

# Glenelg Shire Council



## Waste and Litter Education Action Plan 2007-2008

### **Waste and Litter Education**

Due to the high costs associated with waste management and the recognition of the environmental, social and economic benefits of reducing waste and litter, the Glenelg Shire Council has identified waste and litter minimisation education as an important issue within their municipality.

As the service provider, Glenelg Shire Council plays a key role in waste management within the region. The shire works closely with other agencies such as the South Western Regional Waste Management Group (Waste REDUCTION Group), Sustainability Victoria and the Environmental Protection Authority to determine waste and litter management priorities within the area and to identify ways to minimise waste and litter.

It is clear to the Glenelg Shire Council that education plays an important role in successfully achieving their aims in waste and litter minimisation. Glenelg Shire Council recognises effective waste management can best be achieved with community understanding and involvement in waste minimisation and litter prevention programs. They also understand that it is important that the entire community have access to information that is user friendly and promotes waste minimisation and litter prevention initiatives.

This Waste and Litter Education Action Plan has been developed in conjunction with the Waste REDUCTION Group and incorporates Sustainability Victoria's Waste Wise principles and programs. It sets the strategic direction for the council's input into community education on the issues of waste minimisation and litter prevention.

## Current Waste Profile

Glenelg Shire Council currently provides the following waste services to its community.

### Kerbside Collection

Towns serviced with a kerbside collection service, includes the provision of 120 litre mobile garbage bins and 240 litre recycle mobile garbage bins.

### Landfills and Transfer Stations

Glenelg Shire provides the following waste management facilities.

Landfills:

- Portland Transfer Station and Landfill
- Casterton Landfill
- Nelson Landfill
- Dartmoor Landfill

Transfer Stations:

- Heywood Transfer Station
- Jarrad's Road Transfer Station

## The Right Message

Since 1999 the Waste REDUCTION Group has been working with its member councils to encourage the implementation of the waste minimisation hierarchy. The waste minimisation hierarchy is a simple model, illustrating the best steps to be taken to minimise waste. The hierarchy illustrates 'avoidance' as being the first and preferred option for minimising waste, while 'disposal', being the last option to be considered in dealing with waste. It is a key model that Glenelg Shire Council follows in planning waste minimisation and litter reduction initiatives with the municipality.



## **Our Community**

To implement an effective waste and litter education program, Glenelg Shire Council recognises that different community members require different educational tools to firstly be aware and then to participate in waste and litter minimisation. Key target groups that were identified during the planning stage of this plan are:

- Within Council
- Ratepayers
- Waste Facility Operators
- Community Groups
- Schools
- Small to Medium Enterprises (SME)
- Farming Community
- Events/Festivals and Public Places
- Litter Prevention

## **Within Council**

Within Council, there is the opportunity to implement the waste minimisation hierarchy in all operations. Through Sustainability Victoria's Waste Wise Council Program, municipalities can be guided to improving operations to be more sustainable and be accredited as a Waste Wise Council, to be the 'Light House' for guiding the whole community to become Waste Wise. The Glenelg Shire has been certified as a Waste Wise Council (Bronze Level) and will continuously monitor and evaluate this program to identify continuous improvements within its operations.

## **Ratepayers**

Number of Rateable Properties: 13,000

In 2006/2007 the Glenelg Shire Council's domestic garbage collection served 7359 tenements and collected 2,473 tonnes of waste and an estimated 1,595 tonnes of recyclables.

This accounts for 57% of the Glenelg Shire Council's residents. All residents have access to the other waste facilities that the Council provides as outlined in current waste profile.

The 1996 Beverage Industry Environment Council (B.I.E.C) audit and garbage bin analysis, found that 79.5% (by weight) of the material placed out for collection each week, is potentially recyclable material. The Waste REDUCTION Group has also conducted a community survey (2004) which now provides future direction for education needs on waste and recycling knowledge specific to the Shire and the region. By undertaking initiatives such as composting or worm farming and making waste wise shopping choices, residents within the municipality could potentially save limited landfill space within the South Western Region.

Councils within the south western region have taken various approaches to providing information to its ratepayers. Initiatives include brochures on 'Recycling Right', Waste Wise articles in newsletters to households, displays in their customer service foyers and libraries. The Glenelg Shire Council will continue to support regional waste and litter education initiatives implemented by the Waste REDUCTION Group and will continue to ensure that the community are kept informed on waste and litter issues and information on a regular basis.

## **Waste Facility Operators**

The Waste REDUCTION Group with its member councils has identified Waste Facility Operators as a significant sector in improving the waste management behaviours of the community. The Waste REDUCTION Group and its members have set primary objectives for waste management facilities as part a Waste Facility Operators Program which includes the development of a Handbook for all facilities and annual training sessions for Operators.

The Glenelg Shire Council has tailored a Handbook for operators at Council's four operator attended sites, these being Portland Landfill, Heywood Transfer Station, Casterton Landfill and Jarrad's Road Transfer Station. The Handbook covers: Contacts & Shire Facility Details, Operational Guidelines, Administration Procedures, Occupational Health & Safety and provides supporting documentation for areas covered under each heading.

The primary objectives of the operation of Council owned waste management facilities are to:

- Provide the best possible service to the community.
- Maximise the diversion of materials away from landfill.
- Maximise the recovery of materials for re-use and recycling.
- Educate the wider community regarding responsible waste management practices according to the waste minimisation hierarchy.
- Maintain and operate facilities in a safe manner for people to use and that are environmentally responsible.
- Recording and maintenance of waste and recycling data.

## **Community Groups**

Community groups can actively become involved with Waste Management and Litter Prevention initiatives with the assistance of grants being made available by Sustainability Victoria and other organisations.

Community groups can be influential in bringing about waste minimisation and litter prevention initiatives within the Glenelg Shire Council. Glenelg Shire Council will promote and encourage community groups to apply for and participate in future waste and litter prevention grant opportunities as they become available.

There have been a number of initiatives implemented by community groups over the last 7 years within the south western region, these include:

- Dartmoor Tidy Towns
- Heywood Tidy Towns
- Portland Tidy Towns
- Portland Lions Club-Public Place Recycling at Breakwater, Portland
- Casterton, Heywood and Portland Football/Netball Clubs –Public Place Recycling at recreation reserves.

## **Schools**

Number of Schools in Program: 6

The Waste Wise School program was introduced to the South Western Region in 1999.

Many schools are incorporating waste minimisation into their curriculum as well as introducing practical activities such as recycling and composting because of their educational, cost savings and environmental benefits.

The Glenelg Shire Council supports the Waste Wise School program and the Portland & District Sustainability in Schools Network (PDSSN) and recognises the influence that children can have on the home in bringing about behavioural change.

Schools that have committed to the Waste Wise School Program and or the PDSSN include: Portland South Primary School, Portland North Primary School, Bolwarra Primary School, Bundarra Primary School, St Johns Lutheran Primary School and Narrawong Primary School.

## **Small to Medium Enterprise-SME**

Number of SME's in Program: 1

SME's should consider implementing waste minimisation strategies not only to reduce the waste going to landfill but to be more cost effective with business operations.

The Glenelg Shire Council has supported Sustainability Victoria's Waste Wise Program since it was introduced into the region by the Waste REDUCTION Group in 1999.

Glenelg Shire Council will continue to promote this program within the municipality and will continue to encourage businesses to implement the practises of the waste minimisation hierarchy.

There is an extensive range of businesses and industries in the Glenelg Shire Council. The Glenelg Shire Council will work with the Waste REDUCTION Group to provide relevant information and resources to the appropriate businesses/industry sectors.

The Waste Wise Program invites businesses to make a commitment to reduce waste to minimal levels.

Businesses that have joined the Waste Wise Business Program include: Portland District Health (Portland Hospital).

## **Farming Community**

Within the SWRWMG Management Plan, a major concern has been identified with the amount of agricultural waste produced in the region, which includes silage wrap, bail twine and chemical containers.

Glenelg Shire Council is an important producer of agricultural products, with dairying, sheep, crop and tree plantations the main pursuits.

Ideally the SWRWMG, Glenelg Shire Council and the agricultural industry must work together to look at alternative uses and disposal of farm waste.

The Glenelg Shire Council currently supports the DrumMuster Program, whereby approved chemical drums are being collected for recycling rather than being sent to landfill and is continuously supporting the Waste REDUCTION Group in seeking alternative markets for the recycling of silage wrap and bail twine.

The Glenelg Shire Council supports the ChemClear program and will be participating in the program in 2007 by providing three host sites within the shire – these being at Portland, Heywood and Casterton.

## **Events & Festivals**

Glenelg Shire Council is host to a number of renowned events, which include:

- Kidzstuff
- Tyrendarra and Dartmoor Rodeo
- Wood Wine and Rose Festival
- 3 Bay Marathon
- Portland Bay Festival
- Freeza

Like all major events there is an increase in the generation waste. Sustainability Victoria has developed a Waste Wise Events Program to assist organisers in all aspects of waste management.

Good waste and litter management at events can be cost effective and also provide the public with a better environment in which to enjoy the event.

The Glenelg Shire Council supports the Waste Wise Event program and will be encouraging events to incorporate waste wise practises into their events operations. The Council also has an event trailer which houses bin infrastructure and bin caps to be used at events. Guidelines for using the trailer at events have also been established to improve public place recycling opportunities at events within the municipality.

Events that are making an effort to introduce waste wise initiatives into their events include: Western Football Club, Portland Bay Festival, Portland Community Christmas Fair, Portland Surf Life Saving State Titles and Commonwealth Games 2006 Queens Baton Relay.

## Litter Prevention

Litter costs the community millions of dollars every year. This cost accounts for not only the impact litter has on public amenities but the threat it poses to wildlife and the states other natural assets (Victoria's Litter Reduction Strategy, Environment Protection Authority).

Litter concerns in the South Western Region and which are relevant to the Glenelg Shire Council include:

- Dumping at sides of highways
- Windblown litter at Landfills
- Tourist areas
- Tourist season, increased litter generated at towns
- Litter from major events
- Litter from construction sites
- Littering by individuals on a random basis (SWRWMG Management Plan-99).

The Shire takes pride in its aesthetic appearance and will take an integrated approach to litter prevention in line with the Waste REDUCTION GROUP and the State's Towards Zero Waste: A Materials Efficiency Strategy for Victoria which includes incorporating education, infrastructure, incentives, communication, encouragement of partnerships and enforcement into its programs.

## Taking Action

Actions that the Glenelg Shire Council will be undertaking during 2007-2008.

Sector	Action	When
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Portland &amp; District Sustainability in Schools Network.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a home composting/worm farming session for residents.</li> </ul>	March 08
Community/Litter prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a Cigarette Butt Litter Prevention Program.</li> </ul>	August 07
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host an EcoBuy information session for Council Staff.</li> <li>Work with 2 Council facilities to introduce the Waste Wise Program.</li> </ul>	November 07 May08
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage event organisers to utilise the events trailer and to incorporate the steps of the Waste Wise Event Program into their planning for events.</li> </ul>	Ongoing

Glenelg Shire Council with the assistance of the Regional Education Officer has identified the above sectors and actions their main priorities for the 2007-08 financial year. The Council in conjunction with the Education Officer will be reviewing these actions annually. It is proposed that within the next 3 years that each sector within this plan will be addressed and assisted to implement waste wise initiatives.

### Evaluating

Evaluation of outcomes from the implementation of this Waste Education Action Plan is essential in indicating the success or need for change in actions.

The following indicators will be used for evaluation purposes:

- Reference to the Action /Response table should provide evaluative measurement when they have been achieved.
- Sustainability Victoria Municipality Waste Survey will provide data regarding the quantities of waste going to Landfill; this will provide a comparative measurement over the three years of the strategy.
- Reduce litter at identified hot spot areas.
- The number of organisations committed to becoming Waste Wise and/ or involved in 'Waste Wise' program areas, eg Events, Businesses, and Schools etc.
- The extent to which individual organisations have reduced their waste.
- Participation rates for garbage and recycling collections.