

BIN TRIM IS GETTING CLUB WASTE SORTED



Case Study



An all-encompassing food waste recycling system is helping Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club maximise kitchen space and save on waste.

Recycling with Bin Trim leads to business winning an award

“Engage your staff – they are the ones that have to drive the change and reduce your food waste. This cuts your waste bill and helps the environment. It’s win-win for everyone.”

Dan Morris
Operations Manager, Warrilla Bowls and Recreation Club

Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club

With support from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Bin Trim program, Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club has dramatically reduced the amount of waste it sends to landfill, boosted recycling levels and reaped substantial financial savings.

The club worked with a Bin Trim waste assessor to identify actions to reduce waste, and used a Bin Trim rebate to help purchase source separation bins. Through simple changes to everyday waste handling, staff are now proudly diverting a whopping 130 tonnes of waste from landfill each year.

Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club at Shellharbour, just south of Wollongong, is one of the largest bowling clubs in Australia and has a membership of over 20,000.

After a major \$6 million dollar renovation in 2013, the busy club now offers a range of services including indoor and outdoor bowling greens, restaurants and cafés, holiday cabins, a gymnasium and fitness centre and retail outlets.



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

As well as investing in the club's future through the renovation, managers and members also wanted to invest in sustainable practices across the organisation. The staff in particular, championed the idea of reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill, so the EPA Bin Trim team was enlisted to help.

The EPA Bin Trim program helps businesses identify simple actions to reduce their waste and boost profits. Through the Bin Trim program, eligible businesses can access a free waste assessment and a financial rebate to help with the cost of purchasing recycling equipment.

A team of staff worked with a Bin Trim waste assessor to evaluate the club's waste processes and find solutions to problems. The Bin Trim assessment identified a number of waste processes needing improvement, such as glass, cardboard and green-waste recycling, and recycling within the holiday cabins. However, food waste was the key challenge.

Food waste is a common problem for businesses like Warrilla Bowls and Recreation Club, with food often ending up in landfill and producing methane, a greenhouse gas around 25 times stronger than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. As well as being a serious environmental problem, food waste costs money and wastes precious resources.

How Bin Trim helped

One of the common problems with managing food waste is limited space in busy kitchens that are not necessarily designed for multiple recycling bins.

To solve these issues at Warrilla Bowls and Recreation Club, the Bin Trim assessor recommended the club invest in an all-encompassing food waste recycling system that maximises available kitchen space and is easy and efficient for staff to use.

The assessor also recommended waste management training for staff across all departments to both ensure the effective long-term use of the system and to tap into their enthusiasm for the project.

Following recommendations by the Bin Trim assessor, the club hired a food-processing machine that converts food into a pulp slurry for external recycling. Using a Bin Trim rebate, the club purchased slim-line bins for separating and collecting food waste. The new bins are colour-coded and clearly signed so separating the waste is a quick and easy task for kitchen staff.

In addition to sorting the food waste problem, the club purchased mixed recycling bins for the holiday cabins and adopted improved cardboard and bottle recycling processes across the organisation.

The numbers

- Bin Trim rebate: \$3100
- New equipment:
 - 32 x 60-litre source separation bins
 - 144 x 40-litre source separation bins
- 130 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill each year
- \$34,500 saved 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



Increased productivity



Improved staff training



Higher staff morale



Better service for customers



Above: Food organics are collected.

Right: Olivia Buchanan, Bar and Gaming Attendant, separates the food waste.

Results

With help from the Bin Trim program, Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club has been able to implement an all-encompassing recycling system, yielding outstanding and ongoing results:

- The club's new recycling system has reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by a vast 130 tonnes each year and increased the club's recycling by 158%.
- This has in turn boosted the club's profits by saving \$34,500 a year on waste disposal fees, a 42% reduction in waste expenses.
- The new kitchen food waste system has had further benefits. Work time is used more efficiently and occupational health and safety has improved, as staff no longer need to spend time carrying heavy bags of food waste to external bins.
- Staff enjoy using the system and take an active role in recycling. Effective staff training and engagement across the organisation has been a key factor in the successful implementation of the new waste system.
- The new system is helping the club reach its sustainability goals, and the expectations of staff and members have improved as food and other waste is no longer going to landfill.
- Furthermore, through these achievements, Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club won the 2016 South Coast Tourism Award for Sustainable Tourism.

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

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