

WHAT GOES AROUND

COMES AROUND

ISSUE #11 MAY 2005

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ECO-Buy Awards For Excellence - April 27



ECO-Buy's annual glittering green awards night was held on April 27 at Eden on the Park. Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Dr Ian McPhail presented the awards to the seven winners after they walked the green carpet to special theme music. However, this was not only a celebration for the award winners but a celebration of all the hard working members and suppliers of environmental products.

Report Cavort # 4 was launched at the awards revealing an impressive spending figure of \$36.9m on environmental products by ECO-Buy members in the last financial year. The ECO-Bonus purchasing initiative was also launched, introducing members to product discounts and incentives from 45 ECO-Partners.

ECO-Buy AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2005 winners

(please note all expenditure awards were determined by 2003 / 2004 reporting):

'Spending Big on C & D' WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

Largest per capita expenditure on recycled construction and demolition products (with focus on inclusion of recycled crushed concrete in contracts) went to Whitehorse City Council. Construction & Demolition Waste Recyclers Working Group of the Waste Management Association of Australia sponsored the prize - a return trip anywhere in the world to a green purchasing conference of winning council's choice.

'Greenhouse Expenditure' FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL

Largest per capita expenditure on Greenhouse friendly products awarded to Frankston City Council. Frankston has purchased a variety of fuel efficient vehicles and downsized many of their fleet vehicles. This award was sponsored by the Victorian Greenhouse Strategy (DSE).

'Recycled Expenditure' WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

Largest per capita expenditure on the full range of recycled products available awarded to Whitehorse City Council. This award was sponsored by EcoRecycle Victoria

'Hey Big Spender' BANYULE CITY COUNCIL

Largest per capita expenditure on green products across all categories awarded to Banyule- this includes recycled, energy saving, water-saving and non-toxic products.

'Spread the Word' BAYSIDE CITY COUNCIL

Excellence in Communicating the Buy Green message throughout council. Bayside's communication, training and information dissemination actions were a standout in this category. For more info see article on page 3.

'Who's buying What' KNOX CITY COUNCIL

Excellence in tracking Green Purchases and reporting back for the 2003/2004 financial year. Knox's Tracking system now has itemised green purchasing codes and on-screen purchasing prompts on the system. To find out how they got the system going see article on next page.

Special recognition to MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE

for their development of a coded tracking system and staff education on green product tracking.

'Walk the Talk' GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL

Excellence in action for a showcase project which demonstrates the use of environmentally preferable materials. The City of Greater Geelong constructed a 185-metre long recycled plastic boardwalk made from an estimated 470,000 plastic drink bottles. Full article next page.

The 2005 Awards For Excellence were generously sponsored by EcoRecycle Victoria. With prize category sponsorship from Greenhouse Strategy (DSE), and C&D Recyclers Working Group of Waste Management Association of Australia.

TAKE A WALK ON THE RECYCLED SIDE: Geelong Walks the Talk

Greater Geelong's new waterfront boardwalk represents a creative solution to a range of environmental problems and a triumph in green purchasing. The old foreshore walk was faced with the challenge of coastal erosion which restricted access to pedestrian and bicycle pathways. The new boardwalk removes erosion pressure and gives users the opportunity to appreciate the marine environment up close.

The 185 metre boardwalk is made from 100% HDPE recycled plastic and represents the equivalent of 469,980 two litre plastic milk bottles. "It is a fantastic use for plastic waste and this boardwalk is an opportunity for the public to see what happens to the recyclable plastic that they put in their kerbside collection bins" said Mark Jacobsen from Repeat Plastics who provided the decking material.

Recycled plastic offers many advantages over timber. This product is low maintenance and does not shrink, rot, splinter or support the growth of mould or moss. The predicted life of this product is at least 40 years which is far greater than a timber surface in this environment. And of course it represents the use of a waste product which would otherwise end up in landfill.

This very visible project tells an important recycling story for which Greater Geelong City Council has won the 2005 ECO-Buy 'Walk the Talk' Award. Congratulations Geelong.

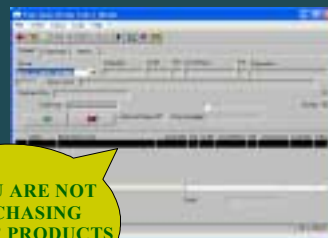


KNOX TRACKS GREEN PRODUCTS THROUGH AXS 1

In July 2004 the Knox City Council ECO-Buy working group decided there had to be a better way to track their environmental purchasing. Like many ECO-Buy members they were finding it difficult to gather information about the previous years environmental purchasing by hunting for old purchase orders and asking department staff to retrace their spending on environmental products over the past financial year.

Working together the purchasing and environment staff identified a list of current and potential 'eco' items and worked out a code for each of the AXS 1 purchasing system. For example if an air-conditioning system with a 4-star energy rating was purchased a user would be able to find an individual code, item ID, a description such as Air Con with 4-star rating and a section description category such as 'Energy Rating'. At the end of the financial year all of these products can be easily divided into categories and recorded in the Report Cavort Form. 'New products are continually being identified and added to the system' says Trish Winterling the Knox Conservation Officer.

The next step in the campaign was to invite ECO-Buy to train staff who use the purchasing system about green purchasing and have Knox purchasing staff introduce the new green prompts in the purchasing system.



IF YOU ARE NOT PURCHASING 'GREEN' PRODUCTS
Type GEN as normal

A range of other initiatives were undertaken to help staff understand and use the new green purchasing prompt:

- Educational posters were placed in the Civic Centre and the Operations Centre.
- Promotional articles were placed in the staff newsletter and CEO Bulletin
- Staff were rewarded with chocolate Freddo Frogs and a thankyou card with every eco-product registration in the AXS 1 purchasing system.

Knox City Council was awarded the 2005 ECO-Buy Tracking award for their effective campaign and cross-departmental cooperation in developing this system.

BAYSIDE SPREADS THE WORD

All ECO-Buy members know that having an active working group (with staff representation from as many departments as possible) and an up-to-date Action Plan are vital in changing purchasing behaviour within council. Bayside City Council provides an excellent example of a council that knows how to unroll an effective action and communication strategy.

The 13 members of the Bayside ECO-Buy working group, who meet monthly to discuss communication and tracking strategies, are representatives from a cross section of departments including; Finance, Family Services, Library, Contracts, Parks & Gardens, Waste Management, Civil Infrastructure, Traffic Engineering, Street Business Support and Environmental Planning.

Key education / communication activities set out in the 2004 action plan were all achieved. These include:

- Education of all staff on development of green purchasing policy and green purchasing requirements
- Training 26 staff from 14 departments about green products and how to track them in the purchasing system
- Providing recognition and awards to staff sourcing and reporting purchase of green products
- Putting articles on ECO-Buy and green products in the internal newsletter
- Putting ECO-Find product search on intranet
- Alerting all staff by email that ECO-Buy information is on intranet.

The group is certainly not resting after its 2004 achievements and winning the 2005 ECO-Buy Spread the Word award. Future actions the group has committed to include putting ECO-Buy info on council's public website and including ECO-Buy duties in position descriptions for staff with key purchasing responsibilities. Congratulations to Bayside ECO-team for their active and effective approach to behavioural change which is clearly making a difference.



TASMANIAN ROO POO PAPER

Visitors to Tasmania will soon be able to buy a new souvenir of their Australian experience - paper made from kangaroo manure.

"It's a great product for tourists, but it's also something that gets our eco-friendly message to a lot of people," said Joanne Gair manager of Creative Paper Tasmania. The first batch of paper has now been produced, but Ms Gair conceded that there was one remaining problem - finding a constant supply of kangaroo and wallaby dung.

"At the moment we are finding it very difficult to get the quantity of poo we need," she said. "We are hoping the community will help by collecting poo for us and dropping it off in plastic bags. New or old, we'll take it all," she told the Advocate newspaper. The company estimates that about 400 A4 sheets of paper can be made from 25kg (55 pounds) of kangaroo manure.

Ms Gair said her idea was inspired by the success of the elephant dung paper industry in Africa. "I also discovered that in Scandinavia, elk poo paper is the stationery of choice in most offices," she added. "That got me thinking we should create a uniquely Tasmanian paper from roo poo."

SOURCED FROM BBC NEWS—15/2/2005

WEED CONTROL ALTERNATIVE

Interceptor™ Weedkiller is a commercial and agricultural weed control spray made by **BioCoat Australia** from extracts of a range of natural pine products. The New Zealand developed product works on contact with the cell walls of weeds as opposed to conventional systemic herbicides which are absorbed throughout the plant and can remain in soil for a long time after application.

This product has been found to completely biodegrade within 72 hours and caused no harm to insects, bees, birds, earthworms, and soil microbial populations. It is also safe to use around pets and livestock. The product can be applied with conventional herbicide spray equipment and results will be noticeable a few hours after spraying.

Interceptor™ Seed Eradicator is now being used in a commercial trial by the SA State Government to eradicate branched broomrape seed in a heavily contaminated area. Interceptor is being used as an alternative to methyl bromide, a toxic chemical currently facing international bans.

KEY FINDINGS OF REPORT CAVORT #4 (2003 / 2004 Financial Year)

ECO-Buy Report Cavort # 4 can now be accessed through the ECO-Buy website. One hardcopy will be sent to the CEO of each member council. As in previous years the report shows a steady increase in the amount and range of green products purchased by members.

- Members of ECO-Buy spent \$36.9 million on green products in 2004.
- Expenditure on green products has increased from \$5.9m in 2001 to \$15.3m in 2002 to \$33.5m in 2003 to \$36.9m in 2004.
- 95% of members have established a working group to implement the ECO-Buy program.
- 96% have either developed or were in the process of developing a green purchasing policy.
- 91% reported an increase in purchasing of green products since joining ECO-Buy.
- 95% intend to increase their purchasing of green products in the next 12 months.
- 95% have included or are in the process of including green specifications in their tenders and/or contracts.
- 100% of members are purchasing green products.
- 98 contracts included a green specification.
- The cost of green products is seen as the biggest barrier to green purchasing.
- Enhancing council image is seen as the greatest incentive to purchasing green products.
- Support provided by ECO-Buy is of prime importance when implementing green purchasing.
- Changing staff behaviour and attitudes are the most difficult factors when implementing green purchasing.
- There are 315 local government staff currently participating in the ECO-Buy program.

N FORCE COMBINES TECHNOLOGY FOR A WATERSAVING CARWASH



N Force Cleaning Equipment are now supplying water saving washing units for cleaning commercial vehicle fleets. The combination of a water efficient Karcher high pressure hosing unit and an N Force compact water recycling station brings a potential 80% water saving.

Ken Harrison from N force says some high turnover fleet workshops use up to 4000 litres of water per hour and exactly the same job can be done with 200 litres of water per hour by combining high pressure hoses with a water recycling and filtration bay. Where hot water is required systems can run on natural gas, solar or electric heating.

N Force is offering a bonus drum of Karcher degreaser and Karcher truck wash to ECO-Buy members on installation of the full washing system.

MODWOOD: RECYCLED DECKING

Modwood is a newly developed composite decking made from non-virgin wood and recycled plastic. The plastic component is post consumer HDPE milk bottles and the wood component is pine waste from Australian sawmills. This decking has the appearance of wood but doesn't require any timber treatment chemicals. It has termite resistance, will not rot, warp, splinter and comes with a 10 year guarantee. Available in three standard colours, Silver-grey, Tallowwood and Redwood, ModWood has the finish of a painted timber.

Modwood is now featured on ECO-Find - go to Modwood website for a list of retail suppliers.

