

# BIN TRIM IS SORTING OUT WASTE



## Case Study



A simple Bin Trim waste survey, and the right equipment, has opened the door to thousands of dollars in savings for The Good Guys, Rockdale. They are successfully reducing waste, saving space, cutting costs and boosting their recycling efforts.

## Good Guys become even better, thanks to recycling

**“I have been totally amazed by the massive savings... our staff have embraced environmental improvement and the financial results speak for themselves. Why did I not do this 16 years ago!”**

Phil Favero  
The Good Guys Rockdale

### The Good Guys Rockdale

The Good Guys is one of Australia's largest retailers of electrical appliances, with over 100 stores nationwide and online. The business sells both large and small household appliances, from fridges and washing machines to toasters, cameras and phones. With a large inventory of stock, storage space and materials handling are premium factors in running an efficient operation. And, as most goods arrive in cardboard cartons, The Good Guys have long been well aware of the advantages of recycling.

With this in mind, the Good Guys at Rockdale have been amazed by how much further scope was found to reduce waste, save space, cut costs and boost recycling efforts. By purchasing new recycling equipment with help from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Bin Trim Rebate Program, the Rockdale store in south Sydney has been able to cut waste sent to landfill by a massive 80%.

Before they reach the display shelf or delivery dock, most new appliances require an enormous amount of protective packaging, and much of this ends up as waste. The Good Guys at Rockdale were having no problem with separating and recycling cardboard cartons, but it's waste bills were still high.



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 Bin Trim Assessor was fantastic to work with. He did an assessment on what we could actually save through what we were throwing out.”**

Phil Favero  
Proprietor at The Good Guys, Rockdale

The business was paying a competitive rate (per ‘bin lift’) for disposal, but the problem was the volume of waste being generated each week.

### How Bin Trim helped

The Good Guys found out about the Bin Trim program when a Bin Trim assessor came to visit their store. 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 (from \$1000 up to \$50,000) to help with the cost of purchasing recycling equipment.

After an initial meeting to discuss how Bin Trim works with businesses, the assessor conducted a detailed site inspection and waste survey to look at where waste was being generated and how it was being disposed of.

The assessor identified that over 80% of the Good Guys waste bin capacity was being taken up with materials that could be recycled, mainly expanded polystyrene (used inside cartons as packaging material) and soft plastic film (used for wrapping). Instead of separating and recycling this waste, the business was paying to send it to landfill.

The Bin Trim assessor helped the business apply for a rebate for 50% of the cost of the equipment needed to separate and compress this waste – an expanded polystyrene compressor that turns waste foam into small foam bricks, and a baler that compresses plastic wrap and produces compact bales of recyclable plastic.

### The numbers

- Bin Trim rebate: \$14,840
- New equipment:
  - expanded polystyrene compressor
  - plastic wrap baler
- 80% reduction in waste disposal costs – with an equipment payback of only 18 months
- \$10,000 savings in waste bills 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**



**Higher staff morale**



## Results

Grateful for both the Bin Trim expertise and the rebate, The Good Guys Rockdale is amazed by the results:

- polystyrene and soft plastic is now being recycled instead of sent to landfill
- the compacted materials take up much less space
- the new equipment is easy to use, and one-on-one training has helped staff understand the broader benefits and take an interest in recycling
- waste pick-ups are now one bin per fortnight – down from three bins per week – saving \$10,000 in waste disposal costs each year
- the Bin Trim rebate cut in half the payback time for purchasing the equipment – without this rebate the business may not have bought the new recycling equipment.

While acknowledging this help, the business is passionate about the change and can see clearly the connection between 'doing your bit' for the environment and achieving thousands of dollars in savings.

## 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)

ISBN 978 1 925987 14 | EPA 2019P1862

June 2019

The EPA [disclaimer](#) and [copyright](#) information is available on the EPA website.