

BIN TRIM IS HELPING USE WASTE ONSITE



Food waste turned into compost

Case Study



On-site worm farming has turned an expensive waste into a valuable resource: compost and fertiliser for the club's extensive grounds and gardens.

“We were already doing well, recycling plastics and bottles, but the food waste was something that wasn't being dealt with.”

David Randall
Facilities Manager, Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club

Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club

Based in Pittwater on Sydney's northern beaches, Royal Prince Alfred is one of Australia's oldest and most prestigious racing and sailing yacht clubs. The club has more than 2000 members, 28 full-time staff and 50+ casual staff. It offers year-round services and activities for members, and has a large marina accommodating up to 352 vessels as well as 7 hectares of grounds.

Under the international Gold Anchor rating scheme, the club's marina has five Gold Anchors – the highest and most prestigious rating possible. Hand in hand with achieving and maintaining this rating for the marina, the club is committed to continually improving its service to consumers and the wider community, including from an environmental perspective. With effective plastic and glass recycling already in place, the club was keen to identify other waste management areas that could be improved.

By participating in the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Bin Trim program, the club has been able to tackle another important waste stream: food waste. A Bin Trim rebate helped the club to purchase a worm farm which now deals with 90% of its food waste and turns it into another resource: compost and fertiliser for the club's extensive grounds and gardens.



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



“To change an establishment out of its previous habits it is almost vital to have that middle person involved – the Bin Trim assessor.”

Steve Proctor
Head Chef, Royal Prince
Albert Yacht Club

The popular club has a restaurant, café, bar and function room. Collectively the dining areas and kitchens generate tonnes of food waste each year, and this was being sent to landfill. As well as wasting valuable resources and being responsible for unnecessary waste disposal costs, food waste can have serious environmental consequences. When food breaks down in landfill, it generates methane, a greenhouse gas with around 25 times the warming potential of carbon dioxide.

How Bin Trim helped

As part of its effort to expand recycling, the club contacted the EPA Bin Trim team. Funded by the NSW Government, Bin Trim helps businesses identify simple actions to reduce 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.

A Bin Trim assessor helped the club complete a step-by-step waste assessment to clarify its waste collection, separation and management processes in order to identify any gaps.

Through this assessment, food waste was identified as an area where substantial improvements could be made. The assessor estimated that between 600 and 1000 litres of food waste from the club were being sent to landfill each week. Instead of paying to have this waste taken away, with its extensive grounds the club was perfectly positioned to take advantage of this resource through on-site composting or worm farming.

The numbers

- Bin Trim rebate: \$1285
- New equipment:
 - 1x 1400-litre commercial worm farm
- 5.25 tonnes of food waste diverted from landfill each year and instead used as compost on gardens
- Savings in waste costs each year.

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



Above: John Pryor, Chef, puts food waste into the new worm farm.
Right: Sturt Royle, Shift Supervisor, examines the worm farm.

With the assessor's help, the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club successfully applied for a \$1285 Bin Trim rebate to contribute towards the cost of purchasing and installing a 1400-litre commercial worm farm. Food scraps now go to the worm farm instead of into the general waste bin.

Results

For Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, the results of participating in the Bin Trim program will continue to grow:

- The club's gardens are benefitting from the free, on-site source of high-quality natural fertiliser generated by the worm farm. The gardener collects the worm castings once a week and uses them as fertiliser across the 17 hectares of grounds.
- Approximately 90% of the club's kitchen and dining waste is now recycled through the worm farm. This has diverted 5.25 tonnes of food waste from landfill – and prevented the associated greenhouse gas emissions.
- The waste assessment and new food handling practices have led to greater staff interest and engagement in recycling.
- The club will soon review its waste bin sizes, potentially leading to a reduction in waste collection costs.

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

Email

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

Website: www.epa.nsw.gov.au

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