

**BIN  
TRIM IS HELPING  
PUT WASTE  
TO GOOD USE**



## Case Study



**Purchasing new equipment has turned a high-volume waste problem into a win for this golf club – and its grounds. Solving the club’s biggest waste problem has also generated a strong sense of pride among the club’s staff and members.**

# Western Sydney Golf Club reuses green waste

**“We’ve always worked on our waste management, but the biggest waste issue we had was the plant material around the golf course.”**

Andrew Laplain  
General Manager, Cumberland Country Golf Club

## Cumberland Country Golf Club

Cumberland Country Golf Club is an 18-hole championship golf course located in Greystanes, Western Sydney. As well as being considered one of the best golf courses in Sydney, the club is one of the largest green spaces in the suburb and has many mature trees. The trees are a much appreciated feature of the park-like golf course, but in this specialised environment they also create an unusual problem: a high volume of plant material that needs to be cleared away.

With help from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Bin Trim program, the club has found an effective, sustainable solution for managing its largest waste stream: plant waste. This has generated big cost savings, as well as some other flow-on benefits for the club’s staff and members – and for its grounds.

Each year, natural events such as storms, wind and general tree ageing produce about 39 tonnes of plant waste at Cumberland Country Golf Club. The golfing greens need to be kept clear of debris, so removing this plant waste is an important and ongoing maintenance job for the club.



This project is a NSW Environment Protection Authority Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.  
[epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim](http://epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim)



**“The cost of the wood chipper was \$32,500 which is a considerable cost for any business. Bin Trim enabled us to purchase a piece of equipment that was previously out of our reach.”**

Andrew Laplain

The cleared and stockpiled plant material was generating an ongoing and high-volume pile of waste, and the club was having to pay to have it taken off site in commercial skip bins.

### How Bin Trim helped

Cumberland Country Golf Club contacted the EPA Bin Trim program seeking help to find a better way to manage this costly waste. Funded by the NSW Government, Bin Trim helps businesses identify simple actions to reduce their waste and boost profits. Through Bin Trim, eligible businesses can access a free waste assessment and apply for a financial rebate to help with the cost of purchasing recycling equipment.

The EPA organised for a Bin Trim assessor to visit the site and work with the club to find a solution. The assessor recommended purchasing a commercial wood chipper, and then helped the club to apply for a Bin Trim rebate to cover 50% of the cost of the new equipment.

### The numbers

- Bin Trim rebate over \$16,000
- New equipment:
  - wood chipper – reusing 39 tonnes of green waste
- 30% reduction in total volume of waste
- \$8000 saving in waste costs, resulting in a two-year return on investment

### The benefits

-  **Less waste going to landfill**
-  **Lower waste removal costs**
-  **More re-use and recycling**
-  **Purchase of recycling equipment**
-  **Increased achievement of sustainability goals**
-  **Improved green spaces**
-  **Improved staff training**
-  **Higher staff morale**
-  **Better service for customers**



Cumberland Country Golf Club grounds staff use the new wood chipper to make mulch for the gardens.

## Results

Waste was the driver for this project, but the results for Cumberland Country Golf Club extend well beyond an improvement in waste management.

Through its participation in the Bin Trim program:

- the club has reduced its total volume of waste by approximately 30% – so its waste disposal costs have reduced significantly too
- 98% of the club's plant waste is being put back onto the golf course as wood chips, instead of being disposed of in commercial skips and transported off site
- the grounds are better maintained, both through the removal of plant waste and through the regular mulching of garden beds and around dams
- mulching has saved money and staff time by reducing the need for watering, weeding and spraying the gardens
- the members are pleased with the appearance too – the fresh mulch has visually enhanced the club landscape
- the grounds staff received training to use the new equipment, and have gained new or improved skills with using other outdoor equipment too, e.g. chainsaws
- the training has boosted staff morale, and the club can now draw upon a wider range of in-house skills.

With help from Bin Trim, solving the club's biggest waste problem has generated a strong sense of pride among the club's staff and members. As well as saving money, the club is proudly recycling its own waste on site, producing a new useful product (mulch), and seeing the results in its gardens.

## 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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