

WHAT GOES AROUND

COMES AROUND

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## ECO-Buy WINS UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT DAY AWARD!

Each year on World Environment Day the UN seeks to focus attention on the environment and particularly on programs working towards protecting or restoring the world's natural heritage. The Victorian Division of the **United Nations Association of Australia** (UNAA) marks this day with a National Awards ceremony. The 2004 event was held at the Hyatt Hotel with a 'Think Global, Act Local' theme acknowledging that local community actions are the key building blocks for protecting the global environment.

ECO-Buy won the *Best Specific Environmental Initiative in the Local Government Category*. This award recognises the following achievements:

- Spending by members of over \$33 million in 2002-2003, including \$24.5m on recycled products, \$7.5m on greenhouse friendly products and \$1m on other green products.
- Increased in member spending on recycled products from \$5.9m in 2000-01 to \$15.3m in 2001-02 to \$24.5m in 2002-03.
- Purchase of over 220 different green product types across member councils.
- A voluntary membership of 59 out of 79 councils and 15 out of 16 Regional Waste Groups.

ECO-Buy would like to acknowledge the hard work of all member councils in making the program so successful that it is able to attract such a prestigious award.



## SECOND NATIONAL BUYING GREEN CONFERENCE

Sydney Olympic Park - Nov 2004

Have you registered yet for the 2004 National Buying Green Conference in Sydney from the 10 – 12 November? This conference represents an ideal opportunity to expand your knowledge of green purchasing programs and environmental products. Representatives from industry, government and non-commercial sectors will share their insights in establishing green purchasing programs, specifying for green products and marketing green products. The conference will be equally relevant to delegates from all sectors focusing on the 'how' of green purchasing.

The programs impressive array of speakers includes:

- Scot Case – International expert on green purchasing programs from the USA.
- Dr Clive Hamilton – Public commentator and policy analyst from the Australia Institute.
- Clare Poulter – Senior government green procurement expert from the UK.
- Rev Bill Crews – Keynote address on the link between social ethics and buying green.
- Chris Johnson – NSW State Govt Architect discussing green building products & Year of the Built Environment.
- Adrienne Stephens – Executive Officer of ECO-Buy
- Nicole Campbell – Manager of Environmental Policy at Sydney Olympic Park Authority.

Pre-conference tours and additional workshops will be held on Wednesday 10 November to give delegates a great opportunity to learn the basics about green procurement and to visit sites that showcase sustainable buildings & industries around the Sydney metropolitan area.

The **Draft agenda** and **Expression of Interest Form** are now online. Contact Karen Taylor or Fil Cerone at Impact Environmental Conferences in Sydney on (02) 9570 1577 for more information. Or visit the **Conference website** for more information.

\* **RED** text is hotlinked directly to websites & documents

## ECO-Train YOUR WAY TO AN EASY REPORT CAVORT

The two-hour ECO-Training module for council purchasing staff is proving very popular with three more councils completing the module in the last three months. Bayside conducted two days of training in July and Moyne (the first regional council to run the training) and Frankston conducted two days of training in August.

The ECO-Training module will give your key purchasing staff an understanding of the ECO-Buy program; an introduction to a range of green products; an insight into your councils Green Purchasing Policy and how to track green purchases; an introduction to Life Cycle Costing tools, green specifications, experience of real purchase scenario, and demonstrate the ECO-Find database.

It is important there is clear understanding of how staff are being asked to record their green purchasing before organising the training in your council. This way participants will leave the session with an understanding of what they are being encouraged to purchase and where they should register these purchases.

To date all participants have rated the session as 'excellent' or 'very good'. The following feedback is from staff participating in the July / August sessions:

- *I had no idea of the variety of green products available or the advances in recycling technologies. Nor did I appreciate the level of commitment that Council and local government have towards "going green".*
- *An informative session - management should support this issue more. Environmental purchasing should be built into contract requirements.*
- *Very appropriate, absorbing and informative.*
- *An innovative new council initiative. It was useful to have a cross section of staff members at the training to talk about their experiences.*



Bayside City Council ECO-Training in July

## SPIDER TRAILER ON THE LOOSE

Repeat Plastics have created a mobile display of over twenty five 100% recycled plastic products. The 6m long and 4m wide display known as 'The Spider Trailer' (because it has eight legs) can be booked by councils, businesses and schools to educate people about the range of recycled plastic products currently being made from HDPE plastic sourced from household and business recycling collections. Materials made from this plastic are low maintenance, long lasting and vandal resistant. The display includes seats, benches, picnic settings, signage, wheel stops, speed humps, drinking fountains, bin guards, garden edging & posts as well as a mini golf putt with recycled edging.

To book the Spider Trailer visit the [Repeat Plastics website](#).



The Spider trailer in the Greater Shepparton City Council car park at the ECO-Buy Shepparton Network meeting.

## COCK-A-CHALK

Japan's QP Corporation recycles 100 per cent of eggshells left over from manufacturing mayonnaise and other products by turning them into blackboard chalk. The eggshells are washed, sterilized, crushed and then mixed with a paste to make an all-natural chalk.

While chalk is usually made from calcium sulphate or mined calcium carbonate, the new "Cock-a-Chalk" is made from eggshells - composed naturally of calcium carbonate. It is harmless and its powder can be used directly as a soil conditioner for school vegetable and flower gardens.

The group uses the largest amount of chicken eggs of any company in Japan, producing 23,000 tonnes of eggshells annually.

Source:WME June 2004

## ECO-REWARDS: MORE GOOD REASONS TO BUY GREEN

ECO-Buy members consistently report that they need more incentives to increase their green purchasing, and that the cost of green products is the biggest perceived barrier to buying green. ECO-Buy is continually looking for new ways to assist members green purchasing initiatives, and have decided to establish an ECO-Rewards program which will give members access to special incentives and rewards when they purchase from participating suppliers. These suppliers will be known as ECO-Partners and will be given priority listing on the ECO-Find product database.

Already over 60 green suppliers are interested in participating in the program and we expect it to be up and running by the end of the year.

Suppliers currently listed on the ECO-Find website are invited to read the [discussion paper](#) and attend a meeting to discuss the project and what incentives they may be able to offer ECO-Buy members.

Meeting details:

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2**

**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**MAV - Level 12 / 60 Collins Street, Melbourne**

RSVP by Friday August 27 to [astaphans@mav.asn.au](mailto:astaphans@mav.asn.au)

## 2005 SUSTAINABILITY DIARY

**The Little Things Diary** is a sustainability diary printed on 100% recycled Australian paper. The diary has daily tips on reducing pollution, increasing water & energy efficiency in the home and office. The ideas promote environmental and social sustainability and save money at the same time. Andrew Cooper, the creator of the diary says it is an excellent promotional gift and was purchased last year by a variety of companies as a sustainable gift for clients and employees. Councils and businesses receive a 40% discount when they purchase over 20 diaries. Sample page below:



## NEW GREEN TRACKING DIRECTIONS

Getting an electronic finance or purchasing system to track green purchases is a challenge for nearly all our members. For those who are manually tracking purchases the challenge is even greater. Many ECO-Buy coordinators do not have purchasing or finance roles, and find it very difficult to convince relevant staff of the value and importance of tracking green purchases.

A tracking seminar was held on July 29 to provide an opportunity for members to share information on setting up tracking functions, and hear from Software vendors who are increasingly realising that their software should address specialised requirements to be successful. Purchasing and finance staff from all member councils were invited to gain an understanding of ECO-Buy reporting requirements.

Presentations were given by Knox, Yarra City, Bass Coast, Banyule, Mildura and Cardinia councils outlining how they have begun to track green purchasing and how this is making ECO-Buy reporting much easier. Vendors of AXSOne, Aussoft, Technology One, Authority and Straightbuy also presented on the ability of these systems to flag green purchases. Vendors and council staff then broke into workgroups to discuss ideas for improving tracking.

A number of the work groups will hold follow up meetings for ongoing discussion with vendors. It is useful to know that the software vendors listed above are supportive of ECO-Buy and green purchase tracking and happy to discuss how you might be able to make your system perform this function.

Please contact Tania [tstruzina@mav.asn.au](mailto:tstruzina@mav.asn.au) for presentations, workgroup summaries or vendor contact details.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following members who have joined in the past three months:

- Brimbank City Council
- Central Goldfields Shire Council
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Horsham Rural City Council
- Warrnambool City Council
- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Grampians RWMG
- Gold Coast City Council (ECO-Associate)
- Department of Infrastructure (ECO-Associate)
- Present@bill (ECO-Associate)
- NZ Ministry of the Environment (ECO-Alliance)