

Sydney club saves \$22,000 on waste disposal

Sort through the contents of a typical club waste bin and you will find around one third of the contents are paper and cardboard, one quarter is food waste and ten per cent glass¹.

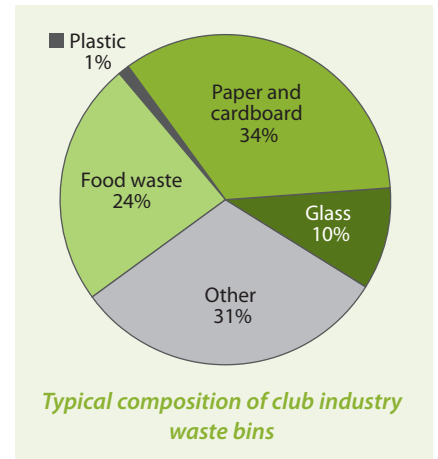
That means the bulk of what is being tossed out as rubbish could be recycled instead of going to landfill. By putting these materials in the correct recycling bins, your business could save money via a reduced waste collection charge and help our environment.

Reaping reward for recycling

By introducing a commingled recycling program, a large Sydney club intends reducing the amount it dumps in landfill by 21 tonnes each year.

The commingled recycling program allows the club to put different materials in the same recycling container. So they can combine aluminium, tin cans, paper cups, coasters, different forms of plastic bottles, newspapers, cardboard and glass in the same commingled bin instead of separating them out.

The club plans to increase recycling of all these materials. It has already renegotiated its waste disposal contracts, resulting in a saving of \$22,000 a year².



Simple ways your club can save money on waste costs

Think in terms of the waste hierarchy. How can you avoid, reduce, reuse or recycle?

- Avoid** → **Do we need it?**
- Reduce** → **Do we need so much?**
- Reuse** → **Can we use it again?**
- Recycle** → **Can someone else use it or turn it into new products?**



AVOID

Move to paperless systems such as electronic order taking and try to print out fewer documents. When you are comparing the cost of buying products, take into account waste. Select good quality products with minimal packaging.

Here are some other ways to avoid waste:

- To avoid food waste, make sure products from suppliers are in good condition.
- Store perishable items immediately to maintain food safety and quality.
- Order food from local suppliers, who can deliver fresh produce frequently.
- Order and prepare appropriate amounts of food. Give customers the choice of serving sizes.
- Avoid buying items that are used once only and then discarded such as plastic cutlery, paper plates and cups.

Visit lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au/business for more information on food waste avoidance.

¹ DECCW, unpublished data

² DECCW (2006), 10 Ways to green your club, <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/registeredclubs.htm>



REDUCE

Buy perishables and non-perishables in bulk, so you pay for less packaging and cut down the amount of material you have to throw away or recycle. For example, buy spirits in bulk bottles and attach these to a dispensing system. You could also:

- Keep your work areas clean and tidy. If things are well organised and clearly labelled, you and your staff will know where everything is and use products more efficiently.
- Encourage employees to use only the resources they really need.
- Save money by matching your bin collection timetable to your business needs. If your bins are not normally full after a week, then consider moving to a fortnightly collection cycle.



REUSE

Buy products with reusable packaging. Great examples are beer kegs and plastic drums for post-mixes. These are being replaced by plastic bladders in cardboard boxes. Here are some more reuse tips:

- Speak to your meat and fish supplier about using reusable plastic tubs instead of polystyrene and cardboard boxes.
- Return wooden and plastic pallets to suppliers and ask suppliers to take back clean, undamaged polystyrene and waxed cardboard boxes.
- Return chemical drums to suppliers or use a business that will collect and recondition them.



RECYCLE

Find out what materials your business can recycle. It could be cheaper to have recycling bins picked up instead of paying for unnecessary general waste bins that go to landfill.

Go to **BusinessRecycling.com.au** to find recycling service providers. This website allows you to search for service providers in your area that collect specific materials or allow you to drop them off. You can find out how to recycle anything from cooking oil to cardboard, from plastics to meat scraps on this useful website.

Make sure your staff and cleaners follow your recycling program by putting the right stuff in particular bins. Your recycling contractors may be able to help by providing staff training, signs and information on the latest systems.

Here are some other ways to improve recycling:

- Look for extra places where recycling materials can be stored or collected inside and outside the building. If necessary, share recycling bins with other businesses.
- Set up an efficient glass collection and recycling system for the bar and kitchen areas. Besides significantly contributing to your business' recycling commitment, such a system has obvious staff and guest safety benefits.
- Use a bailing system that compacts cardboard boxes or plastic wrap, as it can save time and space. Bailing makes these materials more valuable to the recycler and that can be reflected in a lower collection charge.
- Establish systems to efficiently handle plastic containers and aluminium cans.
- Collect all used cooking oils and fats in an oil bin or drum for re-processing. It is illegal to dispose of these down any drains and you may be able to get money for good quality oil.
- Separate food waste from general waste. Investigate the possibility of using leftover food in an on-site worm farm. Worm farms can be easy to run and they produce great natural fertiliser for plants. Alternatively, send food waste to organic waste recycling facilities. **lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au/business** has information on food disposal techniques.
- Support the recycling efforts of others by purchasing products with recycled content such as toilet paper, office printer paper and packaging. Print promotional materials and letters on recycled paper.
- Inform club members about your recycling policies and ask them to assist.

Your environmental policies could save your business money; satisfy club members who are concerned about sustainability and help preserve the environment.

For further information

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