

# BIN TRIM HELPS RECYCLING MAKE BUSINESS SENSE



## Case Study



By working recycling into its daily routine, Bi-Rite Electrical Goulburn has increased waste diversion from 0% to 80% – and saved \$5,366 a year on waste.

## Recycling packaging waste reduces bin volume by 80%

"The biggest reason for being part of the Bin Trim program was to be able to recycle the foam packaging [polystyrene] that comes from products sold. It makes me feel good to know that the recycled foam will be used to produce resellable goods, and isn't going into landfill."

Kim Gann,  
Bi-Rite Electrical Goulburn

### Bi-Rite Electrical Goulburn

Bi-Rite Electrical Goulburn sells whitegoods and electronics, which come packaged in cardboard and polystyrene. This small business was paying for five bins to be collected each week.

All waste, including cardboard and polystyrene was being picked up by the council as general waste.

### How Bin Trim helped

The Bin Trim assessor did a waste assessment, which involved looking in the bins and estimating volumes of waste types. The assessor used this information to develop an action plan for the business.

### Results

There was a large amount of polystyrene and cardboard in the waste bin and by targeting these materials Bi-Rite Electrical could cut the cost of waste collection for the business.

Bi-Rite Electrical Goulburn's involvement with the NSW EPA Bin Trim program resulted in polystyrene recycling via a local take-back system that would collect it. The Bin Trim assessor contacted the take-back scheme for a quote and helped Bi-Rite develop a way to sort polystyrene for collection.

The recycling process requires staff to break up the polystyrene so it fits into bags for collection.

Once the team at Bi-Rite Electrical Goulburn started recycling, the volume of waste in the bins dropped and reduced the weekly bin collection from five to just one bin per week.

### Next steps

Bi-Rite Electrical Goulburn is located below residential apartments and the goal is to reduce waste generated from the apartments as well as recycle plastic, glass and paper from the business.

## The numbers

- 75% reduction in total cost of waste management system from \$7,155 to \$1,788 each year
- 80% increase in waste diversion rate by volume
- 143m<sup>3</sup> of cardboard waste diverted each year
- 86m<sup>3</sup> of polystyrene waste diverted each year
- 1,000 wheelie bins\* worth of waste diverted from landfill each year
- 5 x 1,100L bins per week reduced to just 1 bin per week

\*Assuming volume of bin is 240L

## The benefits



**Less waste going to landfill**



**Higher staff morale**



**Increased achievement of sustainability goals**



**Potential lower waste disposal costs**



**More re-use and recycling**



**Saving on spaces**

## Take action

### Could your business save on waste?

Register your interest to join 22,000 businesses recycling more through the Bin Trim program.

#### Visit

[www.epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim)

#### Email

[Bin.Trim@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bin.Trim@epa.nsw.gov.au)

#### Call

131 555

(ask for the Business Recycling Unit)

### NSW Environment Protection Authority

**Email:** [info@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@epa.nsw.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)

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