLESS URINALS

Installing waterless urinals and efficient hand driers in the restroom is an easy way to reduce environmental impacts. Organisations embarking on an environmental retrofit or a new green building project are realising the energy and water saving benefits of these simple initiatives. Green building developments such as Melbourne's 60L Building at 60 Leicester St Carlton, have made the choice to do away with paper handtowel and install waterless urinals and are discovering there are maintenance and cost saving benefits additional to the environment benefits.

**Life Cycle Assessments comparing energy efficient driers with paper hand towel** generally suggest that the use of paper towels results in double the global warming burden when compared to the use of the hand air drier. Like most LCAs, these studies need to make assumptions about drying time, electricity supply, towel consumption per dry, transport impacts and waste paper disposal systems. Cost savings are made on the purchase, disposal and maintenance costs of providing hand-towel. If you are committed to purchasing paper towel for your restroom choose an off-the-roll recycled paper option over interleaf towel as these are not available in a recycled paper.

The installation of waterless urinals also has the capacity to save money and water in the restroom. In a study on a Chicago building it was estimated that switching 80 standard urinals to water saving urinals would reduce water consumption by 2 millions gallons per year. The facility found that by saving on water supply and sewage costs they could save over \$US 7,000 per year. **See Restrooms Go Green** article.

Water-free urinals are made from nonporous vitreous china or acrylic and include a funnel-shaped cartridge installed at the bottom of the urinal, which is connected to a drainpipe. A biodegradable liquid sealant floats in the top of the waste trap which allows urine to pass through to the drain line. The sealant assures an airtight barrier between the restroom environment and the sewer line to prevent odours from escaping into the restroom. It is important to note some urinals use a disposable plastic cartridge that can be expensive and require replacement every 2 –3 months. It is environmentally preferable to get those with a fixed serviceable water lock which only requires refilling of sealant oil.

Suppliers of waterless urinals currently listed on ECO-Find: **WaterSave Australia** and **Environment Equipment**.